



Checklist for Moving to Europe: What You Need to Prepare

Relocating to Europe can be one of the most exciting – and stressful – moves you'll ever make. Whether you're relocating for work, lifestyle, retirement or personal reasons, moving internationally requires careful preparation.

At Doree Bonner International, we've supported thousands of families and individuals moving to Europe. This checklist outlines the essential steps to help you stay organised and reduce stress during your European move.

1. Start Planning Early

International moves involve far more logistics and paperwork than domestic moves. Ideally, begin your preparations at least 3-6 months in advance.

2. Research Entry & Residency Requirements

Visa and residency rules vary across European countries. Ensure you:



Understand visa options (work, study, retirement, family reunification).



Confirm your eligibility for residency.



Prepare documentation: passports, birth/marriage certificates, proof of income, job offer letters, etc.



Allow sufficient time for visa processing.

Tip: Brexit has changed UK-EU movement rules — check updated requirements for [British nationals moving to EU member states](#).

3. Secure Employment or Income

Most European countries require proof that you can financially support yourself:



Employment contracts or business registrations (if self-employed)



Pension or retirement income statements



Prepare documentation: passports, birth/marriage certificates, proof of income, job offer letters, etc.

Your financial situation may affect both visa approval and housing options.

4. Arrange Accommodation

Most European countries require proof that you can financially support yourself:



Employment contracts or business registrations (if self-employed)



Pension or retirement income statements



Proof of Savings

Your financial situation may affect both visa approval and housing options.

5. Select an Experienced International Mover

Your financial situation may affect both visa approval and housing options.



Specialises in European relocations.



Offers full export packing services.



Handles customs paperwork and documentation.



Provides insurance, storage, and delivery to your door.

Doree Bonner International offers seamless, door-to-door European moving solutions including packing, storage and unpacking services.

6. Customs Regulations & Inventory

Each country has its own customs rules. You may need to:



Provide a detailed inventory of all items.



Declare restricted or prohibited goods.



Obtain import permits for certain items (vehicles, pets, valuables).

Your mover can help prepare compliant inventories to avoid delays or fines.

7. Sort Out Your Finances

Notify your bank, mortgage provider, pension, and insurance companies of your move. You may need:



International banking services



Currency exchange solutions



Tax advice (UK and destination country)



Continued National Insurance or healthcare contributions

Consider consulting a cross-border tax or financial adviser.

8. Healthcare Arrangements

Healthcare systems vary across Europe:



Research public vs. private healthcare in your new country.



Register with local healthcare authorities if required.



Arrange private health insurance if needed.

For British nationals, EHIC/GHIC cards may offer limited cover but often aren't sufficient for long-term residency.



9. Schooling and Education

If relocating with children:



Research local, international or bilingual schools.



Understand application deadlines.



Prepare academic transcripts and records.



Verify language requirements.

Popular international schools often have long waiting lists, so apply early.

10. Transporting Pets

Relocating Pets to Europe requires:



Microchipping



Up-to-date vaccinations (especially rabies).



Pet Passports or veterinary certificates.



Approved travel crates.

Some countries require quarantine or additional health checks. Your mover can assist with pet relocation services.

11. Driving Licences and Vehicles



Check whether your UK driving licence is valid in your destination.



Research rules on importing or registering vehicles.



Obtain international driving permits if required.

Popular international schools often have long waiting lists, so apply early.

12. Notify UK Authorities Before Leaving

Healthcare systems vary across Europe:



Inform HMRC.



Notify your GP, dentist, and council.



Update your UK driving licence or surrender it if necessary.



Cancel subscriptions or services you won't use abroad.

For British nationals, EHIC/GHIC cards may offer limited cover but often aren't sufficient for long-term residency.

13. Prepare for Cultural Differences



Learn basic language skills.



Understand cultural norms, etiquette and legal differences.



Familiarise yourself with local laws on contracts, employment rights, and tenant protections.

14. Final Moving Day Checklist

Healthcare systems vary across Europe:



Confirm move dates with your removal company.



Arrange utilities disconnection and final meter readings.



Prepare hand luggage with essentials for your first days abroad.



Ensure important documents travel with you (not in the shipping container).

Download our [moving day checklist](#).



An international move to Europe may feel daunting, but with careful planning, expert help, and clear organisation, you'll enjoy a smooth and exciting transition.

At Doree Bonner International, we simplify [European relocations](#) by managing the complex logistics on your behalf - from [export packing](#) and customs clearance to [storage](#), final delivery and unpacking.

[Contact us 24/7](#) for a personalised international moving quote and expert advice. You can also download a [free online quote](#).

