**Answers correct as at 19 February 2019**

Below are answers to questions submitted during our recent Facebook Live Q&A that we didn’t get chance to answer live. There are a couple of outstanding questions that we are looking for more information on – we will try and get back to people directly on these. For all questions, do bear in mind that there are still some areas that need clarification and that some things will change, so we recommend that you:

Sign up for updates to: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/living-in-spain>

Have a look at: <http://www.lamoncloa.gob.es/lang/en/brexit/howtoprepare/Paginas/citizens.aspx> for advice from the Spanish Government

We will continue to let you know the latest via Brits in Spain.

**Residency**

For general information on residency, please see:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/living-in-spain#visas-and-residency>

<http://www.lamoncloa.gob.es/lang/en/brexit/howtoprepare/Paginas/190108residence.aspx>

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| (Tom) I have a residency certificate from 2009. I am currently in the UK. Would I need to be residing in Spain and on the padron at the time of departure to fall under the conditions of the Withdrawal Agreement or does the certificate allow me to return? | Hi Tom, to fall under the Withdrawal Agreement and enjoy the rights that it protects for UK nationals living in the EU, you would need to be considered resident in Spain, and have an up-to-date residency document by the end of the transition period .If you are temporarily absent from Spain during the transition period, for example in order to study, you could still be covered by the Withdrawal Agreement, But whether this is the case will ultimately depend on how long you were in Spain before you left and how long you have been away. If Spain remains your main residence, at some point you’ll need to update your registration document with the Spanish authorities - they have said UK nationals will have to exchange their green residency certificates for a new TIE card to show they fall under the Withdrawal Agreement. We are waiting for further news, however, on the process for doing this. |
| (Stuart) I’m British and my wife is Catalan. Do I need to apply for some kind of visa to remain in Spain? What will happen to people who have been here less than 5 years? | Hi Stuart. You don’t need a Visa, but you must be registered as a resident. That means having the A4 green certificate or credit card-sized piece of paper. If you haven’t got this already you need to go to the extranjeria or local national police station. We are aware that there are difficulties with appointments, but you can show that you have tried to do so before 29 March. As a family member of an EU citizen you may have additional residence rights. [This page](https://europa.eu/youreurope/citizens/residence/family-residence-rights/index_en.htm) may be helpful. |
| (Stuart) How can I find out if I’m correctly registered with immigration. I have a social security number, NIE and padron. | We know that many people are confused about this. The key thing you need is the A4 green certificate or credit card-sized piece of paper. To get this or to confirm that you have it, go to the extranjeria (foreigners’/immigration office) or designated police station. |
| (Richard) Any advice for expats who haven’t yet got residency? I am trying to get my application through before the 29th. | Good question Richard. We are aware that there are delays in getting appointments and have been feeding this back to the Spanish authorities. We advise you to keep proof of having made an appointment even if the appointment itself isn’t before the 29th. Another option is to see if you can get an earlier appointment through a gestor. |
| (Dawn) What exactly does a TIE cover? Will I still have the same rights as before? | Thanks for your question Dawn. We are waiting for details on the new card, which will be introduced for UK nationals – until that time your current registration card or certificate will be valid. We expect the Spanish government to announce more details soon, but in the meantime have a look at <http://www.lamoncloa.gob.es/lang/en/brexit/howtoprepare/Paginas/citizens.aspx>  for more detail. |
| (Michele) I own property here and am fiscally resident. But I haven’t done the residency certificate. Do I now have to apply for one? | Hi Michele. If you live in the property in Spain for more than three months then yes, you do need to apply for a residency certificate, so get an appointment at your nearest extranjeria or designated police station as soon as you can. However, if you have a white NIE certificate and are just using the property as an occasional (ie less than 90 days) holiday home, then you don’t need to register as resident. |
| (Jeni) I own a house in Spain. I am moving over after March, but before the transition period ends. What happens if there is no deal? Can I still apply for residency? | Hi Jeni. If there is no deal, you would still be able to apply for residency, but we understand from the Spanish government’s Brexit website that you would be subject to the general immigration regime ie. that which applies to members of “third country nationals” rather than EU member states. Keep an eye on our Living in Spain guide on gov.uk for more information on future residency requirements for UK nationals. |
