

SPANISH NATIONALITY APPLICATION FOR BRITS

Obtaining Spanish nationality seems like an overwhelming process but it's not so bad. It does cost money and takes time. The process is entirely doable without paying out a fortune on professionals, but you need to have patience. It's going to cost you around 800 euros, give or take.

There are lots of pages online to help you, but I'm writing from personal experience, and I wish I'd had this when I started the process, so for those of you who want to obtain Spanish nationality and have resided for 10 years in Spain, or 1 year if you are married to a Spanish national, and have a NIE, here's how...

I submitted my forms in May 2020 and received the resolution in November 2021. Bear in mind that this was all during the pandemic. There is a huge backlog.

You don't have to do things in this order, but this is the way I did it.

Before we start, **Spain does not recognise dual nationality with Great Britain**, so you will sign a paper renouncing your British status.

This guide is based on presenting the application online, for which you will need a **Certificado Digital**.

[Private individual - Sede \(fnmt.gob.es\)](https://www.fnmt.gob.es)

For documents you need to upload, if you don't have a scanner, you can take photos of original documents and upload them in .jpg

Keep copies, paper and digital of everything, and keep your originals safe as you will need them once the application has been approved.

STARTING YOUR APPLICATION

Your first port of call is the Ministerio de Justicia to see all the requirements.

Nacionalidad española por residencia - Trámites y gestiones personales (mjjusticia.gob.es)

If you want to then apply online:

<https://sede.mjusticia.gob.es/es/tramites/nacionalidad-espanola>

Scroll down to “Solicitud de nacionalidad española por residencia”

REQUIREMENTS

CCSE Exam

This is an exam of 25 questions about Spain. You can download a practice exam with all of the possible questions and answers.

[Qué es la prueba CCSE | Exámenes - Instituto Cervantes](#)

Language Exam.

The minimum language level is A2. Even if you have a higher level, it's easy and cheaper than the higher levels. You can also download a practice exam so you know what's coming.

Qué son los DELE | Exámenes - Instituto Cervantes

These will cost around 200 euros in total.

I suggest you book these exams in advance of presenting your documents, as it takes time to get the results, and if you get other documents, their validity can run out before you get your results as some are only valid for 3 months.

You can apply for the exams on the above links.

UK CERTIFICATES

Birth Certificate + Apostille + Sworn Translation (Traducción jurada)

Even if you have your original birth certificate, you need a new copy with a date within three months of your application.

The Apostille is basically a stamp that says your documents are valid and legalised. It's sometimes called the Hague Apostille. You can legalise your documents via [Get your document legalised - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

Below is a link for translators

Traductores/as - Intérpretes Jurados/as (exteriores.gob.es)

ACRO Police Certificate

[ACRO Criminal Records Office - home](#) + Apostille + Traduccion jurada (Sworn Translation)

Valid for 6 months

They send the documents to you, and then you need to send them back to get the apostille in legalisation department. This is a document they attach to the document you have asked for that basically verifies and legalises it.

[Get your document legalised - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

This will cost you 150 euros more or less for the police, including apostille and translation. and similar for the birth certificate.

[Traductores/as - Intérpretes Jurados/as \(exterieores.gob.es\)](#)

MARRIAGE

If you are married to a Spanish national, you will also need to include their birth certificate and marriage certificate.

I couldn't ask for marriage certificate, as I needed 2 surnames to fill in the form, so my husband had to do it.

You can do it using a certificado digital and it's free and available to download immediately.

[Trámites y gestiones personales \(mjusticia.gob.es\)](#)

EMPADRONAMIENTO

Go to your town hall and ask for "volante" or "certificado". They are not the same, so check what you're being asked for. The "volante" is given to you in the moment, and the "certificado" may take a couple of days. Valid for 3 months

When you fill in the application form online, you can check a box to give permission for Ministry to access the documents. The same goes for the exams and Spanish police certificate.

NIE

You need to upload a clear photo of both sides of your residence document.

PASSPORT

You have to send ONE document WITH ALL PAGES of your British Passport. I made the mistake of sending just the pages with information, but you need to scan the whole thing.

CONSULT YOUR STATUS

Once you have submitted everything, you can consult your status on the link below, but I wouldn't look too often, it takes time, and can be frustrating. If there is any problem with the documents you have presented, they will send you an email (if you have checked permission to be contacted by email on your form).

[Consulta telemática de expedientes de nacionalidad española por residencia - Trámites - Sede Electrónica \(mjusticia.gob.es\)](https://www.mjusticia.gob.es/ConsultaTelematica/ExpedientesNacionalidadResidencia/TramitesSedeElectronica)

RECEIVING THE RESOLUCIÓN

You will receive confirmation via email. You may need to register with [Mi Carpeta Ciudadana](https://mi.carpeta-ciudadana.es/) in order to access it. With your Resolución, you go to the Registro Civil (Registrar) to get an appointment to do the Jura, (swearing in).

