



Questions?
Email: info@ligamentnz.com

United Kingdom in General - Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is living in the UK like?

The United Kingdom (UK) is a welcoming and friendly place to live. Living in the UK can seem daunting at first. Rather than trying to avoid culture shock, you should try to embrace it.

One of the best ways to immerse yourself in the culture of the United Kingdom is to visit museums. A lot of museums around the UK are free to visit and they are an excellent way to learn the history of where you are living.

Food is a huge part of culture wherever you may work and the same can be said for the UK. Trying local food and drink is an authentic and fun way of immersing yourself in UK culture, whether this be fish and chips or a classic scone with a cup of tea & don't forget the mushy peas!

Going for a walk around the area, as simple as it sounds, is a great way to learn more about the locals and lifestyle. Just by taking a walk you can learn about British architecture, and will come across famous landmarks and attractions.

Attending events is another great way of learning more about culture in the UK. These can include festivals, sporting events and live shows. Sporting events like football and rugby are a large part of culture in the United Kingdom.

Outside the cities there is beautiful countryside and many castles, historic houses, parks and gardens.

The UK is small country with lots to see, and it is easy to use public transport to explore. Trains are the fastest way to travel, especially for long journeys.

2. What is U.K climate like?

The weather in the UK, although unpredictable, is rarely extreme. The UK does experience distinguishable seasons but has also been said that you can experience all four seasons in just one day.

3. What are the seasons in the U.K?

- **Summer** – June to August
Typical 15°C - 30°C
- **Autumn** – September to November
Typical 10°C - 20°C
- **Winter** – December to February
Typical - 0°C - 7°C
- **Spring** – March to May
Typical 6°C - 18°C

4. What is the rental situation like in the UK?

This really depends on where you are placed and what type of accommodation you want to live in. Accommodation ranges from Hospital accommodation which can be affordable, to renting a room in a house with others. If you are wanting your own apartment or flat be prepared to pay a larger cost. Hospital accommodation can range from £50 per week to a flat which can be around to £250 per week. Most accommodation is furnished.

5. What if something was to happen to a member in my family back in my home country during my time in the UK. Are you entitled to compassionate leave?

We understand that things don't always go to plan and family and friends back home can become unwell. We are pretty understanding about this kind of scenario. We don't have paid compassionate leave as such; however, most workers are entitled to 5.6 weeks' paid holiday a year, which you have the option of taking, or we have historically allowed unpaid leave also.

6. How do you decide where I will be placed?

This is an extremely important process for us. Getting this part right is paramount. We do a variety of assessments with you that include gathering information about your values, personality, temperament, what situations you thrive in etc. This gives us an idea of what your needs are and where you would best be placed. Our Placement Facilitator will be in touch with you after your contract has been signed, where you will complete a placement profile which details the locations you are considering, the disciplines you are wanting to work within, your preferences for team make-ups etc. We then create a profile of you with

these assessments and your preferences. We do the same with our Clinics. We can then match what you are looking for with what Clinics are looking for.

7. What if I need surgery or treatment whilst in the UK?

You are able to get Private Health Insurance if you would prefer this option. Clarity Health Insurance is a well-known insurance company in the UK. The health care system is great compared to other countries. If you need surgery, or hospital treatment, this is covered by the national health care system without having to have your own Private Health Insurance. The hospitals are clean and world class with good service and treatment. A reason you would need Private Health Insurance is if you wanted to have elective surgery, or possibly fast track some non-urgent treatment. If you have health insurance in your home country, it may continue to provide cover in the UK. Please check with your insurance provider for more details.

8. How much annual leave is a full-time staff member entitled to?

5.6 weeks annual leave is accrued over a 52-week period. Ligament allows you to use this as it is accrued, i.e. you don't need to wait for your first 12 months to have access to your annual leave. This leave is inclusive of the bank(public) holidays.

9. Is there an induction plan for new starters? If so, what does this involve?

Yes, depending on how much experience you and how well you pick up the new systems, depends on how much input you will need. Our standard Induction period includes First Aid courses, manual handling training and health system overviews.

10. How much tax do I have to pay?

Below is the U.Ks Current tax rates.

Band	Taxable income	Tax rate
Personal Allowance	Up to £12,570	0%
Basic rate	£12,571 to £50,270	20%
Higher rate	£50,271 to £125,140	40%
Additional rate	over £125,140	45%

Here is a link that you can put your annual salary into and it will tell you what your after tax income will be.

<https://www.gov.uk/estimate-income-tax>

11. How much does it cost to live in the UK?

Here is a great website that gives a range of comparisons for you to compare costs from where you live to living in UK.

https://www.numbeo.com/cost-of-living/country_result.jsp?country=United+Kingdom&displayCurrency=NZD

For any further questions please email our friendly and helpful team at
info@ligamentnz.com