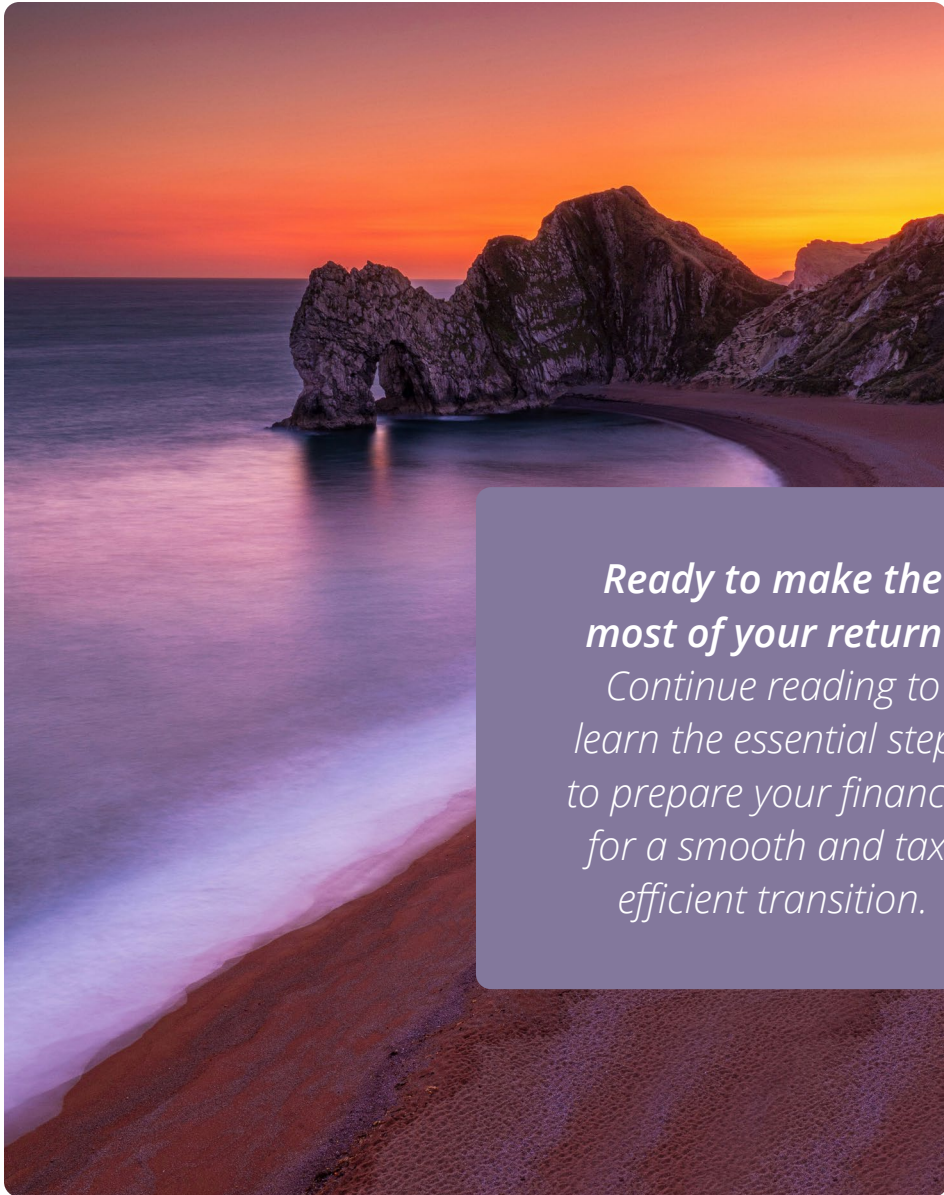




THE EXPAT'S GUIDE TO RETURNING HOME

Make Sure Your Finances Are Ready
Before Your Suitcase Is.





