

## **Bremain in Spain webinar – Further information**

### **PET PASSPORTS:**

- From 1 January 2021, the UK will have Part 2 listed status under the EU Pet Travel Scheme, meaning that people travelling from England, Wales or Scotland with their pets and assistance dogs will need to follow new requirements in order to travel to the Spain
- However, there will be no change to the current health preparations or documents for pets entering Great Britain from the EU from 1 January 2021.
- Full information is on gov.uk [here](#) (the page includes contact details for the pet travel hotline and email address)
- Specific information for those travelling to/from Northern Ireland is available [here](#)

### **TRAVEL**

- UK nationals, both visitors and residents, should consult the FCDO's travel advice page for Spain [here](#). This contains up to date information about restrictions due to coronavirus. (You can also sign up for email alerts.)
- It will be up to the Spanish authorities to decide how to treat someone who has not complied with the coronavirus measures in place. For example, a person who does not fulfil the requirement of obtaining a negative PCR before travel could be fined.
- **UK nationals who are resident in Spain should travel with both their valid passport and proof of their residence status, such as the TIE or green EU residence certificate.**
- All UK nationals (whether resident in Spain or tourists) must pass through the non-EU lanes (or equivalent) at border control from 1 January 2021 onwards.
- UK national visitors will have their passport stamped on entry and exit and will be able to visit the Schengen Area for up to 90 days in every 180 days visa-free.
- UK nationals who are resident in Spain should show proof of residence at the border to avoid wet stamping in their passport. This applies both for direct entry into Spain, or if you are transiting another country (e.g. show proof of residence if transiting France). However, if you forget your residence document and your passport is stamped, don't worry – ensure you travel with proof of residence in the future. That will nullify the stamp.
- Further information is on the travel advice page (above) and on the [Living in Spain guide](#).
- The Embassy recently posted on facebook about passport stamping [here](#).

### **Visa-free travel:**

- UK nationals resident in the UK and visiting Spain, or resident in Spain and visiting another member state, will be able to travel visa-free for short visits of up to 90 days in any 180 day period. This is for travel as a tourist, to visit family or friends, to attend business meetings, cultural or sports events or for short-term studies or training.
- If you are resident in Spain and need to travel to another member state for work, study, other business travel or other reasons, you should check the FCDO's travel advice page as well as information from the host government.
- If you are resident in the UK and need to travel to Spain for work, study, other business travel or other reasons, you should check with the Spanish Consulate General which type of visa you will need, if any. Further information is available [here](#).

### MOVING TO ANOTHER COUNTRY:

- Outside of any negotiated mobility provisions, UK nationals who move to another country in the Schengen area after the transition period will be treated as third country nationals under EU and Member State immigration rules.
- If a UK national has the right of permanent residence in Spain, they may have the right to move to another EU country under the terms of the Long Term Residence (LTR) Directive
- For further information on the LTR Directive, UK nationals should contact the Commission or the immigration authorities of the country they wish to move to.

### ABSENCE AND RESIDENCE RIGHTS:

- Temporary absences of up to 6 months each year do not affect the right of residence.
- One absence of up to 12 months may be allowed for important reasons, such as pregnancy and childbirth, a serious illness, study or vocational training or a posting abroad.
- For UK nationals who have the right of permanent residence, absences of up to 5 consecutive years are allowed, without affecting the right of residence in Spain.
- More information is available in the Withdrawal Agreement explainer [here](#).

### DUAL NATIONALITY:

- Dual citizenship (also known as dual nationality) is allowed in the UK. This means you can be a British citizen and also a citizen of other countries. You can apply for foreign citizenship and keep your British citizenship.
- Spain only recognises dual citizenship with a select number of countries who are judged to fulfil the requirement set out in the Spanish constitution of having 'a close/special relationship with Spain. It does not recognise dual citizenship with the UK.
- Applying for Spanish nationality is a personal choice and not something the UK government can comment on. People must consider any implications this may have for them, as they will only be considered Spanish in Spain; although they would be considered a dual national in the UK. We recommend seeking professional legal advice before making the decision.
- The UK government does not lobby other member states to change their internal rules on accepting dual nationality. It is a matter for each member state.

### BANK ACCOUNTS FOR UK NATIONALS LIVING IN SPAIN:

- Most UK nationals living in Spain will see no change to their banking arrangements.
- Your bank or finance provider should contact you if there are any changes, but if you are concerned, you should contact them directly. Further guidance is available [here](#).

### PENSIONS AND SOCIAL SECURITY CONTRIBUTIONS:

- The EU's social security coordination rules will continue to apply in full to UK nationals who are in scope of the Withdrawal Agreement (i.e. were legally living in Spain by 31 December 2020).

- This means UK nationals who have worked in both the UK and Spain will be able to add together their social security contributions (from both before and after the end of the transition period) when applying for a contributions-based pension or benefit.
- If a person has paid sufficient contributions, it is possible to receive a pension payment from more than one country. Applicants should state all countries they have worked in when applying for the pension or benefit. If you last worked in Spain, apply through the INSS. For more information, you can also contact the [International Pension Centre](#).
- The Withdrawal Agreement also protects the social security contributions of EU nationals who have worked in the UK and UK nationals who have worked in the EU in the past, but who would not otherwise be covered by the Withdrawal Agreement. The rights that flow from those contributions, such as pension, benefit and reciprocal healthcare rights will also be protected.
- Further information is available in the [Withdrawal Agreement explainer](#) on gov.uk and on the specific page for [benefits and pensions in the EU](#).

