

# Relocating to Bristol.

The majority of lawyers we recruit at Burges Salmon are from London or other regional centres. However, many lawyers relocate from as far afield as Australasia, and more recently, the Caribbean, South Africa and the Middle East. We therefore recognise the effort that needs to go into relocating and so this guide has been produced to assist lawyers in this process. This guide is not intended to be prescriptive, but we do hope it will assist personal research and will act as a useful resource. For lawyers relocating from within the UK, we provide website addresses for removal and storage companies, plus general advice. For lawyers relocating from overseas, we provide information on how to obtain a work permit and national insurance number, how to set up a bank account and the process for re-qualifying as a solicitor to practice in England and Wales. Following information on healthcare and schooling, we have included some other useful contacts.

"The recruitment process and relocation assistance was excellent and the open approach to discussing various employment issues amongst the team makes for a supportive working environment. The Employment Department has an impressive range of clients but despite the busy times, there is plenty of scope to enjoy life and the many attractions Bristol has to offer."

**Rich Stovell**  
Associate Employment Unit  
Relocated from Birmingham



## Relocation Grant & Assistance

To help with the costs of relocation, we offer each lawyer who relocates a tax-free relocation grant. This can be used to help with

- The costs of disposing of your existing home, whether you own or rent it;
- The costs of acquiring a new home;
- The costs of moving;
- Travel and subsistence, or in some instances;
- Interest payments on bridging loans

All lawyers relocating to Bristol will receive a Relocation Pack full of various useful resources and information on Bristol. In addition to this, we also employ the services of a relocation agent whose service, can be used at no cost to those relocating. This agent is able to give expert advice on buying, selling, and

renting in Bristol. They can aid you through the whole process; whether you just need to find initial temporary accommodation or whether you are ready to buy or rent long-term.

## Relocating from within the UK

### Removal & Storage

**www.themovechannel.com** – provides useful information for removal & storage companies nationwide, as well as offering general advice on moving house.

**www.moveme.com** – provides independent information on removal companies, phone companies, utilities providers and home essentials, as well as offering the use of a free Move Planner.

**www.helpiammoving.com** – provides access to independent advice on moving house and removals.

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"My quality of life in Bristol is far superior to that of my former London life. I can leave my house (rather than a flat) and run or walk to the office without the stresses of the tube; spend my day engaged in an interesting range of work and even have time to relax in the evening before going to bed!"

**Rebecca Brocklebank**  
Solicitor Employment Unit  
Relocated from London

## Relocating from overseas

### Work Permit

The firm has an established system in place to assist prospective lawyers in obtaining a work permit to enable them to work in the UK and will assist the individual with obtaining a permit, in addition to providing advice on moving.

### Removal & Storage

The following websites offer a great deal of general advice and information on international relocation companies:

[www.themovechannel.com](http://www.themovechannel.com)

[www.moving2uk.com](http://www.moving2uk.com)

[www.moving-home.com](http://www.moving-home.com)

## National Insurance Number

All individuals need a National Insurance (NI) number to be able to work in the UK. This is a unique reference number for the whole benefits and tax system. On joining the firm, it is in the individual's best interest to arrange a meeting with the local Benefits Agency (00 44 (0) 117 938 8100) as soon as possible in order to be issued with a permanent NI number.

## Finances

The majority of lawyers at Burges Salmon hold a bank account with one of the following high street banks which all have a branch within walking distance from the office. For further information, please access the following websites:

**Bank of Scotland**  
[www.bankofscotland.co.uk](http://www.bankofscotland.co.uk)

**Barclays**  
[www.barclays.co.uk](http://www.barclays.co.uk)

**HSBC**  
[www.hsbc.co.uk](http://www.hsbc.co.uk)

**Lloyds TSB**  
[www.lloydstsb.com](http://www.lloydstsb.com)

**Natwest**  
[www.natwest.com](http://www.natwest.com)

**Royal Bank of Scotland**  
[www.rbs.co.uk](http://www.rbs.co.uk)

Various forms of identification are required in order to set up a bank account in the UK, but applicants are generally asked to provide:

- Proof of a UK address, such as a rental or mortgage agreement;
- Proof of identity, such as a passport or some other form of identification which includes a photograph; and
- A reference from a previous bank or back copies of bank statements. An alternative here is to request a reference from the Personnel Department at Burges Salmon, confirming your employment.

It is possible to set up a bank account before arriving in the UK with high street banks such as HSBC and Barclays.

