SKYBOUND

WEALTH MANAGEMENT USA

British Standards
American Service

Holistic Financial Planning Advice - Imported From The UK

Wealth Management for unique people living unique lives.

At Skybound Wealth Management USA we know how dangerous generic advice is, especially when it's your future at stake. We also understand how frustrating it is to be passed from pillar to post and to feel like a number rather than an actual human being when it comes to your finances.

Everyone has different goals and aspirations. Everyone has different personal circumstances and requires a service tailored to their individual needs.

To us financial planning is more than paycheques, bank balances and reports. We don't use call centres or sell products. We provide holistic financial planning advice and support on an individual level. And you can rest assured that regardless of your location, we are on hand to talk through your options and help you understand your needs, objectives, and priorities.

Regular Reviews

Just as you would book your car in for a regular service to ensure the engine continues to work at its maximum performance level rather than waiting for it to breakdown, your existing investments may well be functional, but could it be doing more for you both now and in the future?

“

A second opinion is important.

Who you get it from is more important.

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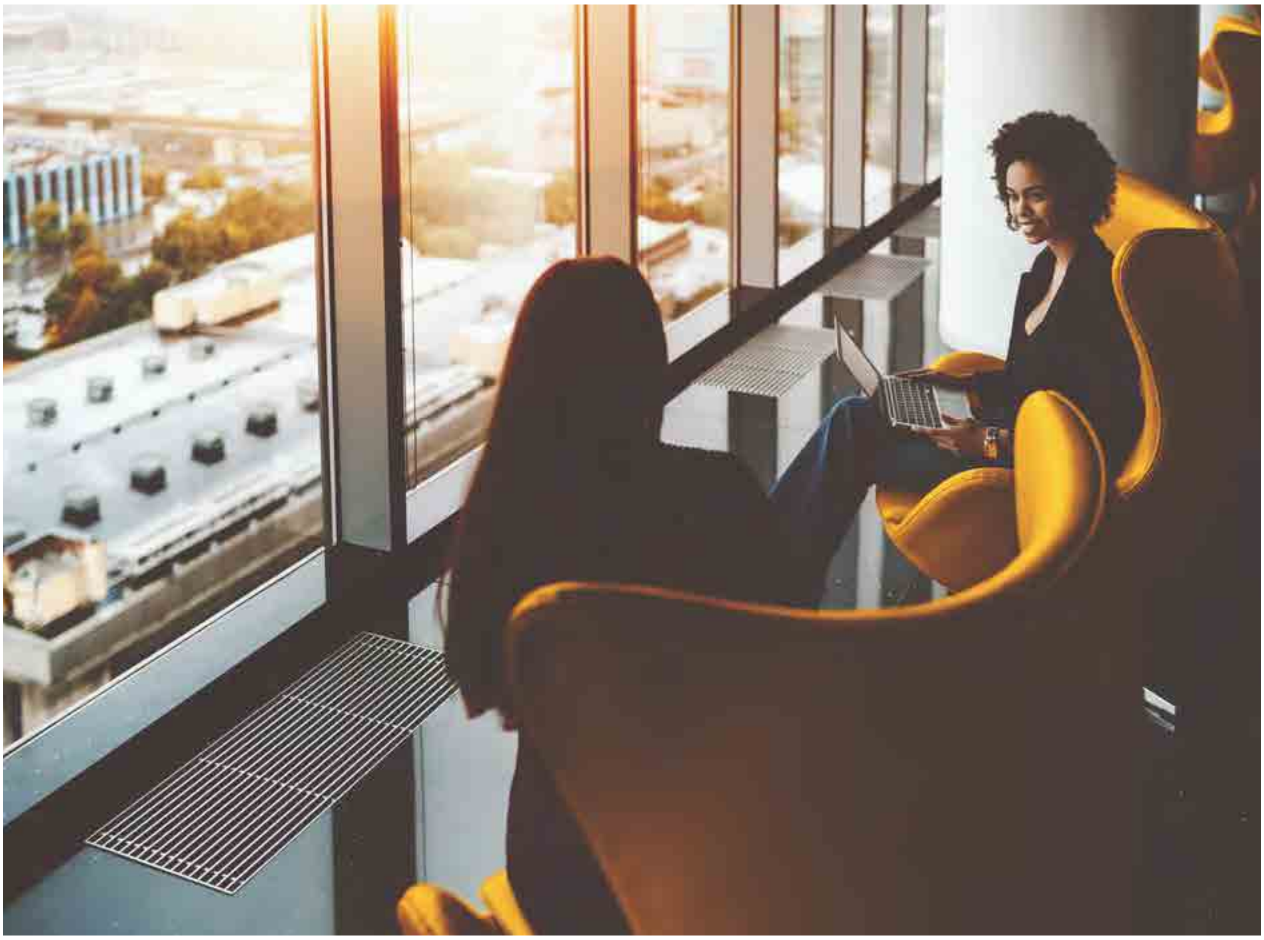
More than a transactional arrangement between client and advisor, Skybound’s personalised approach to each individual enables us to build relationships that last a lifetime. While the end destination may be your choosing, we are your partner throughout the journey. Contact us today to learn how we can help make your aspirations a reality.

