

# Considerations before moving from the USA to Europe (Especially France)

1. Banking
2. Your stuff
3. Mail
4. Voting
5. Phones
6. Electronics.
7. Clothes
8. Medicines
9. Subscriptions
10. Transportation

## PHONE *this is important*

- you still need your USA phone number
- Familiar things become impossible, especially as companies move towards 2-factor authentication or you need to reset a password
  - Uber
  - Microsoft 360
- Temporary/Burner SIMs are expensive in Europe, so paying up for international service might not be a bad idea
- You need a permanent address and a European bank account to get reasonably priced phone/data service
- You will need the US number for years, plus it will save you money when you visit the USA
- Ideally, get a service that can be paused like Google Fi
- Make sure to update all your accounts with a new number if you change it
  - Suggest cross referencing with your password manager for a list of who needs this information

## Mail

- You need a mail forwarding service (basically a PO Box with virtual abilities)
- Obviously do a change of address for everything you can remember
  - Suggest cross referencing your password manager for a list of who needs this information

## • Banking

- You still need an USA bank account
- Be sure to change your mailing address to your new mail forwarding service
- Credit cards are much different in Europe
  - Hard to get
  - Low credit limits
  - Not universally accepted
- 300€ cash limit in France
- In France you need a bank account to get a lease and a lease to get a bank account (good luck)

## Technology

- Sometimes more expensive in Europe
  - If comparison shopping, remember that tax is inclusive in Europe
  - Apple stuff is the same or sometimes a little less (assembled in Ireland)
- QWERTY can be hard to find
- New products to market come to the USA a few months before Europe

## VOTING AND TAXES

- Bring US Letter sized paper and standard envelopes
- You are allowed an extra 3 months to file July 15
- You still have to file US taxes even with no US income as long as you are a citizen

## YOUR STUFF

- European apartments are smaller
- Your appliances will not work with EU electricity
- Shipping is expensive
  - \$300 per medium box mailed
  - \$50 per medium box shipped on the slow boat
- European stuff is cool
- Storage is expensive

## Clothes

- Bring the clothes you like and that fit you
- European sizes are small
- France and Italy have beautiful clothes, but only in tiny sizes
- Tall people can find clothes in Northern Europe
- Tall and wide people can only find clothes in Germany (and then you may look like you buy your clothes in Germany)
- Clothes with English language are en vogue

## MEDICINES

- Over-the-counter doesn't exist in Europe
- Familiar brands are frequently absent
  - TUMS
  - GAS-X
- rX is much less expensive even without insurance
- American prescriptions can be filled in an emergency
- doctor and dentist visits are inexpensive
- You are responsible for your own medical records - your new doctor will not call or otherwise request anything from your old doctor or even a doctor they referred you to

## SUBSCRIPTIONS

- Cancel every recurring payment you can think of
- Cancel any magazines you still receive
- Pandora doesn't work, Spotify does
- Make sure technology subscriptions have your US Mailing address and US phone number (if you changed it)
- You will need a VPN to watch HBO, ESPN, and North American programming in Europe

## TRANSPORTATION

- US Driver's license is valid for one year
- You do not need a car
  - Car sharing is available
  - Rentals are cheap
  - There is no place to park
  - Most city centers do not allow cars, and will only become more restrictive
- Trains are cool
- Europe is small - most plane flights are less than two hours from Frankfurt, Paris, Brussels, or Amsterdam
- Bicycle paths are almost everywhere
- Bicycling is safer in Europe because it is more common and drivers expect to see you!