



BANK OF THE WEST
BNP PARIBAS



YOUR PASSPORT TO CONFIDENCE

A new resident's guide to
living and working in the U.S.



YOU DESERVE A WARM WELCOME

Start your experience on strong financial footing

Welcome to the United States. Whether your stay here is temporary or you're relocating permanently, Bank of the West is here to help you navigate many of the financial and logistical issues you might experience as a new resident.

Part of BNP Paribas — one of the top 10 wealth managers worldwide¹ — Bank of the West offers you the local, highly personalized service and knowledge you'll need here in the U.S., coupled with global resources and perspective. We also bring you something other banks don't: the credit flexibility you need to start building your financial life here, whether it's a credit card or an auto loan.

We want to help you make the most of your new opportunity, so if you'd like more information, know that your Bank of the West team is at your service.

To learn more, visit
bankofthewest.com/international

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1 YOUR FIRST STEPS IN THE U.S.



Bank account

Bank of the West allows you to open a checking or savings account — along with a debit card — before you obtain a Social Security number or permanent address. It's easy to apply with a valid passport and secondary form of identification. We also offer online access to your account and electronic bill pay, and we accept automatic direct deposit from your employer. We can discuss the best options to meet your needs.

Social Security card/number

Approximately a week after you arrive, you'll want to apply for a Social Security number at your local Social Security office. This nine-digit number is unique to you, and it is used to track your income for taxes and to build and monitor your credit history. You'll need the number to receive your salary, open various types of financial accounts, make larger purchases, and sign up for utilities like gas and electricity. Look online at [ssa.gov](https://www.ssa.gov) to see what documentation you'll need when you apply.

Driver's license

Once you have received your Social Security number, you can obtain a driver's license at your local Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV). While DMVs are managed by each state, your license will be valid throughout the U.S. Your driver's license isn't just your permit to operate a motor vehicle, it's also (besides your passport) your most important form of identification in the U.S. and necessary for opening various accounts. Look online to find the documentation you'll need.

Consulate registration

It's a good idea to register at the local consulate of your home country. This will enable you to vote in your home country and get important information. Your consulate may also be able to connect you with local resources that will make your transition easier.

2 BUILDING A FINANCIAL FOUNDATION



Credit history

Many new U.S. residents don't arrive with an established credit history — or a credit score — recognized by U.S. lenders, which can pose challenges. U.S. credit scores are used by lenders, employers, service providers and landlords to determine your creditworthiness. There are three main U.S. credit reporting agencies that compile reports based on things like credit card use, payment history and length of time you've been using credit. Your score, which can range from 300 to 850, may vary slightly between agencies. >>

Bank of the West, unlike many other banks, doesn't require a U.S. credit score to apply for home financing or auto loans, but you'll need one to apply for most loans in the U.S. It's vital that you start thinking about building good credit history soon after you arrive. The easiest way to build your credit score in the U.S. is to start by applying for and using a credit card. At Bank of the West, we're dedicated to helping get your credit history started by making it easier for newcomers to receive a credit card — even if you don't have a U.S. credit history.

Quicks tips to build credit

- Obtain a U.S. Social Security number
- Work with a newcomer-friendly bank like Bank of the West
- Open a checking account and savings account
- Obtain a credit card
- Obtain a car loan
- Take out a credit-builder loan
- ▶ Bank of the West is available to assist you.



Tax considerations

U.S. income tax

In the United States, the general rule is that residents must pay income taxes on their worldwide income. An individual may be considered a resident for tax purposes when:

- The individual is a green card holder. A green card holder, however, may not be subject to the U.S. income tax if he or she can prove that they have a closer connection to another country.
- The individual has spent a defined amount of time in the U.S., as determined by the Substantial Presence Test. Certain people are legally exempted from the Substantial Presence Test, depending on their visa type. If you are a non-U.S. citizen under visa, you can use the U.S. Customs website to view your trips and calculate days spent in the United States (i94.cbp.dhs.gov).

Reporting your foreign accounts

Any person or entity in the United States who has a financial interest in or signature or other authority over one or more financial accounts located outside the United States must file an FBAR, if the aggregate value of those foreign accounts exceeds \$10,000 at any time during the calendar year reported. The FBAR is an annual report, due April 15 following the calendar year reported. >>

Form 8938 (FATCA) must be filed by anyone in the U.S. holding specified foreign financial assets with an aggregate value that exceeds certain reporting thresholds (\$50,000 or more, depending on your filing status).

U.S. estate tax

When determining resident status for the U.S. inheritance tax, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) considers “the domicile” as the individual’s permanent home. If there is a definite intention of returning to a foreign domicile, then the individual may not be considered a resident for purposes of the U.S. estate and gift tax and may not be eligible to get the U.S. exemption and unlimited marital deduction.