### RESIDENCE:

- There is extensive information available on the process to follow to register as a resident on the [UK government's website](#), on the [Spanish government's website](#), and in the [Spanish government's FAQ document](#). The Spanish government has also [published a note](#) clarifying the documents which can be used to prove a person's status under the Withdrawal Agreement. Many of the webinar questions on residence registration are addressed by this information.
- If a UK national is struggling with the application process, they may be eligible for support from the UK National Support Fund organisations in Spain. Their contact details can be found on the Living in Spain guide [here](#).
- UK nationals have an obligation to keep their documentation up to date (e.g. if you have changed address, you should update your residence document).
- Although there is no deadline for registering as a resident, UK nationals who are not yet registered should apply for the TIE as soon as possible. It is possible to start the process online or for a third party to submit an application on your behalf. If you did not start or complete the process by 31 December 2020, don't worry. As long as you can prove you were lawfully resident in Spain by the end of the transition period, you can apply for the TIE after 1 January 2021. 'Lawful residence' is explained in the [WA explainer](#) on gov.uk.
- There is no deadline for exchanging the green EU residence certificate for the TIE if you wish to do so. The Spanish government recommends exchanging the green EU residence certificate for the TIE.

### MOVING TO SPAIN AFTER 1 JANUARY 2021:

- The entry requirements to Spain changed from 1 January 2021.
- If you intend to move to Spain after that date, you should contact your local Spanish Consulate General before travelling. Further information on residence requirements for third country nationals is [here](#), and information on visas is available [here](#).

### DUAL NATIONALS:

- In general, dual nationals are covered by the Withdrawal Agreement if they exercised their free movement rights by 31 December 2020.
- It will be for the Spanish authorities to advise what documentation dual nationals will need to provide when accessing rights under the Withdrawal Agreement.

### MOVING TO UK WITH AN EU SPOUSE:

- Close EU family members who return to the UK from living in the EU with a UK national by 29 March 2022 will not require a visa and will be able to apply to the EU Settlement Scheme, as long as the relationship existed by 31 December 2020.
- More information on the EU Settlement Scheme is available [here](#).

### SWALLOWS:

- UK nationals who own property in Spain but who do not live there should keep up to date and take any action as required by our [travel advice](#) information for Spain.
- UK nationals who are resident in the UK will be able to spend up to 90 days in a rolling 180 day period in the Schengen Area without the need for a visa (this is the existing long-standing provision that the EU already applies to nationals of third countries). Should a UK national wish to spend longer than that in Spain, they may be required to obtain a visa. Contact the [Spanish Consulate General](#) in the UK for further information.
- The UK government has discussed mobility arrangements in a number of areas with the EU, including future arrangements for UK nationals traveling to the Schengen Area. However, in all these discussions the EU has consistently maintained that UK nationals will be treated as third country nationals under the Schengen Borders Code from 1 Jan.
- Swallows who decide to register as resident in Spain should be aware of the impact of absences on their residence status (see section on absences). They should also consider any tax implications by seeking professional advice.

### DRIVING LICENCES:

- The UK government has been advising UK nationals resident in Spain to exchange their UK licence for a Spanish one. If you have exchanged it, you can use your Spanish licence, without the need for an IDP, on visits in the UK. If you move back to the UK, you can exchange your Spanish licence back to a UK licence, providing you originally passed your test in the UK or another designated country.
- For the latest information on using and exchanging a UK licence in Spain, see the Living in Spain guide [here](#) and the DGT website [here](#).
- If a UK licence holder did not start the process to exchange their licence before 30 December 2020, they will be able to drive on their valid UK licence in Spain until 30 June 2021. Further information on the exchange of UK licences after 1 January will issue in due course. [Sign up for email alerts](#) on the Living in Spain guide to stay up to date.

### HEALTHCARE:

- General information on accessing healthcare in Spain as a resident is [here](#).
- Some UK nationals may be entitled to a new UK EHIC if they have rights under the Withdrawal Agreement. Information on the new UK EHIC, including who is eligible and how to apply, is available [here](#).

- UK state pensioners who are registered for healthcare in Spain with an S1 from the UK are one group entitled to the new EHIC. They must register the S1 form with the INSS before applying for the new EHIC.

### VOTES FOR LIFE:

- The UK government intends to scrap the arbitrary rule that prevents British citizens who have lived abroad for more than 15 years from participating in EU parliamentary elections
- The government is considering the appropriate legislative vehicle to deliver votes for life, which is a manifesto commitment, and will make an announcement on its intentions in due course.

### RECOGNITION OF ACADEMIC/PROFESIONAL QUALIFICATIONS:

- Third country rules for recognising higher education academic qualifications (i.e. to apply for further study/to do a civil service job) apply from 1 January 2021 onwards.
- The recognition of degrees otherwise (e.g. show you have a degree for job interview) comes under Council of Europe/UNESCO convention – it is not affected by exit.
- Further information is available on the Spanish government website [here](#).
- For professional qualifications, in general UK national professionals who are resident or frontier working in the EU (and vice versa for EU citizens in the UK), will continue to have their professional qualifications recognised where they obtained or applied for recognition before the end of the transition period.
- However, this can be a complicated area. UK nationals are advised to read the Spanish government's information [here](#), as well as contact their profession's Spanish regulator.

### CONTACTING THE BRITISH EMBASSY:

- Should a UK national wish to ask a question to the British Embassy, or requires consular assistance, they should use the contact details [here](#).

### **Disclaimer**

Please note this information is provided as a guide only. Definitive information should be obtained from the Spanish authorities. The Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) is not liable for any inaccuracies in this information.