



Moving from the UK to Brussels: the practical checklist

Everything to sort, in the order you will need it: permits, housing, schools, pets, your belongings, commune registration, banking and healthcare. Tick each box as you go. Each step links to the official or expert source it is based on, and to the fuller guide on movetobruussels.com.

Rules change and every household is different, so treat this as a practical starting point and confirm details with the authority, school or provider concerned. It is general information, not legal or tax advice.

3 or more months before

- ☐ **Ask the Belgian employer to lodge your Single Permit application early.¹**
For jobs lasting more than 90 days, the employer applies; processing can take up to four months. [Read the guide](#) | [Source: vow.be](https://vow.be)
- ☐ **Check which residence authorisation applies before planning a long-term move.²**
UK nationals moving now are treated as third-country nationals; visa-free visits are limited to 90 days in any rolling 180-day period. [Read the guide](#) | [Source: gov.uk](https://gov.uk)
- ☐ **Apply for a professional card if you plan to work independently.³**
Self-employed and freelance workers need a professional card rather than a Single Permit. [Read the guide](#) | [Source: economy-employment.bruussels](https://economy-employment.bruussels)
- ☐ **Check your pet's microchip and have it implanted before rabies vaccination.⁴**
The chip must be in place before or at the same time as the vaccination; the vaccination date cannot precede the chip date. [Read the guide](#) | [Source: food.ec.europa.eu](https://food.ec.europa.eu)
- ☐ **Allow the required waiting period after a pet's primary rabies vaccination.⁵**
The pet must be at least 12 weeks old when vaccinated and wait at least 21 full days before travel. [Read the guide](#) | [Source: fasfc.be](https://fasfc.be)
- ☐ **Compare school routes and check the current application calendar for each option.⁶**
French- and Dutch-language school procedures differ; dates depend on the school, year group and school year. [Read the guide](#) | [Source: bruussels.be](https://bruussels.be)
- ☐ **Request removal quotes from firms experienced with UK–Belgium moves.⁷**
The customs guide recommends getting quotes two to three months before the move. [Read the guide](#)
- ☐ **Build a Brussels budget using current housing and transport estimates.⁸**
The guide gives €900–€1,350 monthly for a typical one-bedroom and about €56 monthly for an adult STIB pass. [Read the guide](#) | [Source: stib-mivb.be](https://stib-mivb.be)

1 to 2 months before

- ☐ **Confirm the lease type and its early-exit terms before signing.**⁹
A Brussels long lease has three months' notice; short leases also have three months' notice, with a one-month indemnity. [Read the guide](#) | [Source: commissioner.brussels](#)
- ☐ **Arrange the rental guarantee through a blocked account or bank guarantee.**¹⁰
The cap is two months' rent for a blocked account or three months for a bank guarantee; do not pay it into the landlord's account. [Read the guide](#) | [Source: commissioner.brussels](#)
- ☐ **Ask the landlord for the lease-registration proof and confirm the deadline.**¹¹
The landlord must register the lease, signed annexes and entry inventory within two months of signing. [Read the guide](#) | [Source: be.brussels](#)
- ☐ **Set up a Wise or Revolut account before leaving the UK.**¹²
It can bridge the first weeks for payments and transfers while you wait for a Belgian account. [Read the guide](#) | [Source: brusselstimes.com](#)
- ☐ **Prepare a detailed inventory and gather customs evidence for your belongings.**¹³
The mover may ask for a signed inventory, passport, proof of former UK residence and evidence of your Belgian address or move. [Read the guide](#) | [Source: expatica.com](#)
- ☐ **Tell the removal company who will lodge each customs declaration.**¹⁴
A UK-to-Belgium shipment needs a UK export declaration and Belgian import clearance; confirm responsibilities and paperwork with the agent. [Read the guide](#) | [Source: business.gov.uk](#)
- ☐ **Ask shortlisted schools about actual places, year placement and required UK records.**¹⁵
A school's general admissions information does not confirm a vacancy in a particular year group. [Read the guide](#) | [Source: britishschool.be](#)
- ☐ **Check language-course assessments, start dates, timetable and fees with providers.**¹⁶
Course schedules vary by level and location; EPFC lists daytime and evening French formats. [Read the guide](#) | [Source: epfc.eu](#)

Moving week

- ☐ **Get an Animal Health Certificate from an official veterinarian in Great Britain.**¹⁷
The certificate must be issued within 10 days before EU entry and is required for each entry from Great Britain. [Read the guide](#) | [Source: gov.uk](#)
- ☐ **Check the pet's chip number and rabies details against the certificate.**¹⁸
Ask the vet to scan the chip and confirm the number is recorded consistently in the vaccination record and certificate. [Read the guide](#) | [Source: food.ec.europa.eu](#)
- ☐ **Present your pet and documents at the designated EU travellers' point of entry.**¹⁹
For a road journey, the relevant check is at the first EU country entered, not necessarily Belgium. [Read the guide](#) | [Source: food.ec.europa.eu](#)
- ☐ **Carry written authorisation if someone else travels with your pet.**²⁰
The owner must travel no more than five days before or after the pet; the authorised person remains responsible during the movement. [Read the guide](#) | [Source: food.ec.europa.eu](#)
- ☐ **Keep the shipment inventory and customs paperwork with you, not in the load.**²¹
Keep copies of the inventory, quote, insurance terms and customs paperwork outside the shipment, plus a digital backup. [Read the guide](#) | [Source: gov.uk](#)
- ☐ **Confirm that customs relief is being claimed for eligible household goods.**²²
Typical conditions include 12 months' residence outside the EU, six months' ownership and use, and import within 12 months of establishing Belgian residence. [Read the guide](#) | [Source: eur-lex.europa.eu](#)

