

US EXPAT TAX CHECKLIST 2020





Personal Information

Your Social Security number*, if you are married then you will need your spouse's full name, social security number or tax ID number as well. And don't forget about dependent(s) information!

*While most of the taxpayers use Social Security numbers when it comes to filing US tax return, others must file using special Individual Taxpayer Identification Numbers (ITINs). You need to update it if your ITIN expired on Jan. 1st. If you didn't use ITIN on a tax return at least once in the past 3 years, then it has expired. ITINs with certain middle digits, such as 78 or 79, are also not valid anymore.



Copy of prior year tax return(s)

You may need last year's federal tax return as well as state one (if you happen to live in a state which collects state tax). Include record of estimated tax payments you made for both federal and state taxes.



Income verification, such as record of wages and compensations

Prepare documents to prove and provide details of your earnings from wages, compensations and investments. It includes W-2, P60, P45 forms from employers or W-2G for gambling winnings. In cases of self-employment, you will need to provide a statement showing business income and expenses for the tax year.

✓ Documentation of any additional income

This includes business, unemployment, rental property and other sort of miscellaneous income:

- If you own a business such as partnership, corporation, etc. or you are part owner of a foreign partnership or corporation
- interest from bonds or savings accounts
- jury duty, lottery and gambling winnings, prizes and awards
- hobby income and expenses, royalties
- record of alimony paid/received
- unemployment compensation and foreign disability income

✓ Record of distribution from retirement and other savings

If you withdraw money from accounts such as pensions, profit sharing, annuities, an IRA or other retirement accounts.

✓ Report of savings and investments or dividends (Form 1099)

Interest is the income received from bonds, bank CDs, saving accounts, bank money market accounts or loans made as a lender. Dividends are paid to shareholders of stock as a portion of the company profits and all investment company distributions are classified as dividends. Interest income is reported to the individual and IRS on IRS Form 1099-INT and dividends are reported on IRS Form 1099-DIV.



Documentation for deductions and credits

To lower the tax burden and make the best out of available deductions and credits:

- child care, adoption and education costs
- mortgage interest and investment interest expenses
- charitable donations, including cash amounts, official charity receipts, canceled checks etc.
- records of medical bills and dental expenses



Sales and purchases of real estate/any property

This is needed if you bought or sold a property (home or land) in the tax year. You are required to present documents from both the purchase of the real estate and from the sale



Verification of purchase and sale of stock and/or other securities

You need to present information, which proves the purchase, sale date and price. Also don't forget to report any capital gains and losses you have during the tax year for any US or foreign investments.



Record of any retirement income and Social Security benefits

This includes Pension/IRA/Annuity income and traditional IRA basis, such as amounts you contributed to the IRA that were already taxed. If you receive Social Security payments from the US, you'll receive a Form SSA 1099.

**Have some questions left unanswered?
Contact us on info@1040abroad.com**



Your trusted U.S. Expat Tax Services