ROXTON WEALTH

THE LIFE & WEALTH SERIES

Moving to the UK

Helping you build a confident financial foundation as you begin life in the UK.

WWW.ROXTONWEALTH.COM

Financial & mortgage advice, tailored to you

A new country can bring unfamiliar systems.

A clear financial foundation can make life feel more settled. You do not need to understand everything immediately — what matters is building the right foundations, asking the right questions and making decisions that support the life you are creating.

A NEW BEGINNING

Starting a new chapter.

A move to the UK can bring excitement, ambition and opportunity — arriving for work, study, family, business or a chance to build a different life. But moving countries can also create uncertainty: learning how to rent a home, open a bank account, manage a new currency, build a credit profile or plan towards buying property. The important thing is not to try to solve everything at once.

FINANCIAL CONFIDENCE OFTEN STARTS WITH A FEW PRACTICAL FOUNDATIONS

- Understanding your income and regular spending
- Knowing what benefits are available through work
- Learning how mortgages, pensions and protection work
- Building a UK financial footprint over time
- Creating a savings buffer where possible
- Keeping your longer-term goals visible

You do not need to understand the whole UK financial system in your first month. You only need a clear starting point.

KNOWING HOW IT WORKS

Understanding the UK financial system.

The UK system may use different terms, products and processes. The goal is not to become an expert — it is to know what each part does and why it may matter to your future plans.

UK banking

A UK bank account can make everyday life easier — receiving salary, paying rent and bills, managing direct debits and setting money aside. Providers may ask for information to confirm your identity and address; the documents accepted can vary.

Credit history

A record of how you have managed certain financial commitments in the UK. A new arrival may have little or no UK credit history at first. That does not mean poor credit — simply that lenders have less UK-based information to consider.

Credit scores

A number created by a credit reference agency indicating how a lender may view your credit report. A high score does not guarantee credit or a mortgage — each lender uses its own criteria, including income, affordability, visa or residency position and deposit.

Tax & National Insurance

If you work in the UK, tax and National Insurance may be deducted from your pay. A National Insurance number records your contributions and tax; if you need one, the application is managed through the relevant government service.

Workplace pensions

Many employers provide a workplace pension scheme. Depending on age and earnings, you may be automatically enrolled and your employer may contribute. Check your payslip and benefits information to understand what is happening to your money.

Financial regulation

Many UK financial services — mortgages, investments, pensions and insurance activity — are regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. Understand what service you are receiving, whether it is regulated and what consumer protections may apply.

The UK system may feel unfamiliar at first. But understanding the basics can help you make more confident choices.

CONSISTENT EVERYDAY ACTIONS

Build your financial footprint in the UK.

When you move to the UK, it can take time for your financial history to develop. That is normal. You may not have years of UK bank statements or a long credit history — but you can still begin creating a stronger foundation through practical steps.

01 Start with everyday organisation

Keep your personal details up to date with your bank, employer and utility providers. Use your correct address consistently, keep important paperwork securely, and understand the regular payments leaving your account each month.

02 Pay commitments on time

Paying bills and credit commitments on time can help show you manage financial responsibilities reliably — rent, utilities, mobile phone contracts, credit cards, loans or other agreements.

03 Check your credit report

You can check your credit report and make sure the information held about you is accurate. If you see information that appears incorrect, it may be possible to challenge it with the relevant credit reference agency or provider.

04 Avoid unnecessary borrowing

Credit can be useful when it is understood and affordable. Taking on borrowing simply to build a score can create unnecessary pressure — it is usually more important to manage commitments responsibly than to take on debt you do not need.

Financial foundations are rarely built through one big decision. They are built through clear, consistent habits over time.

A HOME THAT FITS

Buying or renting a home.

For many people moving to the UK, renting is the natural first step — offering flexibility while you settle. For others, buying is a longer-term goal. Neither route is better; the right decision depends on your circumstances, plans and the flexibility you want.

Renting versus buying

Renting may suit you if you are still deciding where to live, how long you expect to remain, what property you need or whether work arrangements may change. Buying may become relevant with a clearer long-term plan, an appropriate deposit, stable income and a realistic view of the costs.

Mortgage eligibility

Availability depends on individual circumstances. Lenders may consider income, outgoings, deposit size, credit history, employment type, visa or residency position, property type and affordability. Some have minimum residency-history requirements; others may consider newer arrivals.

Mortgages for people new to the UK

A person new to the UK may still be able to obtain a mortgage, but the range of options depends on the full picture. Do not assume a lack of long UK credit history means home ownership is impossible — a clear review can identify what may be realistic.

