SOFT LANDING
BELGIUM

Your first 30 days in Belgium.

The short guide. The right order of steps, and six costly mistakes to avoid.



By Annie Aziz
From first step to front door.

The right order

Three phases, one move.

1. Before you arrive

You board the plane with keys, papers and a plan.

- [ ] Confirm your permit and visa route, for you and your family
- [ ] Gather documents and start diploma recognition
- [ ] Find a home you can register at
- [ ] Arrange health cover until your Belgian mutualiteit starts
- [ ] Sort a bank and SIM for the transition
- [ ] List what you own abroad for cross-border tax

2. When you arrive

Your address is registered and daily life works.

- [ ] Register your official address at the commune
- [ ] Open a Belgian bank account and phone plan
- [ ] Set up itsme, your digital ID
- [ ] Join a mutualiteit
- [ ] Find a GP before you need one

3. Settling in

You don't just live here. You belong.

- [ ] Start Dutch you can use this week
- [ ] Help your partner settle: work, language, friends
- [ ] Get the kids settled at school
- [ ] Build friends, hobbies and a network
- [ ] Align your taxes across both countries

Six costly mistakes

Easy to avoid when you know them.

- **Arriving as a tourist and hoping to switch**
  The work permit process has to start while you are still abroad.

- **Signing a lease without reading it**
  Check where the deposit is held, who pays for repairs, and how you can leave early.

- **Assuming the permit covers everything**
  The permit is one step. Housing, registration, tax and settling in are still yours.

- **Leaving diplomas until after you land**
  Translation, apostille and recognition take weeks.

- **Forgetting what you own abroad**
  Pensions, property and savings can have tax consequences. Ask a licensed adviser.

- **Waiting for Dutch to feel ready**
  Small, practical Dutch beats perfect Dutch.



You can do this alone. You don't have to.

I'm Annie. I turn this list into a personal plan for your situation, and I connect you with the housing, legal and tax partners I trust. Like a local friend who knows every step.

Apply for your relocation plan

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