SITUATION OVERVIEW

This section orients you to how the rules generally apply to a situation like yours. It is background to understand and discuss with a qualified professional, not a conclusion about your own position.

United States citizens are generally taxed on worldwide income regardless of where they live, so for a situation like this the home-country filing question usually does not disappear simply by moving abroad. France generally taxes individuals who are tax resident there on worldwide income, and residency turns on factors such as where the home and family are, where the center of economic interests sits, and time spent in the country. When two countries can each claim taxing rights, a double taxation treaty and mechanisms like foreign tax credits generally decide which country taxes what and which one gives relief. Freelance income from multiple countries, a self-owned business, and passive income each follow different sourcing rules, so they are typically analyzed separately rather than as one pot. Foreign financial accounts above certain thresholds generally trigger information reporting in the United States that is separate from any tax that may be due. The fact that residency is still in progress and the immigration status is a short-stay visa rather than a work or business authorization adds a layer that usually interacts with both tax residency and the right to perform the work locally. The interaction between these pieces, not any single one, is what typically determines the outcome for someone in this position. A qualified cross-border professional generally untangles them in a specific order.

What this generally means

- United States citizenship generally carries worldwide filing duties no matter where someone lives, so being abroad does not by itself remove the home-country question.
- French tax residency generally turns on home, family, and economic center rather than a single day count, and it is decided on facts.
- Foreign accounts over certain thresholds generally trigger United States information reporting that is separate from whether any tax is owed.
- Treaties and foreign tax credits generally exist to prevent the same income being taxed twice, but they apply income type by income type.