*Ready to make the
most of your return?
Continue reading to
learn the essential steps
to prepare your finances
for a smooth and tax-
efficient transition.*

BEFORE YOU BOARD THAT PLANE

DON'T LET PAPERWORK, PENSIONS OR TAX CATCH YOU OFF GUARD.

Returning to the UK is more than a move – it's a financial reset.

It affects how your income is taxed, where your pensions sit, how your investments are structured, and whether your protection plans still work. Many focus on logistics like shipping, schools, and housing, but without a clear financial plan, you risk tax pitfalls, frozen assets, or costly deadlines.

Before you return, check your key financial areas:

- **Taxes:** Do you know your UK tax residency position? Have you addressed any National Insurance gaps? Are you prepared for the tax implications of selling overseas property, including CGT?
- **Investments:** Are your overseas investments compliant, portable, and tax-efficient once you're back in the UK?
- **Pensions:** Is your pension structure aligned with UK rules, and have you reviewed timing and transfer options?
- **Insurance & Banking:** Will your protection plans remain valid, and do you have ongoing access to your bank accounts after leaving your current country?

QUICK CHECK:

ARE YOU READY TO RETURN?

The more time you have to plan, the smoother your transition back to the UK will be. Whether you're already in the process of moving or planning for the future, now is the time to start asking yourself these crucial questions. Taking the necessary steps ahead of time can save you from unnecessary stress and financial surprises down the road.



What needs sorting before you leave:

- 1 Residency timing: Will your return date align with the UK tax year? Starting fresh on 6 April can simplify everything.
- 2 Cash flow: Transfer enough funds into a UK account before you land. Think 3–6 months of living expenses.
- 3 FX strategy: Gradual transfers or a currency specialist can help protect your cash from poor rates.
- 4 Pension prep: Know what stays, what transfers, and what might be taxed. Get ahead.

Good news! Downloading this e-book, compiled by repatriation experts with extensive global investing knowledge, is the first step toward ensuring a smooth and financially sound return to the UK. This guide will walk you through each of the crucial steps, helping you get everything in place for a seamless transition.

UNDERSTANDING YOUR UK TAX RESIDENCY STATUS

Returning to the UK isn't just about booking a flight; your return date can define how much tax you pay. The Statutory Residence Test (SRT) is a strict formula that HMRC applies, not a matter of lifestyle or intention.