- ▶ U.S. tax treaties with other countries can also impact residency and domicile.
- ▶ Income tax, financial reporting and estate taxes can be complex when you are living in the U.S. Please consult with your tax advisor to consider your unique tax situation.²

4 CAR AND HOME



Car: lease or buy?

How you pay for a car depends on how you'll use it, and for how long. Here are some high-level considerations:

| Considerations | Leasing | Buying |
|--------------------|---|--|
| Payments | Lower monthly payments, fixed fee | Pay less over time, and own your car at the end |
| Repairs | Fewer repair expenses | After warranty, you're responsible for all repairs |
| Mileage/use | Can drive a new car more often, but rules apply on mileage use and wear | No mileage limit use or restrictions, how you maintain it is up to you |

Home: rent or buy?

Depending on your situation, there are arguments both for buying and renting. Consider the following as you make the buy-or-rent decision:

| Considerations | Renting | Buying |
|---------------------------|--|--|
| Length of stay | Limited up-front investment, limited lease period for shorter-term residents | Potential longer-term appreciation value, the stability of ownership |
| Costs | Fixed monthly payment; generally no maintenance costs, no build-up of equity | Upfront costs and ongoing maintenance, but the potential for property appreciation |
| Tax considerations | While some states offer renters' tax credits, most do not | Potential U.S. mortgage interest deduction on federal taxes |
| Upfront cost | No down payment, but may require a 1-3 month security deposit | Down payment of up to 20% of purchase price, which is applied to your home equity |

Obtaining a car loan or mortgage with no credit history

It can be difficult to secure a car loan or home mortgage with no U.S. credit history. But Bank of the West has solutions designed to get you where you want to go. Please reach out when you want to know more.



Health care

In the U.S., you have access to different health care networks and plans. The plan and network you choose will have a pre-determined set of out-of-pocket costs and may also allow you to see specific doctors. To determine which plan is right for you or

your family, review the summary of benefits to see what services the plan covers — and what associated costs are. Ask these questions, and consider your own health situation and needs when making your choice:

Compare benefits

- I take a certain medication. How is that covered under this plan?
- Which maternity services are covered?
- What happens if I get sick when traveling abroad?
- How do I get started signing up, and what documents will I need?
- How are plans structured? Can I add partners/spouses or dependents?
- What out-of-pocket costs am I responsible for?
- Do these plans offer optional eye care or dental coverage?

Your total costs for health care

1. Your premium is your fee paid to your insurance company each month. You pay this fee even if you don't use medical services that month.
2. When you do receive care or treatment, you will also pay:
 - **A co-pay:** Many types of care will require that you also pay a co-payment at the time of service.
 - **A deductible:** Each year, you'll pay a set amount of money toward care before your insurance starts covering on your behalf.
 - **Coinsurance:** After you have paid your deductible, most plans will only cover up to a certain percentage of the procedure cost. The remainder is called "coinsurance."
 - **An out-of-pocket limit:** This is the maximum amount of additional money (in addition to your monthly premium) you might need to pay in any given year.



Emergency fund

Wherever you live in the world, it's important to constitute and keep what some call an "emergency fund." An emergency fund is money you keep fully liquid in a savings or money market savings account so you can quickly handle emergencies without having to sell securities or convert foreign currencies. There's no magic number, but many experts recommend keeping enough cash to cover six

months of expenses. An emergency fund is essential in case you suddenly find yourself unemployed or face medical expenses that are not covered by insurance.

- ▶ Talk to a Relationship Manager at Bank of the West about the different savings and money market savings account options.

U.S. retirement accounts

In the U.S., Social Security retirement benefits are often not sufficient to maintain one's standard of living in retirement. So, depending on where you're employed, you may have the opportunity to contribute to a company retirement plan. Check with your Human Resources department to see if you are eligible to participate.

401(k) plans are the most common type of retirement plan in the U.S. In simple terms, a 401(k) plan is an account that you contribute to through payroll deduction up to a maximum annual contribution limit set by the IRS. The money you contribute can be invested in various ways depending on the choices offered by your plan provider. Your employer may also contribute to your plan on your behalf.

Retirement plan contributions come in two types: "Traditional" and "Roth." Traditional contributions are tax-deferred, meaning you are not taxed on the money you contribute now, but you will pay income taxes when you take the distributions in retirement. Roth contributions, on the other hand, are taxed now, but earnings and distributions will be tax-free later.

You can complement a retirement plan by investing through an individual retirement account (typically called an IRA). This type of account is typically opened directly with a bank or brokerage firm.

- ▶ There are tax considerations related to taking a distribution from a retirement plan. Please consult with your tax advisor to evaluate your unique situation.²



Childcare

You'll have access to several types of childcare in the U.S, so you can choose the best option for your family. U.S. childcare, however, is not financed or provided for by the state you live in. Here are options that may work for you:

Daycare centers

U.S. daycare centers have well-trained employees who provide childcare to small groups. Some facilities are licensed; others are not. Parents should research the qualifications and background of any facility they choose to provide preschool education.

