

Fact Sheet

Banking in the UK



General Information

Opening a bank account in the UK can be a very trying and difficult process. If upon arrival you went into a branch and tried to open an account, it is possible that you would be turned away or be asked to provide proof of address and/or bank statements, which you are unlikely to have. Assuming you do get an account it may not have all the functions of a full current account and you are unlikely to get a credit card straightaway. Finally local branches in the UK do not have ready access to offshore services.

NatWest

NatWest bank's Global Employee Banking scheme has been specifically designed with you in mind and avoids these problems. It also allows you to set up an account before you even arrive in the UK.

NatWest offer three distinct accounts from which to choose. To find out more about these accounts please go to <http://www.natwestinternational.com/geb/global-employee-banking/banking-with-natwest/g2/which-current-account.aspx> . Whichever account you decide to open the process remains the same:

1. Having clicked on the above link, click on the 'Apply' button found at the bottom of the page, beneath the account that you are interested in opening.
2. Make sure you have read the product information, rates & charges and the terms and conditions found under the section entitled 'Important information – read this before you apply'.
3. Click on 'Download an application form'
4. Print out the application / verification of identity form
5. Complete the application form as instructed.
6. Complete the 'Verification of Identity Form' as instructed
7. Scan (or fax if no scanner is available) the completed application and verification of identity form, together with the certified photocopies of the identity document(s), and send them to NatWest (employee@natwestglobal.com / fax: +44 1245 490627) with your e-mail address.
8. Await confirmation from NatWest that you have all the right documents and that they have been completed correctly.
9. Upon receiving that confirmation, send the original documents to:

NatWest Global Employee Banking,
Eastwood House,
Glebe Road,
Chelmsford,
Essex,
CM1 1RS,
UK
Depot code 028

Meanwhile, I will arrange for your employer to send the requisite introductory letter to NatWest.

Time line

Within 1 week of receiving both the introductory letter and your documentation, your bank account details will be sent by e-mail to both you and your Human Resource representative.

Within 2 weeks of receiving the account details, the cheque book, debit card, and a welcome letter will be sent to your Human Resource representative. In order to use the debit card, you must activate it as per the instructions which accompany the card.

If you have ordered a credit card, the PIN number, followed by the credit card, will be sent to your Human Resource representative within 3 weeks of the account being opened. You will be able to use your credit card immediately.

You will need to collect these from your Human Resource representative as soon after your arrival in the UK as possible.

Please note that whilst NatWest is not the only bank that offers this type of service, from many years of experience we have found that they operate the most efficient service in the market. Once you are settled in the UK, have a permanent address and some credit history, you will be in a better position to then open other accounts with different providers if you so wish.