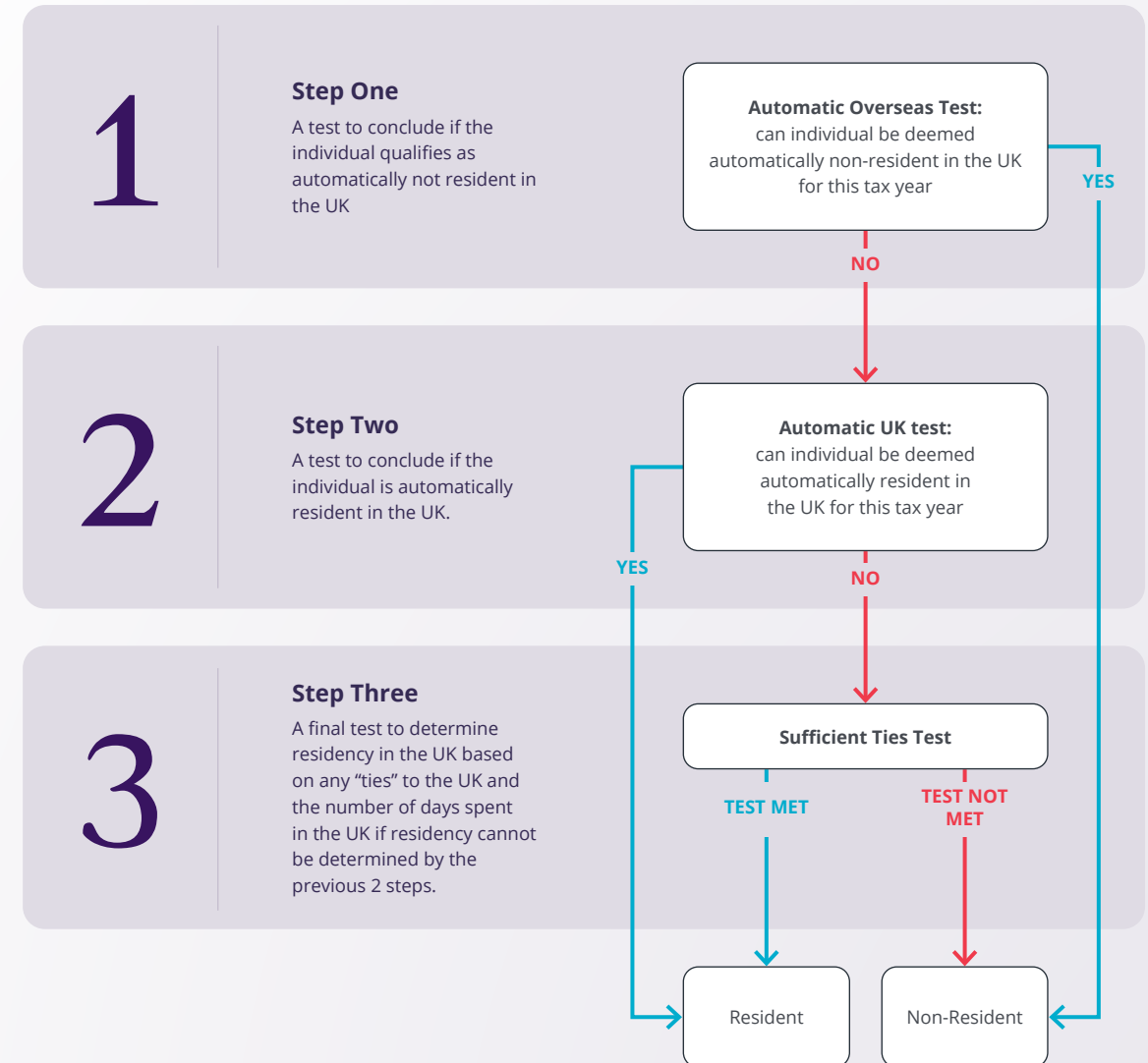
Example:

If you return on 1 February 2026, without split-year treatment, HMRC could treat you as UK resident for the entire tax year from 6 April 2025. That means all worldwide income and gains since April 2025 may be taxable.

Common Mistake:

Believing that "just visiting family" doesn't count towards days. It does.

The Three Steps Are As Follows:



Split-Year Treatment

While split-year treatment can apply if you're returning to the UK permanently or for work, it is not automatic. Specific criteria must be met, as detailed in the SRT guidance. Split-year treatment divides the tax year into two periods: the UK part and the overseas part, each taxed differently.

Action:

Use HMRC's online SRT checker or seek advice before fixing a return date. Aligning your move with the UK tax year (6 April) can save significant tax exposure.

