

12 months to landing day — every step, in order.

Moving abroad fails on logistics, not courage. An apostille ordered too late, an insurance policy that doesn't meet visa spec, a bank that freezes the account you needed for proof of funds — small sequencing mistakes that cost months. **The entire runway, in order, on paper.**

12–9 MONTHS OUT • DECIDE & FUND

- ☐ Pick your destination and legal route (visa type) — write both down
- ☐ Confirm this year's income/savings threshold from an official source
- ☐ Start building clean proof of funds: one account, steady balance, no big surprise deposits
- ☐ If studying: shortlist funded programs & scholarships; note application opening dates
- ☐ Book the right language test sitting (JLPT/TOPIK/DELE/DELTA run only a few times a year)

9–6 MONTHS OUT • PAPER CHASE BEGINS

- ☐ Passport: renew now if under 18 months' validity remain
- ☐ Map your consulate's exact document list (it overrides every blog, including ours)
- ☐ Line up recommenders / employer letters (remote-work authorisation, job contract)
- ☐ Price sworn translations & apostilles; list which documents need them
- ☐ Research taxes in your destination — book one call with a cross-border tax advisor

6–3 MONTHS OUT • FILE

- ☐ Order criminal-record certificate + apostille (mind its short validity window)
- ☐ Buy health insurance that meets visa spec: full coverage, no copays, no waiting periods
- ☐ Get sworn translations done LAST of the dated documents
- ☐ Book the visa appointment / submit the application; calendar the response deadline
- ☐ Plan your Schengen 90/180 clock if scouting first — count arrival & departure days

3–1 MONTHS OUT • BUILD THE LANDING PAD

- ☐ Housing: line up a landing base (2–6 weeks) — don't sign a year lease unseen
- ☐ Budget the landing fund: deposit + agency fee + first month = 3–4× rent in big cities
- ☐ Open / verify a bank or fintech account that works abroad; raise card limits
- ☐ Refill prescriptions; export medical & vaccination records; dentist now, not there
- ☐ Scan every document to a cloud folder; carry paper copies of the visa file



FINAL 2 WEEKS · THE CANCEL-REDIRECT-NOTIFY SWEEP

- ☐ Cancel or pause: subscriptions, memberships, utilities, insurance you're leaving behind
- ☐ Set mail forwarding / a trusted address for anything official
- ☐ Notify your bank & card issuers of travel; set up a second way to receive codes (not SMS-only)
- ☐ Download offline: maps, translator packs, your airline & booking apps
- ☐ Confirm airline baggage rules; weigh bags at home, not at the counter

LANDING WEEK · BECOME OFFICIAL

- ☐ Local SIM / eSIM on day one — many registrations need a local number
- ☐ Register your address if required (empadronamiento or local equivalent)
- ☐ Apply for your local ID / residence card appointment immediately — slots run out
- ☐ Get your tax ID number (NIE/NIF or equivalent) — banks and leases will ask
- ☐ Open the local bank account once you have ID + address proof
- ☐ Save emergency numbers + your consulate's contact in your phone

FIRST MONTH · SETTLE PROPERLY

- ☐ Convert the landing base into a real lease — negotiate; listed prices are opening bids
- ☐ Register with a local doctor / activate your health coverage
- ☐ Calendar your renewal date and its requirements NOW (funds proof, days-in-country)
- ☐ If mid-process: carry your application receipt; route trips through this country's airports
- ☐ Meet people on purpose: one class, one club, one standing weekly thing

Ready to go deeper?

Free guides on this site cover Spain's visas, the Schengen 90/180 rule, and funded study programs — read.joriu.com

For fill-in workbooks (application trackers, budgets, document sequencing): the [Joriu Visa & Relocation Guides](#)