Our relationship begins with a conversation that helps us to outline your goals and ambitions.

From here, our whole team are on hand to help illustrate what your current plans look like, and to ensure you have the knowledge required to make the right decisions to realize your financial goals. No stone will be left unturned, and all options will be considered. Here's some of the ways we can bring value to your life:

Understanding your 401(k)

401(k)'s are a vital part of any successful retirement plan. Put simply; a 401(k) is a qualified retirement plan, sponsored by an employer that allows you to put aside a percentage of your monthly income on a tax deferred basis. Making a decision on what to do with your 401K can be daunting, which is why our team of Advisors are on hand to guide you through your options.



What Are My 401(k) Options?

Leave It Alone

Due to a lack of understanding, the default choice for many is to leave their 401(k) where it is. Each 401(k) plan is run by the company who sponsors it, as such they decide things such as which investment options are available.

Roll It Over

If your new employer offers a 401(k) and you are eligible to participate, it's simple to roll over your old 401(k).

Roll Over To An IRA

By moving your 401(k) to an Individual Retirement Account (IRA for short) you can access wider investment choice often at a lower cost. An IRA also facilitates greater flexibility for withdrawals meaning you can choose as and when to drawdown throughout your retirement.

Draw An Income

If you are over 59½, you can start taking qualified distributions from any 401(k). If you have a traditional 401(k), any income you take will be included in your annual tax allowance.

Can You Lose Your 401(k)?

Like any investment vehicle, the value of your 401(k) can go up and down. When the Global Credit Crisis took hold in 2008, many 401(k) plans that were heavily linked to the stock market suffered huge losses. As with any investment plan, the key to minimising the effect of market swings is to ensure your money is spread across a number of asset classes rather than placing all your eggs in one basket.

Often with a 401(k) your investment choices and drawdown options are somewhat limited compared to that of an IRA. Skybound's team of US registered/ UK experienced Advisors can help you assess the pros and cons of each inline with your attitude to risk and long-term investment goals.

International Investments

As an international expatriate it's highly likely you will hold numerous investments in your home country and/or other jurisdictions around the world if the US isn't the first port of call on your journey.

While you might not think you fit the bill of an international investor, a general investment account in Switzerland and a private pension in the UK says otherwise. And it's important that you ensure not only are these accounts performing at an optimum level, but that are also US compliant.

Drawing on the support of the wider Skybound group, our team are well versed in all areas of international financial planning and as such are able to help you locate any long-lost accounts and ensure all your investments are aligned and working for you in the correct way.

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Have You Got A Dormant Pension?

Dedicated International Pensions Division

Dormant Pensions are something that many international expatriates will encounter during their career.

With most pension schemes, there will be an agreement that when you leave a company your pension becomes 'deferred or frozen'. This usually means any money invested will continue to increase at predetermined levels, this is usually a very conservative percentage of your fund.

It's worth remembering that even if you remain within the same group of companies, moving to a different location will result in a new contract and your existing pension becoming dormant.

Often by consolidating these dormant pensions into a more suitable investment vehicle, you can potentially improve their performance through wider choice and investment control. There are advantages as well as disadvantages to consolidating or transferring a pension scheme, including additional costs.

Whether you are a business owner, company director, senior executive, or international professional, Skybound's dedicated international Pensions Division is here to help you get your finances in order. From tracking down your pension and speaking to your Administrators on your behalf, our specialist team can conduct your UK pension review and help you negotiate the minefield of small print and help you to understand just exactly how your pension is performing.

