



**The Sprintax Guide to
EVERYTHING A
NONRESIDENT
SHOULD KNOW
ABOUT FILING
US TAXES**

*Don't Miss the
Filing Deadline!*



US taxes can be tricky, even for residents!

So it's no surprise that countless nonresidents in the US are daunted by the prospect of filing tax documents each year.

With that in mind, we have created this guide to outline everything a nonresident needs to know before the 15 April tax deadline.



DOES EVERY NONRESIDENT IN THE US HAVE TO FILE TAX DOCUMENTS?

Yes! Every nonresident in the US is required to file tax documents to account for their time in the US.

In short, if you earned an income, you should file a **Form 1040-NR** federal tax return. You may also be required to file a state tax return, depending on the state in which you lived and worked. Meanwhile, if you did not earn an income, you should file a Form 8843 instead.

WHEN IS THE DEADLINE TO FILE MY TAX DOCUMENTS?

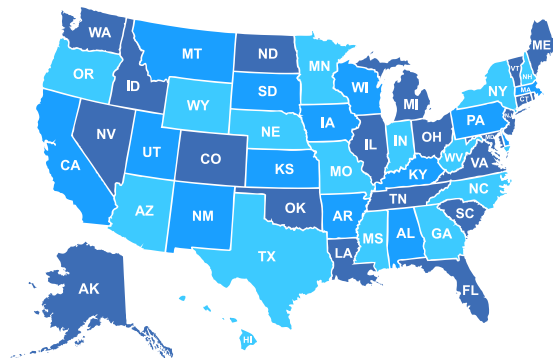
The deadline to file is typically **17 May** each year. It's important to file your documents on time. If you miss the deadline, you may incur fines or penalties from the IRS. You may also jeopardise your future US visa applications.

DO I HAVE TO FILE A STATE TAX RETURN?

You may be required to file a state tax return, depending on the state in which you lived and worked and your personal circumstances.

For example, you may be required to file a state tax return for a state in which you worked but did not reside.

Sprintax will help you to determine whether or not you have a state filing requirement. You can also prepare your state tax return by completing the Sprintax questionnaire.





WHAT IS A TAX RESIDENCY STATUS?

Your residency status – whether you are a resident alien or nonresident alien – affects how you will be taxed in the US.

Usually a resident alien must report all types of income and the amounts earned inside and outside the US (the same as a US citizen). Meanwhile, nonresident aliens are legally required to file a tax return to account for each year they earned income in the US.

You are considered a nonresident for tax purposes if you do not have a green card and you can't pass the substantial presence test (and you are not a US citizen or national).

You can easily determine your US tax residency status with [Sprintax](#).

WHAT IS THE SUBSTANTIAL PRESENCE TEST?

The **substantial presence test** identifies foreign individuals who spend substantial periods of time in the US as resident aliens.

For this test you have to be physically present in the US on at least:

- **31 days during the current year, and**
- **183 days during the 3 year period that includes the current year and the 2 years immediately before that, including:**
 - **All the days you were present in the current year, and**
 - **1/3 of the days you were present in the first year before the current year, and**
 - **1/6 of the days you were present in the second year before the current year**

WHAT HAPPENS IF I FILE AS A RESIDENT BY MISTAKE?

The most common mistake nonresidents make is filing their taxes as a resident. If you file as a resident when you should have filed as a nonresident, you will not be considered compliant with the IRS. As a result, you may incur fines and penalties from the IRS. You may also jeopardise your future visa or green card applications.



CAN I CLAIM A TAX REFUND?

Every year thousands of nonresidents pay too much tax and are entitled to a refund at the end of the year. To claim your refund, you must first file a tax return. Refund amounts can be substantial – the average amount a Sprintax customer receives is more than \$1,000.

CAN I CLAIM A TAX TREATY TAX EXEMPTION?

If your country of residence is one of the many that has signed a tax treaty with the US, you may be either partially or completely exempt from tax!

However, this does not mean you are exempt from filing a tax return.

If you're not sure if your country of residence has a tax treaty with the US or not, don't worry – Sprintax will ensure that every tax relief you're due will be applied to your tax return.



HOW DO I PREPARE MY TAX DOCUMENTS?

Easy!

To prepare your tax documents today, simply **login to your Sprintax account** and complete the easy online questionnaire.

Once you reach the end of the process, Sprintax will automatically generate your completed tax documents.

To file your documents, you must simply download, print and sign your forms and mail them to the IRS.

*And remember, if you have any questions about your US tax filing requirement, our **Live Chat** team are here to help you 24/7.*