



# Checklist: Setting Up Your Life in Taiwan

*Your Essential Guide for a Smooth Start as an Expat*

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## Before You Arrive

- ☐ Check visa requirements (working visa, student visa, visitor visa)
  - ☐ Apply for your visa and gather necessary documents (passport, photos, work contract, etc.)
  - ☐ Book short-term accommodation (hotel, Airbnb, or hostel for first weeks)
  - ☐ Research your destination city (Taipei, Taichung, Kaohsiung, etc.)
  - ☐ Learn basic Mandarin phrases
  - ☐ Join expat Facebook groups or forums (e.g. “Taiwan Expats”, “Taipei Community”)
  - ☐ Get international travel insurance for the first 1–2 months
  - ☐ Prepare 2–3 months of living expenses in cash and digital formats
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## Housing & Essentials

- ☐ Use 591.com.tw or local Facebook groups to find apartments
- ☐ Choose between shared housing or private rental
- ☐ Prepare a rental deposit (usually 2 months’ rent)
- ☐ Buy essentials or second-hand items (furniture, appliances)
- ☐ Learn about trash sorting & recycling rules (strict in Taiwan)

- ☐ Visit IKEA, Carrefour, or local markets for setup supplies

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## **Phone & Internet**

- ☐ Get a local SIM card at the airport or phone shop (Chunghwa, FarEasTone, Taiwan Mobile)
- ☐ Sign up for a monthly mobile plan or prepaid option
- ☐ Set up internet in your apartment (if not included)
- ☐ Download essential apps:
  - ☐ Google Translate (Mandarin camera scan is helpful!)
  - ☐ Line (main chat app in Taiwan)
  - ☐ Foodpanda / Uber Eats
  - ☐ Taiwan Weather App
  - ☐ iBon or E-traffic apps for MRT, buses, payments

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## **Banking & Money**

- ☐ Open a local bank account (CTBC, Mega Bank, or Post Office)
- ☐ Bring your ARC (Alien Resident Certificate), passport, and proof of address
- ☐ Apply for an EasyCard for transport and small payments
- ☐ Learn how to pay bills via convenience stores or ATM machines

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## **Healthcare & Insurance**

- ☐ Apply for your ARC (Alien Resident Certificate) within 15 days of arrival (if eligible)
  - ☐ Enroll in Taiwan's National Health Insurance (NHI) after receiving ARC
  - ☐ Choose a local clinic or hospital for general care
  - ☐ Get a dental check-up (affordable and widely available)
  - ☐ Keep a translated copy of any essential medical records
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## Work & Admin

- ☐ Register with the local immigration office if staying long-term
  - ☐ Apply for a work permit (your employer usually handles this)
  - ☐ Save your tax ID number and check deadlines for tax filing (May each year)
  - ☐ Learn basic workplace etiquette and public behavior norms
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## Social & Lifestyle

- ☐ Join a local gym, hiking group, or yoga class
  - ☐ Explore your neighborhood's night markets and temples
  - ☐ Take Mandarin classes at a university or language center
  - ☐ Connect with other expats through meetups or events
  - ☐ Explore weekend trips to Jiufen, Taroko Gorge, Alishan, or Kenting
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## Bonus Tips

- ☐ Always carry your ARC or a copy of your passport
- ☐ Carry cash—small shops may not accept cards
- ☐ Respect cultural customs (remove shoes indoors, use two hands to give/receive items)
- ☐ Be patient with bureaucracy—it takes time but works smoothly
- ☐ Be open to new foods, experiences, and rhythms of life!