

DRAPALSKI CONSULTING / U.S. EXPAT TAX SERVICES

Still filing U.S. taxes from abroad?

A practical guide for Americans living, working, and building a life overseas.

U.S. tax filing does not necessarily end when you move abroad. Foreign salaries, investments, pensions, bank accounts and changes in residency can create U.S. reporting obligations—even when you pay tax where you live.

Professional support, without the software guesswork

Work directly with Ross A. Drapalski, a North Carolina-licensed U.S. CPA based in Germany. We help you organize your facts, identify applicable U.S. filing requirements, prepare agreed returns and explain important cross-border decisions in plain English.

Who this guide is for

- U.S. citizens and green-card holders living outside the United States
- Americans with foreign employment, freelance or investment income
- Couples managing U.S. and non-U.S. finances together
- People who missed filing years or are uncertain about FBAR requirements

ONE PROFESSIONAL CONTACT • REMOTE-FIRST • CLEAR ENGAGEMENT SCOPE

Share this guide with your spouse or partner before your first inquiry. It explains what to gather and which questions to discuss together.

01 / UNDERSTAND YOUR FILING PICTURE

What may need attention?

Your U.S. income tax return

Depending on your facts, your filing may involve Form 1040, foreign wages, self-employment income, investments, foreign tax credits (Form 1116), or the foreign earned income exclusion (Form 2555). These provisions have different eligibility rules and are not interchangeable.

Foreign accounts and assets

Foreign bank and brokerage accounts may trigger an FBAR (FinCEN Form 114), Form 8938, or other reporting. Account ownership, signature authority and maximum balances can matter, even where no U.S. income tax is due.

Special situations

Foreign pensions, investment funds, ownership interests in foreign entities, moves between countries, and overdue returns can require additional analysis or specialist coordination. These are assessed individually and may be outside a standard return engagement.

Before contacting us: a couple's checklist

- Countries of residence and any moves during the tax year
- U.S. citizenship / green-card status and filing history for each spouse
- Marital status, dependents and relevant changes in the family
- Employment, self-employment, rental and investment income
- Countries where taxes were paid or withheld
- Foreign bank, brokerage and pension accounts (including joint accounts)
- U.S. tax notices, outstanding filings or upcoming deadlines

Do not send Social Security numbers, bank statements, account numbers or tax documents by ordinary email. We will provide a suitable document collection method after confirming scope.

02 / WORKING TOGETHER

A clear path from inquiry to filing

01 Tell us the basics

Share your country of residence, tax years, broad income categories and main questions.

02 Confirm scope and fee

We review the facts, flag specialist items and explain the proposed deliverables and pricing before work begins.

03 Provide documents securely

Receive a tailored checklist and instructions for sharing the necessary records.

04 Review and file

We prepare the agreed U.S. filings, resolve open questions and review the material positions with you before submission.

Questions to discuss with your spouse

- Have both of us filed all required U.S. returns and foreign-account (FBAR) reports?
- Do we have complete information about jointly held bank accounts, wallet (e.g. paypal) accounts and investment activity?
- Have our jobs, pensions, investments or residence changed since last year?
- Who will collect records and coordinate the filing?

Ready to get organized?

Email **new-clients@drapal.ski** with the subject **“U.S. Expat Tax Inquiry”** Include your country of residence, relevant tax years, general income types, filing status and any deadline. **Do not attach sensitive tax records to the first email.**

PERSONAL U.S. TAX PREPARATION FOR INTERNATIONAL LIVES

Important: This guide provides general information, not individualized tax or legal advice. Engagements, deliverables, fees and filing eligibility are determined case by case. Non-U.S. tax advice and specialist reporting may require separate advisers.