Building affordability

Affordability is more than a lender calculation. A mortgage payment should leave room for bills, savings, pension contributions, protection, family plans and unexpected costs. Your home may be repossessed if you do not keep up repayments on your mortgage.

Buying a home is not only about getting a mortgage offer. It is about making sure the commitment supports your wider life.

STABILITY, NOT COMPLEXITY

Building your financial foundations.

Settling into the UK can be expensive — rent, deposits, travel, furniture, childcare, professional costs, visa-related expenses and the everyday cost of building a new home and routine. That is why creating financial resilience can be especially valuable.

01 Emergency savings

Money kept aside for unexpected costs or changes in circumstances — a period between jobs, an urgent journey, a home repair or a change in family circumstances. The aim is not a perfect amount immediately; it is to start building some breathing room.

02 Budgeting

A budget is simply a plan for your money. It helps you understand what income you receive, what essential costs must be paid, what commitments are fixed, what you want to save towards, and what is available for everyday life. It should reflect your real life, not make you feel guilty.

03 UK financial products

You may encounter products new to you — workplace pensions, ISAs, credit cards, overdrafts, fixed-rate mortgages, protection policies and investment accounts. You do not need to use every product; understand what it does, what it costs, what risks it carries and whether it fits your goal.

04 Financial resilience

Resilience may come from a combination of savings, manageable commitments, protection, stable income, workplace benefits and a clear understanding of your finances. Confidence is not about having everything — it is knowing what you have and what you want it to make possible.

Financial confidence is not about having everything. It is about knowing what you have, what it is doing and what you want it to make possible.

Understanding workplace benefits.

Auto-enrolment pensions

If you meet the eligibility criteria, your employer may automatically enrol you into a workplace pension scheme and contribute towards it. Your own contributions may come directly from your pay — check your payslip, pension paperwork and benefits information.

Death in service benefits

Some employers provide a death-in-service benefit, which may pay a lump sum if you die while employed, subject to the scheme rules. It can be valuable where family rely on your income — but it may not continue if you change employers.

Ask questions early

Ask what benefits you receive, when they begin, what happens if you change jobs, what is covered and excluded, whether you need to nominate a beneficiary, and whether there are forms to complete.

EMPLOYEE PROTECTION BENEFITS MAY INCLUDE

- Sick pay
- Income protection
- Life assurance
- Private medical insurance
- Health and wellbeing support
- Employee assistance programmes
- Share schemes
- Pension contributions above the minimum

Your workplace benefits are part of your overall financial picture. Understanding them can help you make stronger decisions about savings, pensions and protection.

Protecting yourself and your family.

Moving to the UK may mean building a new support network, away from family, relying on your income in a different way. Protection is not about expecting something bad to happen — it is about understanding what could help if illness, injury or death affected your ability to work or support the people around you.

Life insurance

May provide a lump sum or income benefit if you die during the policy term, subject to terms and conditions. Relevant where a partner, children or others would face financial pressure without your income.

Income protection

Designed to pay a regular income if illness or injury prevents you from working, subject to terms, waiting period, underwriting and exclusions. Worth exploring if you have regular commitments or limited savings.

A PROTECTION REVIEW CAN HELP YOU THINK ABOUT

- Who relies on your income
- Whether your employer offers relevant benefits
- What level of financial resilience you already have through savings
- What would happen to rent or mortgage payments if you could not work
- Whether existing policies from another country remain valid or suitable

Protection is not about buying every policy available. It is about understanding the risks that could have the greatest effect on your life and family.

Long-term planning in the UK.

Once you begin to feel settled, you may start thinking beyond the immediate needs of moving, working and managing everyday life — buying a home, building savings, supporting family, investing, growing a business or planning for retirement. Long-term planning is about giving future goals a place in your financial life today.

Investments

Investment planning may be appropriate for longer-term goals where you are comfortable that values can rise and fall. The right approach depends on your goals, timescale, existing savings, attitude to risk and flexibility. The value of investments can fall as well as rise, and you may get back less than you invest.

Pensions

Workplace and personal pensions may form an important part of future retirement planning. Even if retirement feels far away, understanding your pension early can help you make more informed decisions as your income grows.

Retirement planning

Not only about stopping work. It may be about having more freedom over your time, being able to support your family, choosing where you live or creating more security for later life.

Wealth accumulation

Not only about earning a higher income. It is about building habits around saving, managing borrowing, protecting what matters, investing appropriately where relevant, and connecting your financial decisions to your life goals.