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- ☐ **Complete the entry inventory and photograph the property when you take the keys.**²³
The inventory must be drawn up before move-in or within the first month of the lease; keep dated photographs of existing marks. [Read the guide](#) | [Source: be.brussels](#)

First 2 weeks in Brussels

- ☐ **Register at the commune covering your actual address as soon as possible.**²⁴
Non-EU nationals must register within eight working days of arrival; anyone staying more than three months must register. [Read the guide](#) | [Source: commissioner.brussels](#)
- ☐ **Book the commune appointment as soon as you have a fixed address.**²⁵
Communes commonly require online booking, and available slots can be several weeks away. [Read the guide](#) | [Source: dispatcheseurope.com](#)
- ☐ **Bring your passport, proof of address and category-specific residence documents.**²⁶
The guide also lists passport-style photos, a registration fee typically €15–€35, and proof of health insurance for non-EU nationals. [Read the guide](#) | [Source: brusselstimes.com](#)
- ☐ **Make your name visible on the doorbell and letterbox for the residence check.**²⁷
After the first appointment, a local police officer checks that you genuinely live at the address; this commonly takes one to four weeks. [Read the guide](#) | [Source: colivinginbrussels.com](#)
- ☐ **Register a dog or cat in DogID or CatID if it will stay in Belgium over six months.**²⁸
The Belgian authority says registration is due within eight days of arrival; a veterinarian can help. [Read the guide](#) | [Source: fasfc.be](#)
- ☐ **Start a Belgian bank application once you have a Belgian address.**²⁹
Some banks let you begin without a National Register Number, usually allowing around 90 days to provide it before the account is restricted. [Read the guide](#) | [Source: expatica.com](#)
- ☐ **Ask the commune or your chosen bank which document they accept while registration is pending.**³⁰
The bank article says an annex 15 or registration certificate can support an application while the National Register Number is pending. [Read the guide](#) | [Source: commissioner.brussels](#)

First 3 months

- ☐ **Join a Belgian health insurance fund after resident registration and receipt of your residency card.**³¹
UK government guidance describes this as the usual route for ordinary residents settling in Belgium. [Read the guide](#) | [Source: gov.uk](#)
- ☐ **Confirm how your social-insurance contributions will be handled.**³²
Belgian employers usually handle employee registration; self-employed people register through a social-insurance institution. [Read the guide](#) | [Source: gov.uk](#)
- ☐ **Choose a mutual fund or CAAMI/HZIV and ask about membership and reimbursement.**³³
The guide estimates fund membership at €120–€150 per year, on top of social-insurance contributions; treatment may need to be paid for before reimbursement. [Read the guide](#) | [Source: gov.uk](#)
- ☐ **Keep membership confirmation and receipts for your first healthcare claims.**³⁴
Ask whether claims need paper receipts or digital submission and which extra benefits require a separate policy. [Read the guide](#) | [Source: partenamut.be](#)
- ☐ **Give your bank your National Register Number once it is issued.**³⁵
Some banks allow around 90 days from starting the application to supply the number before restricting the account. [Read the guide](#) | [Source: expatica.com](#)

- ☐ **Ask the school how it will place your child and what transition support is available.**³⁶
Confirm the year group, required UK records, language support and the actual availability of a place.
[Read the guide](#) | [Source: be.brussels](#)
- ☐ **Use Huis van het Nederlands Brussel for a Dutch-level assessment and course advice.**³⁷
The consultation and test are free; the test takes 45 minutes to two hours, and you should bring valid ID or a residence document. [Read the guide](#) | [Source: huisnederlandsbrussel.be](#)
- ☐ **Check whether you qualify for Brulingua's free online language training.**³⁸
It is available to adults over 18 living in one of the Brussels-Capital Region's 19 municipalities; French and Dutch are offered. [Read the guide](#) | [Source: brulingua.be](#)

Want a hand with any of this?

I'm Jonathan. I'm from the UK and spend much of my time in Belgium. I help individuals and families plan and settle into a move to Brussels: choosing a neighbourhood, finding a home, schools, commune registration and the many small things nobody warns you about.

Book a free Zoom or WhatsApp intro call: movetobrussels.com/#contact
Email hello@movetobrussels.com or call/WhatsApp +44 7590 539703

Sources

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