| (Judith) Will long-term residents (33 years) essentially retain all rights even in a no-deal? | Thanks for your question Judith. It is for Spain and the EU to safeguard the rights of UK nationals living here in the event of a no-deal. But, as I’m sure you know, Pedro Sanchez has echoed PM May’s commitment to citizens, saying Spain will protect the rights of UK nationals “whatever the scenario”. We are waiting for full details of their contingency plans and exactly what that means for UK nationals. It’s important to note that those protected by the contingency plans are only those that are correctly registered as a resident, but from what you say I’m sure you are! |
| (Derek) Married to Spanish citizen and resident for 20 years. What changes would there be if any? | Hi Derek - it depends on whether we are looking at a deal or no-deal scenario. As long as you are legally registered, your rights will be protected by the Withdrawal Agreement. If there is no deal, we are waiting for confirmation of the Spanish government’s plans. But as a family member of an EU national you may be have additional rights. [This page](https://europa.eu/youreurope/citizens/residence/family-residence-rights/index_en.htm) may be helpful. |
| (Rita) If I registered at the consulate many years ago, do I have to do it again? | Rita, the most important thing is that you have registered with the extranjeria or designated police station and have the green A4 certificate or credit card-sized piece of paper. You cannot get this from the consulate, so do check that you have the right thing. Consulates no longer hold registers of Brits living in Spain. |
| (Jacqui) will we still be able to work without a visa? | Thanks for your question Jacqui. If the UK leaves with a deal, your right to work in Spain as you do now is protected by the Withdrawal Agreement. In a no-deal scenario, we are waiting for further detail on this, which we expect to be set out in the royal decree that Spain is preparing on contingency measures (hopefully very shortly!). The Spanish government has said that even in a no-deal scenario, they would look to protect the rights of UK nationals already living here. But it is possible that the situation will be different for those that are registered as resident before 29 March and for those that move here after that time. |
| (Teresa) I am moving here on 14 Feb. What documents are needed for residence and will they need translating? I am a nurse and will fly back to the UK every few months to do agency work. We will rent out our property in the UK. | Hi Teresa and sorry for not getting back to you sooner. I hope your move went smoothly. If you haven’t got it already, do get your appointment to register as a resident as soon as you can. You can find more details on the process and necessary documents [here](http://extranjeros.mitramiss.gob.es/es/InformacionInteres/InformacionProcedimientos/CiudadanosComunitarios/index.html). The documents you need will depend on your particular circumstances, for example, whether you are working, studying or retired. |
| (Susan) We moved here 2 weeks ago and and are working towards residency. Our problem is healthcare. We are both clear of cancer by one year, but cannot get private healthcare. We registered with our local doctor, but only have 6 months healthcare. Will this be enough to get residency? | Sorry Susan, the temporary healthcare cover you have will most likely not enable you to get residency. We are aware of cases like yours and we have brought them up with the Spanish authorities. There are various ways to access public healthcare in Spain, but it is difficult to advise you properly without knowing more about your personal situation. Please see here <http://healthcareinspain.eu/living-in-spain/#convenioespecial> for more information and get in touch with our healthcare team using the contact details which are also on that website, so they can look at your case. |
| (Jenny) We recently moved here to live for at least 7 months. We are told we have to wait 3 months to apply for residency. Do you know what the process will be then? | Hi Jenny. As you know you are going to be here more than 3 months, there is no need to wait to get your appointment to register as a resident, you can start that process now. You can find more information on how to go about it on our Living in Spain guide on gov.uk. If you have trouble getting a residence appointment, we advise keeping a record of when you applied for an appointment and registering for email alerts from the Living In guides. |