You need to complete your Jura and registration within 6 months. In my case the Jura appointment took 2 months and then the registration was about a month after that.

You need to take **Certificado** Empadronamiento, not "volante", Resolución, Police Certificate from UK with apostille and translation, NIE, and birth certificate with apostille and translation, so keep your originals safe!

They will give you a date to register with the registrar.

When you register, they will give you a birth certificate that you will need in order to get your DNI and passport. They may send it to you by post, or you may need to return to pick it up. Some places will give it to you at the same appointment. It will have a note to specify that the certificate is for the purposes of obtaining your DNI.

NEXT STEPS

DNI (ID) Police.

Get an appointment. If you don't want to do it online, you can call 060. You need to take a passport photo, NIE, Spanish Birth certificate and volante de empadronamiento. Make sure you have a copy of your NIE, as the police keep your original document, and you may need a copy when changing your documents.

They should give you your passport at the same time, but you may need to ask for another appointment. I tried to get an appointment online but it ended up being easier by phone on 060.

At the appointment, ask for a "certificado de concordancia". This accredits the fact that you are the same person as on your previous NIE. You may need to use this to prove your identity when asked to produce documents.

Cita Previa para Renovación del Documento Nacional de Identidad y Pasaporte.

It costs 12 euros, plus 30 euros for your Passsport. You will get a DNI electrónico, which works as a certificado digital. You won't be able to use it until you have changed details in Hacienda. You just need a reader (around 15-20 euros) and install following instructions.

Portal del DNI Electronico, Cuerpo Nacional de Policía

CHANGING YOUR DOCUMENTS

Always have to hand physical and digital copy of NIE and DNI, certificado de concordancia, certificado de empadronamiento. You may or may not be asked for them.

Your first port of call is **HACIENDA**. You can do this online if you have a certificado digital with your NIE. You put your old details at the top of the form and your new ones in section 2. It can be a little confusing to know which parts you have to fill in and which you can leave blank, but there is a service on the page for them to call you and talk you through it as you do it. At this point, your old certificado will be void, so you can't use it for other actions.

[**Agencia Tributaria: Modelo 030. Censo de obligados tributarios-Declaración censal de alta, cambio de domicilio y/o de...**](#)

AYUNTAMIENTO.

Go to your town hall to modify your empadronamiento and check that you are on the electoral roll before the next elections.

SEGURIDAD SOCIAL

You will need to change your details here for social security and health purposes. A useful phone number for any doubts is 915410291. You need to fill in a TA1 form with your NEW details, and attach a copy of NIE, DNI, Certificado de Concordancia. After fighting with the internet for a couple of days, I found the easiest way was to present the aforementioned documents in "ventanilla unica" at the town hall. Basically they send it for you, you just need to tell them where, in this case **Direccion Provincial de la TGSS**.

[**Seguridad Social: Afiliación \(seg-social.es\)**](#)

Once it is processed, you can enter your personal area in the online home of the **TGSS**, to get the paper you will need for your health card. I tried after a few days to get on to the page to check it had been processed using my new dni electronico, as they may not notify you.

[**Inicio \(seg-social.gob.es\)**](#)

HEALTH

After you are registered with the TGSS, you can download a document which shows your new details, using your new certificado digital on *importass, area personal*. With this, go to health centre with DNI and health card to change it. It will arrive in about 2 weeks. If you have any ongoing treatment at a hospital, you will need to inform them separately, or ask your health centre to do it.

[**Inicio \(seg-social.gob.es\)**](#)

BANK

Make sure you go to your bank to change details. You may be able to do it online.

DRIVING LICENSE AND CAR PERMIT

Technically, you can do this online, but you will also have to go in person with a photo anyway, so you might as well get an appointment and do everything in one go. They give you the forms you need on the day. Take the certificado de concordancia, driving license, copy of DNI and NIE and a photo.

Getting an appointment is pot luck. You can try online. I tried for various days and it always came up that there was nothing available. And then suddenly on one try I got in. So all I can say is persevere. It arrives in about 6 weeks, but they give you a 3 month authorisation to continue driving in the meantime.

[Cita previa \(dgt.gob.es\)](https://cita.dgt.gob.es)

WORK

Inform your place of work/ Gestoria

You will also need to change your details with the **Oficina de Empleo**, separately from SEPE, as they are two different bodies. **SEPE** is automatic once you have changed with TGSS.

You may be able to go in person without an appointment, or you may need one. It depends on your office.

FINALLY...

Think about any other places that have your NIE:

For example, it didn't occur to me to inform the autonomous community for my road tax, as I thought it would change with the town hall change, but no. It's very easy, they did it over the phone, but nevertheless, you have to do it.

Associations, Mortgages, Pensions, Insurance policies... The majority will change things over the phone.

And that's it! I don't think I've left anything out...

Good luck!

Links Valid as of November 2023



<https://espanglisher.wordpress.com>