

## **Step-by-Step Guide to Relocating**

### **Before You Arrive**

#### **Prepare a CV suitable for the UK Market**

Top Tip: Once you have prepared your CV save this to disc to bring with you and also email it to your personal email account.

### **Research Visa Types**

#### **Apply for the most appropriate visa**

Australian, New Zealand and Asian candidates are all able to apply for 4 main types of visas to live and work in the UK:

- Tier 5 Cultural Exchange visa
- Tier 1 General visa
- Ancestral / partiality visas
- Work permits

South African's can apply for the final three of the above.

The Tier 5 visa is a good way to come to the UK and mix working with travel. However, if you decide to stay in the UK long term, you will have to return home to gain a further visa. Wherever possible, immigration consultants recommend that you come over on a Tier 1 General visa or Ancestral visa (if you have British heritage) as these visas allow you full working rights in the UK.

For further details please visit [www.ukvisas.gov.uk](http://www.ukvisas.gov.uk)

Top Tip: Don't forget to make sure that you have applied for all appropriate visas when you are travelling abroad from the UK or if you are planning on travelling on the way over.

### **Set An Arrival Date**

#### **There are a few factors to consider when deciding on when to come to the UK:**

- When are you due to lodge a tax return? Can you benefit from moving overseas part way through your home country's tax year?
- How long will it take for your visa application to be accepted and when does your visa to the UK start? Time your entrance well to avoid wasting time on your visa.
- When is the best time to fly? Can you benefit from non-peak season prices?
- The UK tax year runs from 6<sup>th</sup> April to the 5<sup>th</sup> April.
- Will you be looking for work straight away?

The UK market varies. There is a consistent demand for experienced or qualified finance professionals, however there are fluctuations due to market demands. The contracting market tends to be busy leading up to the end of the financial year and also at half-year time. The

permanent market is boosted by new budgets in the new financial year and Christmas time is traditionally slower.

**It is also worth bearing in mind the difference in seasons and how this will affect you.**

- Winter months have less than 8 hours sunlight a day. Temperatures can be cold (rarely above 10C) and it is often wet.
- Summer months have up to 17 hours sunlight a day and the temperatures range from 17 to 32 C.

Top Tip: If you are flying into Heathrow pick a flight that arrives between 5.30 am and 11.00 pm so that you can catch a tube into London rather than getting an expensive taxi.

### **Register Over The Telephone**

#### **Speak to a specialist consultant in your field**

Once you have set an arrival date and have an appropriate visa, Martin Ward Anderson can register you before you leave home.

- Before you leave we can arrange for a consultant to make contact with you to discuss opportunities within the UK market and make sure that we are considering you for any appropriate roles upon your arrival.

### **Arrange To Have Written References**

#### **Gather personal and professional references**

- Contact past employers and mentors and ask if it is possible that they give you a written reference for you to use in the UK.
- Speak to any referees that you have listed on your CV, let them know your upcoming plans and ask if they mind being contacted from the UK. Make sure you have all of their right contact details including email address.

Top Tip: Get in touch with your landlord or real estate agent and request references if you have been a tenant. This may assist you in getting your first room or flat to let.

### **Organise Your Personal Finances**

#### **Open a London bank account through Martin Ward Anderson free of charge**

When you first arrive in the UK, opening a bank account without a permanent UK address or credit history can be difficult.

Martin Ward Anderson has a relationship with Lloyds Tsb and is able to arrange for you to open a bank account at the branch closest to our office in the heart of London. Please see our Working in the UK site for more information.

Top Tip: To get the best exchange rates register with an online money transfer company such as 1<sup>st</sup> Contact Forex where all MWA candidates get a FREE money transfer.

### **Take Care of your Health**

The UK has reciprocal agreements between the governments of Australia, New Zealand, South African regarding NHS treatment. Assistance at NHS hospitals and GP surgeries is free, but there's a charge for prescribed medicines for all citizens.

You will need to register with a surgery in your local area, this can take time thus we would recommend that you take out travel insurance for at least the first month that you come to the UK.

Before you arrive:

- See your Doctor and ask for a copy of your medical records
- Consider any tests that you may need and have them done before you leave home
- Make sure that you have enough of any prescription drug needed. Your doctor can write a letter explaining why you are carrying each medication
- Make a dental appointment
- Find out what vaccines you need for the countries you are travelling to and get them
- After you've had your vaccines, get a vaccination certificate and make a copy of it. Leave the copy with someone at home and bring over the original
- Make sure all the vaccinations listed are stamped, have signatures and that you understand each one. Many countries demand that you have one of these and you may need to communicate this information to someone at a later date

Top Tip: If you have private health insurance, suspend this, so that when you return home you can resume cover without a waiting period and arrange travel insurance.

### **Set Yourself Up For Easy Communication**

The best way to hit the ground running when you arrive is to have yourself set up to communicate with recruitment agencies, friends and family. As soon as possible arrange a UK mobile phone number. It can be difficult to get a contract when you first arrive without a UK credit history. Thus you may want to consider bringing over your current mobile handset and inserting a UK sim card.

- Arrange to have global roaming set up with your home provider so that you are immediately contactable.

- Have your current hand set unlocked so that you can buy a UK sim card and pop in on your arrival, if you have trouble doing this at home there are lots of shops that unlock mobile phones for £5.
- Notify the post office, magazines, credit card companies and friends and family of your change of address
- Set up an email account and choose an email name that will be suitable for making job applications with

Top Tip: Roaming diaries and online photo albums are great for connecting to loved ones. Contact 1st Contact for a free Nomi Voucher with £2 FREE credit.

### **Arrange Accommodation**

It is a good idea to know where you will be staying for the first few days of your arrival in London. You will be asked about this as you come through customs, so have these details to hand.

- Keep in mind that almost all accommodation comes furnished before you start shipping all of your goods over
- Refer to the accommodation section of this site
- London is expensive so, if possible, see if you can stay with friends or relatives for your first week.

Top Tip: If you are arriving in summer time lots of the universities let the rooms and studio flats in their student halls right in the heart of London at cut-rate prices [www.vmin.ac.uk](http://www.vmin.ac.uk)