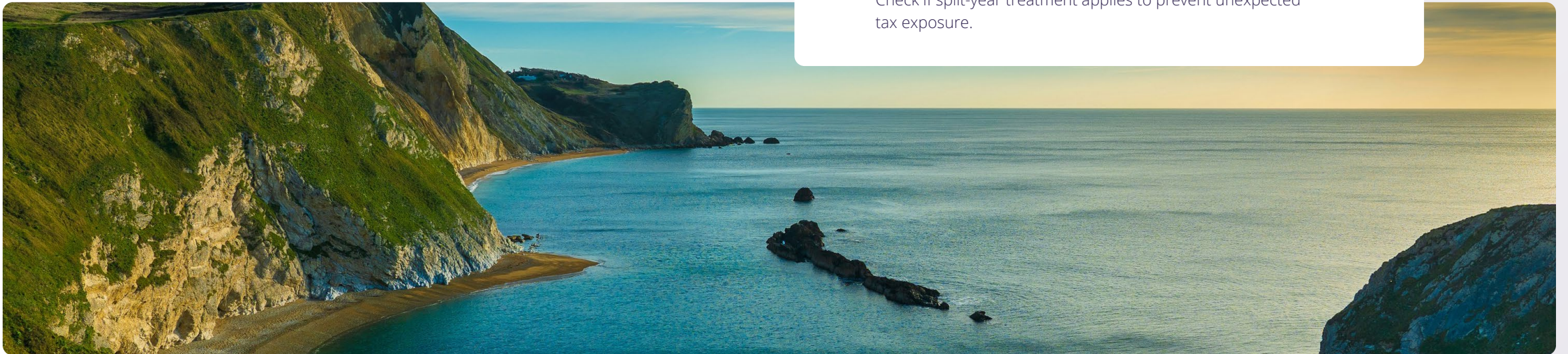
Recent Changes for the 2025 Tax Year

Foreign Income and Gains (FIG) Regime: This replaces the previous remittance basis for non-doms. It provides relief on foreign income and gains for the first four tax years of UK residence after a period of at least 10 years of non-UK residence.

Overseas Workday Relief (OWR): This new rule applies for the first three tax years of UK residence, provided you qualify as a new resident.

Quick Check

- **Are you eligible for split-year treatment?**
Review the criteria in the SRT guidance to see if you qualify.
- **Will your foreign income be taxed in the UK if you return mid-year?**
Check if split-year treatment applies to prevent unexpected tax exposure.



GET YOUR OVERSEAS INVESTMENTS UK-READY

When returning to the UK, it's crucial to ensure your overseas investments are compliant, portable, and tax efficient. Let's break down what each of these factors means:

Compliance

UK tax laws require certain overseas investments to be reported to HMRC. If your investments aren't structured to meet UK reporting standards, you could face penalties or unexpected tax liabilities. It's important to review the compliance requirements for your overseas assets to avoid any legal or financial issues upon your return.

Portability

Some overseas investments may not be easily transferred or accessed once you're back in the UK. This could be due to different regulations or limitations on foreign investment vehicles. Before returning, review whether your investments can be easily converted or liquidated, and how their terms might change under UK jurisdiction.

Tax-Efficiency

Certain overseas investments may have been highly tax-efficient in your current country but could become less so in the UK. The UK tax system may impose higher taxes on foreign income, capital gains, or inheritances. For example, overseas funds without HMRC reporting status could trigger UK income tax when sold. Reviewing the tax implications of your overseas investments is essential to ensure they remain aligned with your financial goals after returning to the UK.



Action:

Review your overseas investments to ensure they meet UK compliance standards, can be easily accessed or transferred, and are tax-efficient under UK rules. Consult an expert to help plan ahead to minimise complications later down the line.



MAKE YOUR INVESTMENTS UK-READY

Some overseas funds are tax-efficient abroad but toxic in the UK.

HMRC Reporting Funds

Only funds with reporting status qualify for capital gains tax on disposal. Non-reporting funds are taxed at income rates (up to 45%).

ISAs & GIAs:

On returning, you can shelter new investments inside UK wrappers. ISAs allow £20,000 per year tax-free; GIAs provide flexibility but gains are taxable above allowances.



Red Flag: Many offshore portfolio bonds or foreign mutual funds lack HMRC reporting status. Selling them after you move back could create unexpected tax bills.

Action:

Restructure overseas holdings before returning, so they remain compliant, accessible, and efficient under UK rules.

INVEST LIKE YOU'RE NOT STAYING PUT

Portable. Protected. Built for life beyond borders.

The way you invest abroad may not be fit for life back in the UK. What worked overseas, could unravel under UK tax rules, product restrictions, or reporting requirements.

Smart portfolios are:



Multi-Currency

Useful when you're managing cross-border costs or FX exposure.



