

# Impact Financial

## Global Financial Planning Checklist



**Top considerations for your  
international life & finances.**

Moving to or investing in another country can open up some amazing opportunities, but doing so comes with additional complexities, taxes and risks that you should be aware of.

To help, we've summarized some of the top items to be aware of as your finances become more globalized:

## Global Financial Planning Checklist

<b>US ExPat</b> - US citizen with international finances or residence. <b>NCR</b> - Non US Citizen who lives in or is financially tied to the US. <b>NR</b> - Non US Resident - who is financially tied to the US.	US ExPat	NCR	NR
<b>Plan Early</b> - Some strategies can make a significant impact but may only be available before you move or invest.	✓	✓	✓
<b>Professional review of all assets and income</b> - Tax treatment of assets and incomes can vary widely between countries.	✓	✓	✓
<b>Establish a bank account before moving</b> - This can take time and may simplify your life to have one open before moving.	✓	✓	N/A
<b>Consider US Investments</b> - Investing through US institutions gives you access to more investment options and lower fees*	✓	✓	✓
<b>Avoid PFICs</b> - (Passive Foreign Investment Companies) - The tax and reporting for PFICs is very punitive. <b>Tax rates can be as high as 60%-70%</b> on investment income. Also reporting correctly may result in high accounting fees. Non US mutual funds, rental real estate, businesses and even life insurance can all be considered PFICs.	✓	✓	N/A
<b>Monitor time spent in countries</b> - Tax treatment can change depending on how long you stay in a country.	✓	✓	✓
<b>IRS Filing Requirements</b> - There are various filings that you need to file with the IRS to indicate your foreign assets. If these aren't reported correctly, you could face very high fees.	✓	✓	✓

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<b>Hold investments in countries that have favorable taxes</b> - Depending on the type of asset, account and tax treaties, another jurisdiction may provide a better tax environment for your investments.	US taxes either way	✓	✓
<b>Review Insurance Coverage</b> - You will likely need to update your insurance to maintain coverage in different countries.	✓	✓	✓
<b>Re-assess your retirement savings</b> - Other countries may tax what are otherwise tax free savings accounts.	✓	✓	N/A
<b>Totalization Agreements</b> - Depending on the country, work may or may not continue to increase your US Social Security benefits.	✓	✓	N/A
<b>Review/Update Estate Plans</b> - You will likely need to update your estate planning documents to now consider the laws of another country.	✓	✓	✓
<b>Manage currency risk</b> - Currency swings, especially if expenses and income or assets are in different currencies, can be a risk to your plan. Ensure you are managing these risks.	✓	✓	✓

As you can see, there are a lot of items to consider as you move, work and invest internationally. Hopefully this checklist is a good starting point, but this is not a comprehensive list.

Given the complexities and potential impact of these various strategies, professional guidance should be stressed.

If you would like to talk further with **a certified Global Financial Planner**, please contact us. Helping people manage, optimize and simplify their global finances is our expertise.

\*Sources - [Mutual Fund Fees Around the World](#) & [Morningstar Global Fund Investor Experience Study](#)

**Disclosure** - This article provides general information and should not be taken as advice or a specific recommendation. Changes in tax law as well as economic and personal conditions can change recommendations. Please consult with a trusted advisor to receive advice specific to you.