

TaxKiln, Leaving the UK, comprehensive tax checklist

Stage 1, planning (3 to 6 months before departure)

SRT preparation:

- Apply Schedule 45 FA 2013 SRT to verify non-residence for tax year of departure.
- Identify which Automatic Overseas Test applies (most common, Test 3).
- If split-year applies, identify which Case (1 / 2 / 3 for leavers).
- Document day-counting + retain travel evidence.
- Run HMRC online residence indicator tool + save screenshot.
- Cross-reference destination country residence test.

Pre-departure financial review:

- List all UK source income streams.
- List all UK assets potentially subject to NRCGT.
- Review IHT position under April 2025 LTR test.
- Pension situation and drawdown plans.
- ISA position (non-resident-cannot-contribute rule).
- If trading via UK Ltd Co, corporate residence / PE risk in destination.
- Maintain UK bank account vs close.

Pre-departure planning:

- Calculate temporary non-residence implications (TCGA 1992 s.10A).
- Time pre-departure asset disposals carefully.
- Pension contribution last-year strategy.
- Use ISA allowance for tax year of departure.
- Estate planning before April 2025 LTR test ticks against you.
- Currency transfer planning + FX cost optimisation.

Stage 2, departure (tax year of leaving)

Procedural HMRC notifications:

- P85 submission, online via gov.uk OR paper P85 with covering letter.
- NRL1 application if UK landlord, submit ASAP to avoid 20 percent withholding.
- NT code application for UK pension, Form DT-Individual.
- Update address with HMRC.
- Retain UTR; do not cancel SA if UK income continues.

Final SA return:

- File final SA using SA100 + SA109 split-year + supplementary pages (SA105, SA102, SA103, SA106, SA108 as applicable).
- SA109 split-year case selection.
- Personal Allowance entitlement on non-resident portion (depends on nationality + DTA).

Other notifications:

- Employer, pension provider, bank, ISA provider, Premium Bonds / NS&I, Council Tax, DVLA.

Stage 3, first year abroad

National Insurance + State Pension:

- Voluntary Class 2 NI via Form CF83 (GBP 3.50/week 2025/26).
- WARNING: Voluntary Class 2 NI for periods abroad ABOLISHED for new applicants from 6 April 2026.
- Voluntary Class 3 NI alternative (GBP 17.75/week).
 - Verify destination country State Pension uprating status.

Self Assessment continuing obligation:

- File annual SA if UK source income continues.
- SA109 non-residence pages each year.
- s.811 ITA 2007 disregarded income claim where applicable.
- NRL rental income via SA105.
- UK pension via SA if no NT code yet.

Pension contributions:

- Decide whether to continue UK pension contributions (GBP 3,600 gross max for 5 tax years post-departure).
- Verify relevant UK earnings position.
- Avoid QROPS transfer pitches unless genuinely beneficial.

Destination country tax:

- Register with destination tax authority (30 to 90 days).
- Apply for destination tax residence certificate.
- Understand destination treatment of UK ISA + Premium Bonds.

Stage 4, years 2 to 5 (temporary non-residence window)

- Avoid early return if pre-departure asset gains realised during non-residence.
- Track 5-year clock (temporary-non-residence planning worksheet).
- Annual SA continuation.
- Annual State Pension forecast + voluntary NI decision.

Stage 5, year 5+ (permanent non-residence)

- s.10A no longer applies.
- IHT tail tracking (FA 2025 Schedule 1, 3-year or 10-year tail).
- Continued SA for UK source income.

Stage 6, if returning to UK

- Apply SRT for tax year of return.
- FIG regime claim if 10+ years non-resident (4 years foreign income/gains exemption).
- Track s.10A catch-up if returning within 5 full tax years.
- ISA contribution resumption allowed from UK residence year.
- Pension drawdown UK PAYE re-applies (NT code lapses).

Statute: Schedule 45 FA 2013 (SRT); ITEPA 2003; ITA 2007 ss.811-813; TCGA 1992; IHTA 1984 + FA 2025; SI 1995/2902 (NRLS).