| (Peter) I got my residencia last December. Will my wife be able to get her residencia after 29 March and join me in Spain? | Thanks for getting in touch Peter. Your wife will be able to come and join you after that date and if there is a deal she will be able to register, under the rules as they stand now, until 31 December 2020. However, if there is no deal, in general, different registration rules will apply to UK nationals who move here after 29 March. We are waiting for the Spanish authorities to confirm, however, whether close family members of UK nationals already living here would have to follow the same new registration process as everyone else, or whether any special rules might apply to them. Sign up for the email alerts on the Living in Spain guide and follow us on facebook for updates as and when they’re available. |
| (Rebecca) I have an NIE dated 2009. Do I need to apply for any other document? | Hi Rebecca – assuming that you’re living here, if your NIE is on a white piece of paper, the short answer is yes. If you don’t already have it, you must have the green certificate of registration (A4 or credit card sized), which you can get from the extranjeria or designated police station. You can find more information [here](http://extranjeros.mitramiss.gob.es/es/InformacionInteres/InformacionProcedimientos/CiudadanosComunitarios/hoja102/index.html). |
| (Dalia) I’m a third country national in Spain with a British husband. My EU spouse residency card is still being processed. In a no-deal, might I have to start all over again? | Hi Dalia, thanks for your question. On their [Brexit website](http://www.lamoncloa.gob.es/lang/en/brexit/howtoprepare/Paginas/190108residence.aspx), the Spanish government have said that family members of UK nationals will also be taken into account in their contingency plans for a no-deal scenario. Their advice is to ensure you are correctly registered as a resident (which you are already doing). At some point both you and your husband would be issued with a new document, but they have not yet set out what the process for this will be. The Spanish government should be releasing more information on their contingency plans soon. Keep an eye on their webpage for updates as and when they are available. |
| (Steve) I’m thinking of retiring to Spain before the end of the transition period. Can we relocate without any form of residency protection? | Thanks Steve. If there is a deal then you will be covered by the provisions of the Withdrawal Agreement as long as you are correctly registered as a resident by the end of 2020. In a no-deal scenario, you will still be able to relocate, but you will be subject to the general immigration regime and the requirements for residency may be more stringent. |
| (Matthew) If I move to Spain mid-March does that give me enough time to register properly and retain my rights (if no deal)? | Hi Matthew, We are aware that there are delays in getting appointments to register, so the sooner you can start the process the better. If there is no deal, it is for Spain and the EU to safeguard the rights of UK nationals living here – we await full details of what these plans look like, but Spain has been clear on the importance of registering. If you have trouble getting an appointment, our advice is to keep a record of your appointment confirmation, even if the appointment itself is after 29 March. |
| (Sharon) Do I need a padron even when I’m using my Spanish home as a holiday home? | Hi Sharon. It depends on how long you are using your Spanish home for, but if you are resident in Spain for more than three months at a time you should be registered on the padron (as you also should be with the extranjeria). The padron has many benefits for you and also means that the local council where you live gets the right amount of money for local services based on the number of people living there. You can find more information [here](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/residency-requirements-in-spain). |
| (Lesley) I have a property in Spain, but have remained a UK resident. Will anything change from my perspective? I intend to keep my UK residency. | Hi Lesley. It depends on how much time you plan to spend in Spain. If you plan to reside here for more than three months at a time then you must register here as a resident. This has always been the case, regardless of Brexit. In a no-deal you would be able to stay for up to 90 days in any 180-day period visa-free. Staying longer than the 90 days in the Schengen area will still be an option, but you may need a visa before you travel. We’re waiting for the Spanish to announce what entry requirements will apply. Please follow our travel advice and living in guides for more details. |
| (Joner) I have NIE, green residency, been to town hall to register as resident and private medical care. Is there anything else I need? | Joner, It sounds like you have everything you need! Just keep an eye on the [Living in Guide](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/living-in-spain) and elsewhere to make sure you know as and when anything changes and what you need to do – in particular in the event of a no deal. |
| (Alex) If you pay your tax as a resident in Spain, presumably that confirms residency? | Hi Alex. I’m afraid it doesn’t. You must make sure you are registered officially as a resident, which means you have an A4 certificate or green credit card-sized piece of paper. This can be done at the extranjeria or designated police station. See our Living in Spain guide for more information. |

