

UPDATE FROM EMBASSY 27 JANUARY



VACCINATION PROGRAMME

The Ministry of Health has confirmed that the vaccine will be offered to everyone in Spain on public health grounds. The Spanish authorities will determine how and in what order the vaccine rollout is implemented. For further information check the government website [here](#)

As Spain operates a regional health system, you can find additional information about the vaccination plan for your area from your regional health authority [here](#). You can read the Spanish government's vaccination strategy [here](#)

STAMPING PASSPORTS

UK nationals who can demonstrate that they were resident in Spain before 1 January 2021 **should not have their passport stamped** or be subject to questioning upon entry, exit and transit through the Schengen border. If you are resident in Spain, it is recommended you always travel with both your valid passport and proof of your residence status, such as:

- your residence document: the green paper EU certificate/card or the new TIE. The Spanish authorities have published guidance on the continued validity of the green residency certificate [here](#)
- a certificate of application for residency in Spain
- or other documentation proving you were resident in Spain prior to the end of the transition period

If you have had your passport incorrectly stamped, despite showing proof of residency, **your rights will not be affected**. The stamp will also not affect your ability to apply for residency in Spain, under the Withdrawal Agreement, as long as you can demonstrate that you were legally residing here by 31 December 2020. When travelling in the future, any stamp will be considered null and void when accompanied by evidence of lawful residence such as your residency certificate.





DELAYS REGISTERING S1

If you are an S1 form holder, you need to complete your residency application before you can register your S1 form with the INSS. If you are unable to do so as a residencia appointment is not available, you can **access healthcare while wait**. The Overseas Healthcare Service (OHS) can provide you with a **Provisional Replacement Certificate** to cover any treatment you may need while you wait. Contact OHS by phone: 0044 191 218 1999, Monday - Friday 8am - 6pm (UK time).

DRIVING LICENCES

UK residents in Spain are required by law to hold a Spanish driving licence.

Due to the demand following Brexit, appointments in some areas are difficult to secure, so the Spanish authorities will recognise UK driving licences until the **end of June 2021**.

Future rules are yet to be determined & are the subject of ongoing discussions.

To keep up-to-date with all the latest information, the Embassy webpage has all the latest information [here](#) & is updated as & when anything changes.

You can read the driving rules in Spain [here](#)



LACK OF RESIDENCIA APPOINTMENTS

Many Brits are experiencing problems getting an appointment to apply for residency/the new TIE card.

The Embassy & the Spanish authorities are aware of general issues, but in order to resolve the issue quickly & efficiently, more information is required.

Bremain is therefore conducting a poll of members to identify which offices, in which areas, are of particular concern.

In the meantime, be assured that as long as you can prove you were legally resident before the end of the transition period, your rights (including those covered by the Withdrawal Agreement) will in no way be affected.

You can read the Spanish government's guidance on residency for UK Nationals living in Spain prior to 1/1/21 [here](#)



AUTHORITIES HOLDING RESIDENCY DOCUMENTATION

Many applicants for residency currently find themselves without any documentation, having handed over their green residency document/card to the Spanish authorities while waiting for their new TIE card. This is only happening in certain areas, so the Embassy will take these issues up with the Spanish authorities:

- Establish whether it is necessary to retain existing documentation at this stage of the process
- Explore whether interim measures can be put in place to avoid Brits being without evidence
- Ensure a consistent approach is carried out across Spain



BANKING CHARGES

Many Brits have complained about increased fees from their banks, especially in relation to international transactions.

Unfortunately, these decisions are purely commercial ones made by the banks themselves, so are an issue outside of government control.

If you are unhappy, you should take the matter up directly with your bank, or make a complaint using the Banco de España customer complaint portal [here](#)

You can find some additional useful information on the Money & Pension Services pages [here](#)

BUYING PROPERTY IN 'RESTRICTED' AREAS

As 3rd country nationals, Brits in Spain now fall under the same rules regarding purchasing property in restricted areas. A special permit is required from the Ministry of Defence if the area is considered important for strategic national defence. The additional administrative process includes a criminal records check. This is likely to cause delays, and you may need to instruct a specialist property lawyer to assist you.

More information is available on the Embassy website property pages [here](#)

