

DOCUMENTS FOR SPANISH VISA



As a result of Brexit, UK citizens who wish to study, work and/or live in Spain for a period longer than 90 days, may need to apply for a suitable VISA. Each VISA may have its specific requirements, which you will need to check thoroughly, and you may need to translate, notarise and/or apostille documents such as: ACRO certificates, marriage and birth certificates, and medical certificates. **Although we cannot advise on VISA requirements**, in our experience dealing with this type of enquiry, we have come to find that there are some recurring challenges when it comes to the legalisation and translation of certain documents. You may find it useful to read the information below:

-ACRO certificates: They can be apostilled directly, without the need for notarisation. In most cases, this document only needs to be sworn translated* and apostilled. While there are other types of criminal record certificates (e.g. certificates from Disclosure Scotland), they cannot usually be apostilled directly and we are aware of some Spanish authorities insisting in the use of an ACRO.

-Medical certificates: Again, you will probably be requested a sworn translation and apostille on the original certificate. For this document to be successfully apostilled, the original certificate in the English language must bear the personal, wet ink signature of the Doctor, who must be a GMC-registered doctor. When you request the certificate, please make sure to stress this, as sometimes a member of staff may sign on behalf of the doctor and this wouldn't be valid for these purposes. Additionally, the doctor's signature must be registered at the FCDO, otherwise the FCDO will reject the document and get in touch with the Surgery to verify it, causing delays. In order to prevent this delay, we would encourage you to ask the Surgery to register the doctor's signature in advance. Alternatively, you can ask the Surgery to provide you with a direct contact email address, which we can pass onto the FCDO to facilitate the verification process.

-UK birth, adoption and marriage certificates: These documents can be apostilled directly as well. Sworn translation will most likely be needed too. Where you need to submit these documents as part of your VISA application, we recommend that you request fresh copies from the General Register Office (GRO), as older copies issued by a local registrar can cause delays if the FCDO cannot recognise or verify the registrar's signature.



***What is a sworn translation (“traducción jurada”)? How is it different from any other professional translation?**

Spain —and many other countries, such as Italy, for example— has very specific requirements when it comes to translations. A sworn translation is a professional translation performed by a Spanish “*traductor jurado*”. These are translators appointed by the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs upon competition in official examinations. Note that NOT all professional translators are “*traductores jurados*” and that, if you are requested a “sworn translation” you must make sure that the person performing and certifying the translation is, in fact a “*traductor jurado*”. Otherwise, the translation will be rejected.

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