Life Insurance

You are probably familiar with the term 'Life Insurance', however Death Insurance perhaps describes this product better. After contributing to a plan throughout your life, the provider pays a designated beneficiary a sum of money when you die; essentially insuring you against your death.

These plans take the form of a legal contract and often have pre-determined limitations and exclusions such as; an act of war, suicide or civil unrest, to protect the provider. An alternative to traditional Life Insurance that is rising in popularity is Indexed Universal Life Insurance cover.

Providing you with flexibility to meet your changing insurance needs by adjusting the amount of insurance coverage and premiums paid. Universal Life Insurance policies also offer the potential to build cash in your policy on a tax deferred basis which can be accessed through your life should unexpected emergencies arise or to supplement income through your retirement.

Flexible Options

As your needs change over time, your policy's benefit can be adjusted to meet those needs. Indexed Universal Life provides the ability to increase your death benefit within your policy, thereby eliminating the need for multiple policies. Additionally, as your needs shift towards accumulating assets for retirement, you may decrease your death benefit protection and direct your premiums more toward cash value build-up.

Indexed Universal Life offers two death benefit options, Level Death Benefit, where the death benefit remains level throughout the contract, and Increasing Death Benefit, an option that allows the death benefit to increase as the accumulated cash value increases. Should your needs change after you've selected a death benefit option, you may switch options.

We know that making a decision on which type of cover to setup can be daunting. Life insurance is one of those conversations, that over the years, has been dodged and ignored by millions. However, as insurance protects your earning ability, it should be a vital part of the bigger discussion surrounding your wealth planning.

You And Your Family

Looking after the next Generation

Working hard to accumulate wealth is only half of the story. Professional planning is required to enable you and your family to benefit both now and in the future.

College Fees

Every parent quite rightly wants their children to have the very best start in life, and it goes without saying that the earlier you prepare, the greater chance you have of ensuring your children realise their true potential. By taking action now, you can relax knowing that you have made the necessary provisions for your children's future. Investing in your children's future is an investment in their long-term wellbeing.

529 Plans: Under The Spotlight.

With the cost of education consistently increasing, a number of states in the 1980's introduced what became the modern day 529 Plan; a tax-advantaged savings plan designed to help towards the cost of education that is now available in 49 states.

- 529 plans allow investors to grow their savings on a tax-deferred basis and offers tax-free withdrawals if they're used for education expenses.

- For K-12 students, tax-free withdrawals are limited to $10,000 per year

- The two main types of 529 plans are savings plans and prepaid tuition plans.

- There is no limit to the amount you can contribute to a 529 account each year, however in some states, there is a limit on how much you can contribute in total.

At Skybound we provide you with the tools to help you navigate this and other key moments in your family's future, giving them and you a tomorrow to be proud of.

Estate Taxes

Whilst the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act in 2017 saw the exemptions relating to estate, gift, and generation skipping tax exemptions increase significantly, it's worth noting such changes were only temporary.