Globally Diversified

Helping you avoid overexposure to any one market or region.



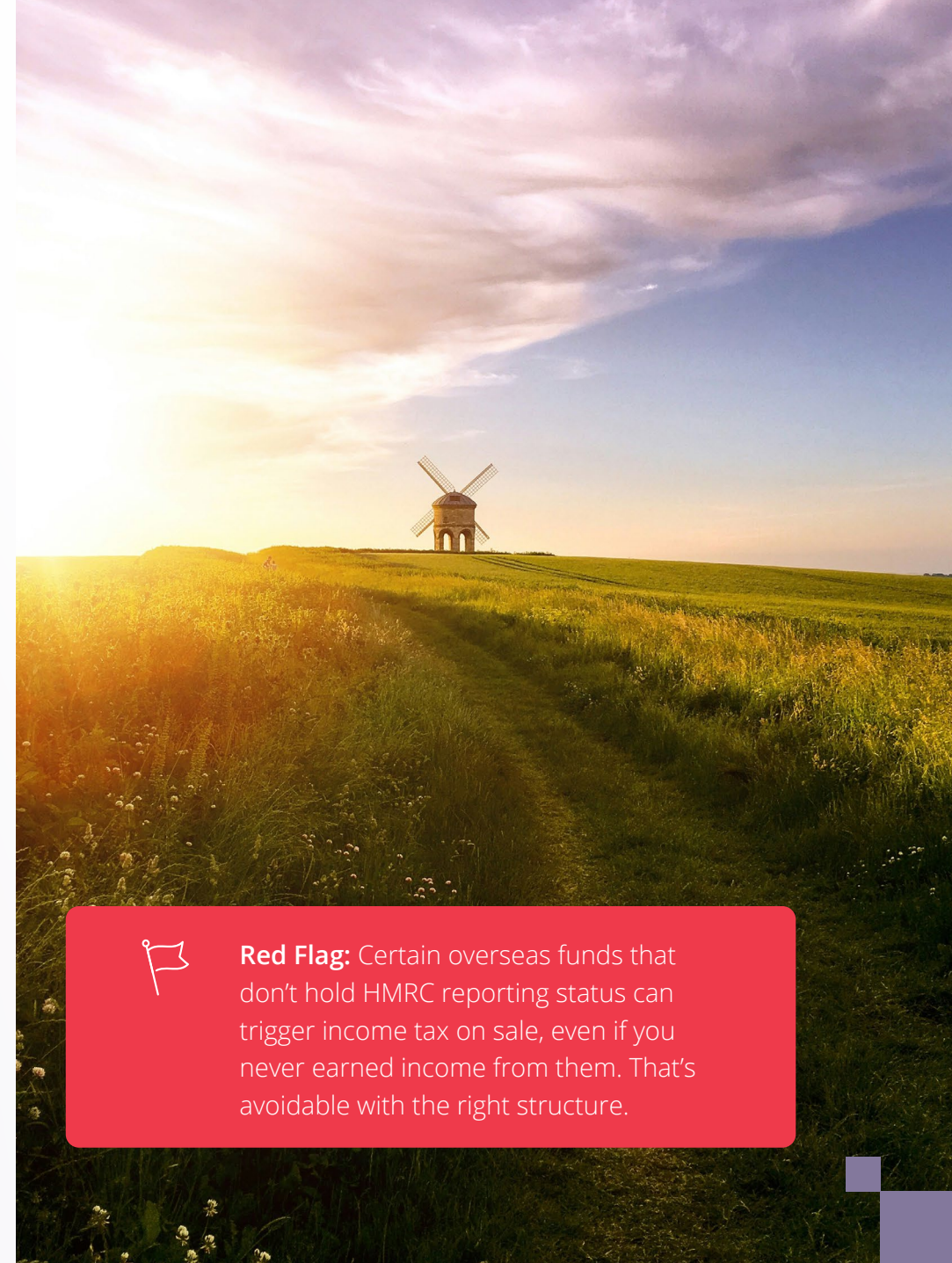
Structured For Shifting Tax Rules

So your gains aren't eroded when you cross jurisdictions.