The strongest financial plans are built gradually. They begin with the foundations, then grow as your life in the UK develops.

Common mistakes new UK residents can make.

01	Delaying financial planning	Housing, work, travel, family and documentation take up a lot of attention. But leaving everything financial until later can mean missed workplace benefits, unmanaged borrowing, no emergency fund or no clear plan for your goals.
02	Ignoring pensions	A workplace pension can feel like something to think about much later. But understanding what you and your employer are contributing can help you make more informed decisions from the beginning.
03	Poor credit management	A lack of UK credit history is different from poor credit history. But missed payments, unmanaged borrowing or applying for several forms of credit in a short period may make future borrowing more difficult.
04	Lack of protection	A new job or move may create more financial dependence on your income. With family responsibilities, rent or mortgage commitments, it helps to understand the protection available through your employer and whether there are gaps.
05	Assuming products work as before	Financial products, tax rules, pension systems, protection policies and mortgage processes may differ from the country you have moved from. Asking questions before making decisions can prevent avoidable mistakes.

You do not need to know everything immediately. You do need to avoid assuming that unfamiliar decisions will sort themselves out.

EVERYTHING CONNECTS

A joined-up financial approach.

A financial decision is rarely isolated. A mortgage can affect pension contributions. A higher salary may create opportunities to save or invest. A growing family may make protection more important. That is why Roxton Wealth takes a Joined-Up Advice Approach — considering how different areas of financial life connect.

Mortgage advice

A mortgage should fit your income, deposit, credit position, property plans and wider life goals.

Protection advice

Protection can help you consider how your household would cope if illness, injury or death affected your income.

Pension advice

Pensions can support your longer-term future, influenced by career moves, employer benefits, income changes and retirement goals.

Investment planning

Investments may support longer-term goals, considered alongside accessible savings, mortgage commitments, pensions and your attitude to risk.

> The bigger question is not simply "What product do I need?" It is:
>
> *What do I need my money to do for the life I am building in the UK?*

QUESTIONS PEOPLE ASK

Frequently asked questions.

Can I get a mortgage as a newcomer?	Possibly. Availability depends on your full circumstances, including income, deposit, affordability, credit history, employment, visa or residency position, property type and lender criteria. Some lenders may expect a period of UK residency; others may consider newer arrivals. A lack of long UK credit history does not automatically mean a mortgage is impossible.
Do I need a UK credit history?	A UK credit history can be helpful for some applications, but it is not the only factor lenders consider. If you are new to the UK, building a record of responsibly managed accounts and keeping your personal details accurate may help over time.
What pension options do I have?	You may have access to a workplace pension through your employer, depending on eligibility. You may also consider personal pension options, depending on your circumstances and goals. The right route depends on your income, existing pensions, tax position, residence status and retirement plans.
How does UK financial advice work?	Regulated advice should begin with understanding your circumstances, needs and objectives. Where a personal recommendation is appropriate, it should explain why an option is recommended, along with relevant costs, risks, limitations and alternatives. You should feel able to ask questions and take time to understand.
Do I need to be wealthy to speak to an adviser?	No. Financial and mortgage advice can be relevant at many stages — renting, buying a first home, starting a pension, protecting a family or building future goals. You do not need everything figured out before starting; you only need to know where you would like more clarity.

START A CONVERSATION

Welcome to the UK. Let's build your financial future.

Tell us what has brought you to the UK, what you are trying to achieve and where you would like more clarity. We help clients connect mortgage advice, protection, pensions, investment planning and wider financial goals where relevant — because financial advice should not make a new country feel more complicated. It should help you feel more confident within it.

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FINANCE THAT FITS YOU

Important information.

SCOPE & RISK WARNINGS

This guide is for general information and education only. It does not constitute personal mortgage, financial, investment, pension, protection, tax, immigration or legal advice.

Mortgage availability for people new to the UK depends on individual circumstances, lender criteria, income, deposit, affordability, credit profile, residency or visa position and other relevant factors. Any personal financial or mortgage recommendation will be based on your individual circumstances, needs and objectives following a full assessment where required.

Tax treatment depends on individual circumstances and may change in the future. Roxton Wealth does not provide tax, immigration or legal advice; appropriate specialist support should be sought where relevant. The value of investments and pensions, and the income they produce, can fall as well as rise. You may get back less than you invested. Your home may be repossessed if you do not keep up repayments on your mortgage. The Financial Conduct Authority does not regulate buy-to-let mortgages. Insurance policies are subject to terms, conditions, exclusions and underwriting.

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