For more information please visit:  
[www.workgateways.com/working-uk-banking.html](http://www.workgateways.com/working-uk-banking.html)

## Qualified Lawyers Transfer Test (QLTT)

In the majority of cases, the firm requires each lawyer who joins the firm from another jurisdiction to undertake the Qualified Lawyers Transfer Test (QLTT). This enables the individual to qualify as a Solicitor to practise in England and Wales. Initially, a lawyer will have to obtain a Certificate of Eligibility from the Law Society and on submitting an application, is required to produce the following:

- Certificate showing higher education results;
- Evidence of academic qualifications, to include degree and legal education certificates;
- Evidence of professional qualifications;
- Certificate of admission/call to roll as a solicitor and/or barrister in own jurisdiction, confirming:
  - date of admission to the professional body and/or home court;
  - that he/she is of good character and repute;

- that neither has there been nor are there any proceedings pending against him/her for professional or other misconduct; and
- that he/she is currently entitled to practise in his/her home jurisdiction.

For lawyers joining us from **Australia, New Zealand and Canada** (excluding Quebec), most commonwealth lawyers are examined on Professional Conduct & Accounts.

From the **EU**, lawyers are examined on Property, Litigation (Civil and Criminal), Professional Conduct & Accounts and Principles of Common Law.

From **South Africa**, lawyers are examined on Litigation (Civil or Criminal), Professional Conduct & Accounts and Principles of Common Law.

## General/Useful information

### Healthcare

**www.nhs.uk** - provides a search facility that allows individuals to acquire contact details for their nearest dental practice, doctors surgery, optician, pharmacy, NHS Walk-in Centre and other similar

organisations. Once accommodation has been secured in Bristol, registration with your local doctors surgery is required prior to seeking medical advice. A National Insurance number is also needed in order to register.

**www.doh.gov.uk** - offers advice about using the National Health Service (NHS).

### Education Pre-School

**www.childcarelink.gov.uk** - supplies information on local playgroups, nursery schools, nannies, childminders and out of school clubs.

### Schooling

The following websites give useful information on schools:

**www.goodschoolsguide.co.uk** - lists a range of good schools, including independent and state schools which have received good reports by Ofsted.

**www.ofsted.gov.uk** - holds reports on all schools throughout the United Kingdom.

**www.parentscentre.gov.uk** - supplies information and support for parents on how to help with their child's learning, including advice on choosing a school and finding childcare.

**"I moved here for Burges Salmon, not Bristol. However, I love living here - Bristol has a unique character and a very lively social scene. To add to this, Bristol's location and great airport make all the hot spots within the UK and Europe remarkably accessible. All in all, it has been a very rewarding move both professionally and personally."**

**Karwan Eskerie  
Solicitor (New Zealand)  
Planning Unit  
Relocated from New Zealand**

Narrow Quay House  
Narrow Quay  
Bristol BS1 4AH  
tel: 0117 939 2000  
fax: 0117 902 4400

Chancery Exchange  
10 Furnival Street  
London  
EC4A 1AB  
tel: 020 7685 1200  
fax: 020 7685 1266

[www.burges-salmon.com](http://www.burges-salmon.com)

We have tried to make this briefing as accurate and informative as possible. However, Burges Salmon cannot accept responsibility for any error or omission in the information presented or for the service provided by any of the organisations referred to.

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## Useful contacts

### General

[www.visitbristol.co.uk](http://www.visitbristol.co.uk)  
[www.thisisbristol.co.uk](http://www.thisisbristol.co.uk)  
[www.whatsonbristol.co.uk](http://www.whatsonbristol.co.uk)  
[www.at-bristol.org.uk](http://www.at-bristol.org.uk)  
[www.streetmap.co.uk](http://www.streetmap.co.uk)  
[www.multimap.com](http://www.multimap.com)

### Permanent accommodation to rent/to buy

[www.bristolestategents.co.uk](http://www.bristolestategents.co.uk)  
[www.rightmove.co.uk](http://www.rightmove.co.uk)  
[www.propertyfinder.com](http://www.propertyfinder.com)

### Moving

[www.themovechannel.com](http://www.themovechannel.com)  
[www.helpiammoving.co.uk](http://www.helpiammoving.co.uk)

### Education

[www.childcarelink.gov.uk](http://www.childcarelink.gov.uk)  
[www.ofsted.gov.uk](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)  
[www.goodschoolsguide.co.uk](http://www.goodschoolsguide.co.uk)

### Health

[www.doh.gov.uk](http://www.doh.gov.uk)



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