Family and in-home care providers

These offer an alternative to daycare centers. Parents often choose them because they prefer to keep their children in a home environment under the supervision of only one caregiver.

Schools

Public schools

In the U.S., individual states set their own educational standards and play a big part in structuring and funding public schools. Public schools in the U.S. are funded largely through taxes and are primarily free to families. If you choose to send your children to a public school, it's good to learn about the local school district as you search for a home. A local real estate agent can often provide great insight about school districts.

Private schools

You may prefer a private school over the public state system. Just know that tuition fees can be significant. Most states have a selection of private, fee-paying schools (privateschoolreview.com/tuition-stats/private-school-cost-by-state). >>

Costs for private school education vary depending on the curriculum, reputation and location. The average tuition cost for a private school is around \$10,000 per year, but some schools charge \$25,000 or more a year.

What to expect

In the U.S., children usually begin formal education at age five or six, in kindergarten or grade one. Children advance one grade each year (grade one, two, three, etc.) until reaching grade 12 at the age of 17. Grades nine–12 are high school years. After graduating from high school (12th grade), U.S. students may attend a trade school, college or university. Students can typically earn a bachelor's degree in four years. Some students continue on to graduate programs in pursuit of a master's degree or a doctorate, typically called a Ph.D.

GETTING STARTED

Governmental

- Schedule a meeting at your local Social Security office to obtain a Social Security number and card (page 4).
- Register at your home country's consulate in the U.S. to be able to vote and receive important communications.
- Meet with a tax expert to find out if the Exit Tax applies to you and to determine your tax liability after you move.
- If you plan to drive a car in the U.S., visit your local Department of Motor Vehicles to begin the process of obtaining a U.S. driver's license (page 4).

Banking and finance

- Open a U.S. bank account. You'll want to be able to transfer money between countries.
- Build up your credit score by getting a credit card or car/home loan (page 6).
- Meet with an estate attorney to plan for your personal situation. This may include a power of attorney for financial and medical decisions and a guardianship plan for your minor children.
- Organize a meeting with a financial advisor/wealth planner to protect and optimize your financial life while you are in the U.S.
- Open a 401(k) plan or IRA to begin saving for retirement.

Health and education

- Explore U.S. health insurance for you and your family (page 12).
- Register kids at school if they are age five or older (page 16).

U.S. federal holidays

NEW YEAR'S DAY January 1

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY Third Monday in January

PRESIDENTS' DAY Third Monday in February

MEMORIAL DAY Last Monday in May

INDEPENDENCE DAY July 4

LABOR DAY First Monday in September

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' DAY Second Monday in October

VETERANS DAY November 11

THANKSGIVING DAY Fourth Thursday in November

CHRISTMAS DAY December 25

NAVIGATE WITH CONFIDENCE

Whether you've recently arrived or are planning a move to the U.S., Bank of the West can help add clarity and confidence to your banking, wealth and overall financial affairs. In addition to providing highly personalized local service and guidance, our affiliation with BNP Paribas gives you access to the international capabilities and insights of a global banking leader.

We'd love to help you make the most of your new opportunity. Our multilingual team is committed to supporting you on all your International needs. Please contact us with any questions:

Privilege Connect

24/7 exclusive assistance:

1-800-435-1912

TTY: 1-800-659-5495

International Resident Desk

welcome@bankofthewest.com

[bankofthewest.com/international](https://www.bankofthewest.com/international)

Deposit and loan products offered by Bank of the West. All loans subject to credit approval.

Bank of the West Wealth Management offers products and services through Bank of the West and its various affiliates and subsidiaries.

Securities and variable annuities are offered through BancWest Investment Services, a registered broker/dealer, member FINRA/SIPC, and SEC Registered Investment Adviser. Financial Advisors are Registered Representatives of BancWest Investment Services. Fixed annuities/insurance products are offered through BancWest Insurance Agency in California (License #0C52321) and through BancWest Investment Services, Inc. in all other states where it is licensed to do business. This is not an offer or solicitation in any jurisdiction where we are not authorized to do business. Insurance products not offered in the state of New York or to New York residents.

¹ Scorpio Partnership Global Private Banking Benchmark 2018;
www.scorpiopartnership.com/knowledge/report/2018-benchmark/

² Bank of the West, including any of its affiliates and subsidiaries, does not provide tax or legal advice. Please consult your tax or legal advisors to determine how this information may apply to your own situation.

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Investment and Insurance Products:

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|------------------|---------------------|----------------|---------------|--|
| NOT FDIC INSURED | NOT BANK GUARANTEED | MAY LOSE VALUE | NOT A DEPOSIT | NOT INSURED BY ANY FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AGENCY |
|------------------|---------------------|----------------|---------------|--|