**Healthcare**

For general information on healthcare see:

<http://www.lamoncloa.gob.es/lang/en/brexit/howtoprepare/Paginas/citizens.aspx>

<http://healthcareinspain.eu/living-in-spain/>

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/living-in-spain#healthcare>

<https://www.nhs.uk/using-the-nhs/healthcare-abroad/healthcare-when-travelling-abroad/healthcare-in-spain/>

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| (Patricia) As a pensioner in poor health, I am very worried about healthcare. Will reciprocal healthcare be possible? | Hi Patricia, that is very understandable. If there is a deal then you will be covered by the provisions of the Withdrawal Agreement as long as you have registered your S1 forms by the end of 2020. In the event of the UK leaving the EU without a deal, the UK and Spain are seeking to agree health agreements in order to protect the reciprocal healthcare rights of each country’s citizens abroad. Please see <http://www.lamoncloa.gob.es/lang/en/brexit/howtoprepare/Paginas/citizens.aspx>  for more detail |
| (Sue, Peter, Glenys, Paul) As a state pensioner with S1 will we get healthcare as now? | If there is a deal then you will continued to be covered by the provisions of the Withdrawal Agreement as long as you have registered your S1 forms by the end of 2020. In the event of the UK leaving the EU without a deal, the UK and Spain are seeking to agree health agreements in order to protect the reciprocal healthcare rights of each country’s citizens abroad. Please see <http://www.lamoncloa.gob.es/lang/en/brexit/howtoprepare/Paginas/citizens.aspx>  for more detail |
| (Glenis) What happens with healthcare if we return to the UK on holiday? Is the amount we pay for prescriptions in Spain likely to change? | Hi Glenis, all that depends entirely on how you are covered now. Generally speaking, if you are a UK state pensioner then you will always have access to the NHS, in a deal or no-deal scenario. If you are covered by Spain then in a “no-deal scenario” you might not be covered and therefore have to buy travel insurance. With regard to prescriptions, please email [healthcare.spain@fco.gov.uk](mailto:healthcare.spain@fco.gov.uk) with details of how you are covered now, so that you can receive a tailored answer. |
| (Janet) Healthcare has been assured if we are legally resident with the correct paperwork. Do I need to do anything now? | Hi Janet, yes make sure that you are properly registered for healthcare. If you are not sure if you are, please see here: <http://healthcareinspain.eu/living-in-spain/#questionnaire> |
| (Kieron) What’s happening with the implementation of universal healthcare. I am worried about the healthcare insurance requirement for residency. | Hi Kieron, that is a good question. The Real Decreto 7/2018 was passed last July, but has not be applied yet in all regions in Spain.  The implementation of this new law is the responsibility of regional governments.  Regional healthcare authorities are currently in the process of establishing their own regional regulations, which must be approved before the new law can be applied in practice. At this point I’m afraid we can’t confirm whether this type of cover would allow you to register for residency purposes.  For further updates on accessing healthcare in Spain, sign up to our [Living in Spain](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/living-in-spain) guide on Gov.uk. |
| (Angela) My wife and I are both diabetics and can’t seem to get health cover for our residency in Spain. We spend up to 180 days in Andalusia each year. We are told we need to register. Any advice? | Hi Angela, thanks for your question. A lot depends on exactly how long you are in Spain at any one time. If you are spending more than 3 months at a time in Spain then you should look at getting registered as a resident, but I know that meeting the health cover criteria to do so seems difficult due to your personal situation. If, in fact, you spend 180 days in Spain spread across the year, and see your main residence as the UK, you do not need to register as a resident but will need to ensure you have health cover for each of your visits. In a deal scenario, you can continue to use your UK EHIC in Spain until the end of 2020, but we always recommend comprehensive travel insurance as well. In a no deal scenario, travel insurance will be essential as the EHIC may no longer be valid. Have a look at <http://healthcareinspain.eu> to see the different ways in which a person can access public healthcare in Spain. |
| (Jenny) My EHIC card expires in April. What is going to happen with this? | Hi Jenny, that depends on which country issued your EHIC. If it was Spain, you could renew it with the INSS. If it was the UK, and with an agreement in place, you could still apply for a UK equivalent EHIC. |