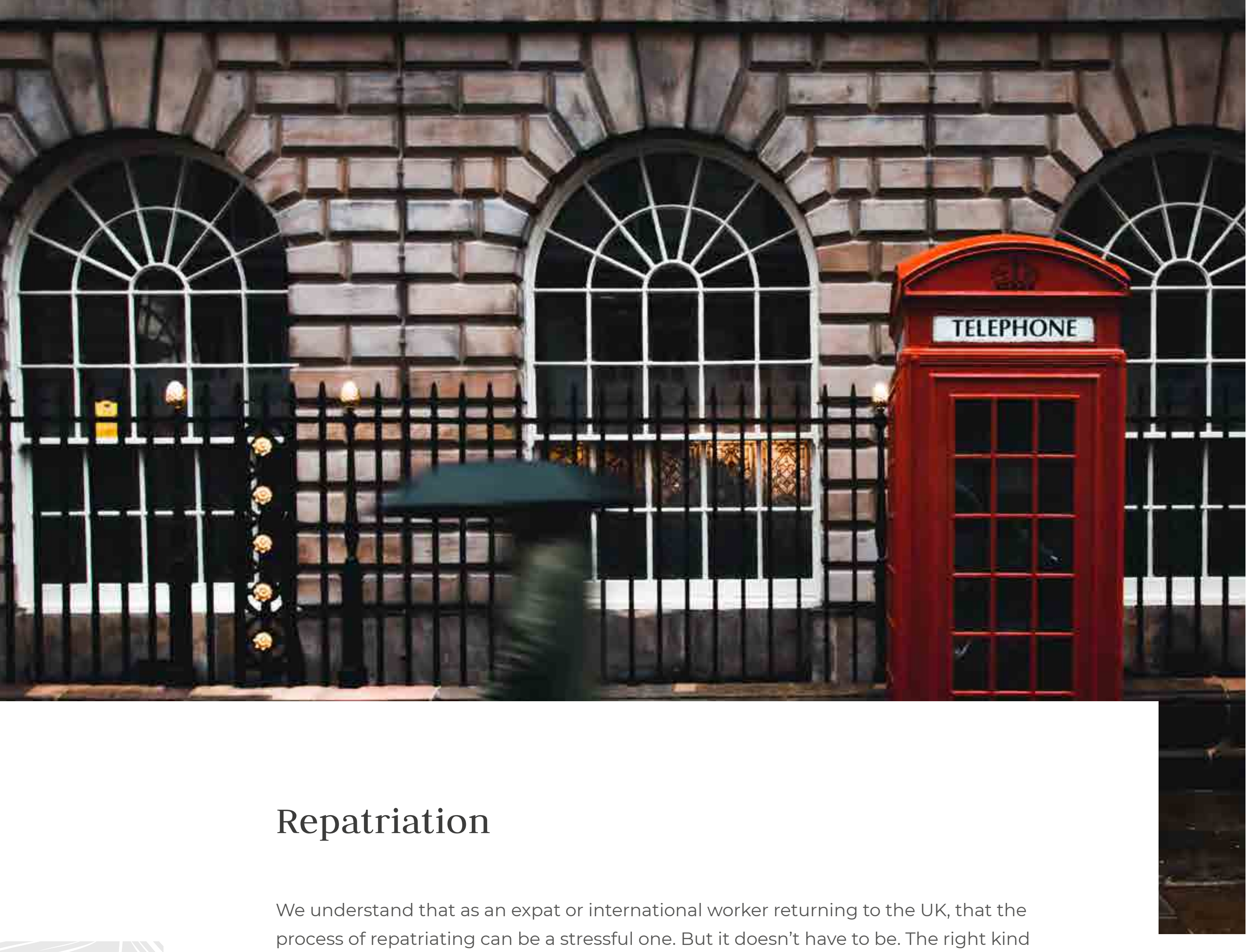
As such, it's imperative you take steps to prepare for what we know is scheduled to happen whilst also endeavouring to mitigate against know unknowns.

The exemption, which currently stands at $11,700,000 (per person), and is expected to rise annually in line with the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics' Consumer Price Index. However, pre-existing tax laws mean this exemption will be cut in January 2026, returning to the original $5.49 million (Adjusted in line with inflation).

On top of that, the current administration recently announced proposals to bring the estate tax threshold down as low as $3.5m.

State Taxes

In addition to the federal taxes outlined above, eighteen states have their own levies on inheritance, estates or in the case of Maryland, both!



Repatriation

We understand that as an expat or international worker returning to the UK, that the process of repatriating can be a stressful one. But it doesn't have to be. The right kind of advice can make all the difference and allow you to spend this time feeling excited to come home, rather than overwhelmed by all the processes and paperwork.

Many internationally based advisers are geared up to provide offshore and localised solutions in the jurisdiction they are based, meaning that if you choose to return home, or relocate to the UK in the future, it's vital you ensure your investment portfolio is aligned accordingly.

Local Knowledge,
Global Reach

Like feathers in the wind, the life of an international worker can take them to the most random and wonderful places as they excel in their careers. At Skybound we understand the importance of ensuring you retain regular access to either your investments or your financial planner regardless of where your journey takes you.

Our regional offices dovetail together creating one worldwide team, combining global coverage with local knowledge to ensure all our clients are able to realise the potential their international status brings, regardless of where their journey might take them. Interactive web meetings, online conferencing and the Skybound investor portal place your financial planner, and access to your investment portfolio, literally in the palm of your hand.

Our Offices

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