***Get A Strategy That Doesn't
Fall Apart When You Move.***



Red Flag: Certain overseas funds that don't hold HMRC reporting status can trigger income tax on sale, even if you never earned income from them. That's avoidable with the right structure.



SELLING PROPERTY ABROAD?

DON'T GET CAUGHT OUT

The HMRC taxes gains on worldwide property once you're resident. Even if you bought your villa in Dubai years ago, any sale after your UK return may trigger UK Capital Gains Tax (CGT).

60-Day Rule:

Since 2020, UK residents selling residential property (UK or overseas) must report and pay CGT within 60 days of completion.

Double Taxation Agreements (DTAs):

If you've already paid tax in the country of sale, DTAs may let you offset this against UK CGT.

Example:

An expat sells a Spanish apartment in October 2026 for a £400k gain. Spain taxes part of the gain, but HMRC still requires reporting, and UK CGT may apply on top unless offset under the UK-Spain DTA.

Action:

Seek advice before selling, and time disposals carefully to avoid being taxed twice.



RECENT CHANGES IN THE UK

Lifetime Allowance Abolished (2024):

Following the Conservative government announcement in 2023, the cap on tax-free pension contributions has now been removed, allowing higher contributions without extra tax charges. Protections for higher LTA amounts remain in place.

Pension Freedoms (2015):

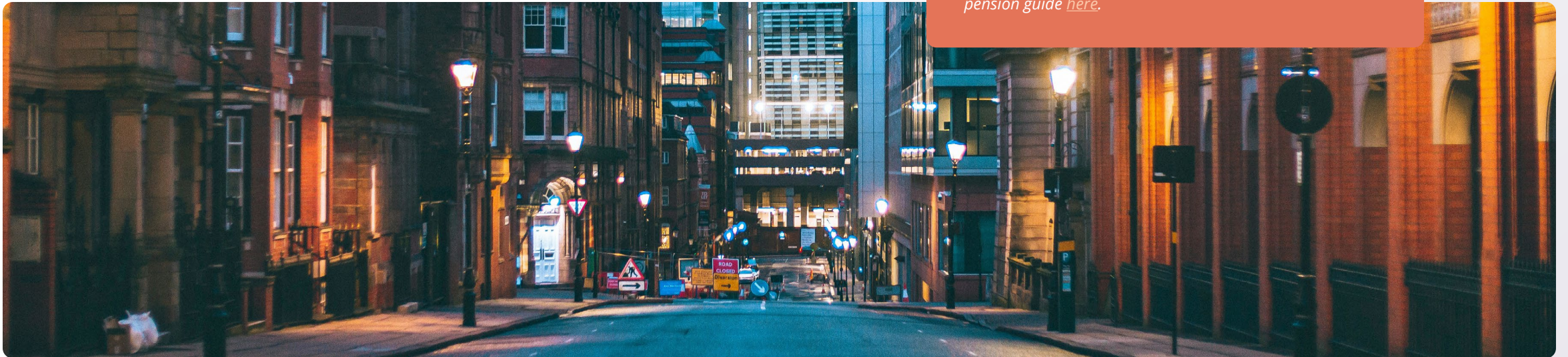
Individuals aged 55+ (now rising to 57 in 2028,) can access pensions more flexibly, with options like lump sums, annuities, or flexible drawdown.

Proposed Changes UK Inheritance Tax (2027):

From 2027, the government has announced that pensions will be included in your estate for inheritance tax purposes, affecting UK pensions, QROPS, and QNUPS.

Action:

Review your pension structure now to ensure it's aligned with UK rules and that you're prepared for any tax changes. Whether you're transferring a pension or keeping it abroad, understanding the tax implications and timing is essential for a smooth transition. For more details, check out our pension guide [here](#).



UPDATE YOUR COVER BEFORE YOU LAND

Health Insurance:

The NHS covers residents, but there may be up to a 3-month wait for returning expats who have lived abroad. Ensure continuity of cover until NHS registration is complete.

Life Insurance:

Some overseas policies stop covering you once you become UK resident. Benefits might be invalid.

Action:

Speak with providers well before departure. Consider UK-regulated cover for life and health to avoid gaps in protection.



MAXIMISE YOUR NATIONAL INSURANCE CONTRIBUTIONS BEFORE RETURNING

Your State Pension depends on your National Insurance (NI) contributions. Expats often discover costly gaps years later.

You usually need 35 qualifying years for the full pension.

You can backfill up to 6 years of missing NI, but in some cases HMRC extends this to 10 years.

Expats may qualify for cheaper Class 2 NI contributions (£179.40 p.a. in 2025/26), instead of the more expensive Class 3 (£907.40 p.a.), but eligibility must be confirmed.

Action:

Check your record at gov.uk/check-national-insurance-record. Fill any gaps before returning to lock in pension entitlement.

Did You Know?

Voluntary National Insurance contributions offer a cost-effective way to increase your future state pension, with the added benefit of tax-free growth, enhancing the long-term value of your retirement income.





SET UP BANKING EARLY

Opening a UK bank account from abroad can be slow, as banks now apply strict anti-money laundering checks. Proof of address is often the sticking point.

Solution:

Apply for a UK account before returning or use a digital challenger bank (e.g., Monzo, Starling) to get started quickly.

Remember:

Once UK resident, you must declare offshore accounts to HMRC, even if you keep them open.

Action:

Keep 3–6 months of living expenses in a UK account to cover rent, utilities, and bills immediately on arrival.



YOUR GLOBAL TEAM, STILL WITH YOU AT HOME

The majority of advice firms can't help you once you're back home. We can.

Here's the problem: most overseas advisers are only licensed to support you while you remain in the jurisdiction where they are based. As soon as you become UK resident again, they can't legally provide advice, manage your investments, or help you restructure your finances. The relationship stops just when things get more complicated.

That means:

- No ongoing service
- No proactive advice
- No protection if something goes wrong

The risks?

- Frozen assets
- Double taxation
- Poor currency timing
- Lost access to international investment solutions



Book a planning call with our
repatriation team today.

Where Skybound Wealth Differ

Licensed on five continents. Connected wherever life takes you.

Unlike many firms, we don't just part ways once you head home. At Skybound Wealth, we stay with you throughout the entire journey, before, during, and after your return. We ensure that your financial planning is robust and adaptable, no matter where life leads you.

What You Get:



Investment Committee Access

Benefit from our global team of experts, guiding your investments with the latest insights, strategies, and market updates tailored to your circumstances.



Pensions Division Insight

Receive ongoing support from our specialists to ensure your pensions are structured and managed according to UK tax laws and your evolving needs.



Repatriation Support

From initial planning to final execution, we offer comprehensive assistance in navigating the complexities of moving your wealth back to the UK.



Adviser Chat and Live Portfolio Access

Stay in touch with your dedicated adviser for real-time updates and advice, ensuring that your financial strategy stays aligned with your goals.



Secure Document Sharing

Share and access important financial documents safely through our secure, easy-to-use platform, wherever you are in the world.

At Skybound Wealth, we make sure your financial strategy remains aligned with your goals, long after your return.



LET'S GET YOU **HOME**, FINANCIALLY PREPARED

Make your return a financial advantage, not a liability.

Financial repatriation isn't just about returning. It's about returning ready.

With regulated advice, portable planning, and a clear strategy, your next chapter can start strong.

**Schedule your repatriation
planning call now.**

LET'S GET YOU HOME, FINANCIALLY PREPARED

Make your return a financial advantage, not a liability.