| (Steven) I am registered, have a green card and private health insurance. After Brexit will I still need private health care? | Hi Steven, if you are covered with private healthcare now then you will continue to be covered in the same way after Brexit. |
| (Kate) How do we join the convenio especial? | Hi Kate, please enquire at your local healthcare centre for the application process. You can also see here for further information: <http://healthcareinspain.eu/living-in-spain/#convenioespecial> |
| (Jayne) Can early retirees pay into the Spanish healthcare after having private insurance for a year? | Hi Jayne, yes you can join what is known as the “convenio especial”. Please see here for further information: <http://healthcareinspain.eu/living-in-spain/#convenioespecial> |
| (Susan) I have a seasonal job starting this year, so will pay into social security. What is my entitlement to healthcare once that finishes? | Hi Susan, anyone who is eligible for unemployment benefit remains covered for healthcare- even after that has finished. Please see here for further information: <http://www.seg-social.es/wps/portal/wss/internet/FAQ/48581/49207?changeLanguage=en> |
| (Craig) I am an S1 retiree and spend 5 months in spain and 7 in the UK, can I still access UK healthcare as well as Spanish. | Hi Craig, if your habitual residence is the UK then you should not be registered with an S1 form. Please speak with the Overseas Healthcare Service on +44 191 218 1999 to ensure you are correctly registered. UK state pensioners always retain the right to access the NHS, even if they live in the EU. This remains the case in a Deal or No Deal scenario. In the event of a no deal, the UK and Spain are seeking to agree health agreements in order to protect the reciprocal healthcare rights of each country’s citizens abroad. Please see <http://www.lamoncloa.gob.es/lang/en/brexit/howtoprepare/Paginas/citizens.aspx>  For more detail |
| (Gavin) I receive free public healthcare as I’m paying social security. Will I still receive this if I have no work or am not paying social security for a period of time? | Hi Gavin, anyone who is eligible for unemployment benefit remains covered for healthcare- even after that has finished. Please see here for further information: <http://www.seg-social.es/wps/portal/wss/internet/FAQ/48581/49207?changeLanguage=en> |
| (Susan) Gov.uk has a link saying that if there’s no deal, pensioners will have to pay into the convenio especial at €157 a month, plus all prescription costs. Can you respond. | Hi Susan, that information was published in order to make DHSC customers aware of the other options open to them in the unlikely event that their healthcare could no longer be covered by the UK. Delivering the deal negotiated with the EU is still the Government’s top priority. But in the event that the UK leaves the EU without a deal, the UK and Spain are seeking to agree health agreements in order to protect the reciprocal healthcare rights of each country’s citizens abroad. Please see <http://www.lamoncloa.gob.es/lang/en/brexit/howtoprepare/Paginas/citizens.aspx>  For more detail. |
| (Patricia) How can I pay into the health system if I’m not working or a pensioner in Andalucia? | Hi Patricia, at this point in time you should be able to register for healthcare under the Universal Healthcare Real Decreto - Ley 7/2018 that is being implemented in Andalusia. Please ask for more details at your local healthcare centre. |

**Pensions**

For general information on pensions see:

https://www.gov.uk/guidance/living-in-spain#pensions

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/uk-nationals-in-the-eu-benefits-and-pensions-in-a-no-deal-scenario>

<http://www.lamoncloa.gob.es/lang/en/brexit/howtoprepare/Paginas/190109socialsecurity.aspx>

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| (Colin, Debbie, Jennifer, Ian, Denise, Trevor, Joan) Why can the UK Government not commit to continuing the uprating of pensions beyond 2020 in the event of a no deal? | We received many questions about this and we know how important it is to many of you. It is worth remembering, the right to receive an annual increase on your pension (uprating) is protected by the Withdrawal Agreement and, as you know, in the event of a no deal, the UK government has committed to uprating pensions for the financial year 2019-2020, and hopes to continue to do so beyond that. But it depends on whether, in this scenario, reciprocal arrangements are in place with the EU. We know this doesn’t answer all your questions, but we’re afraid it’s all the information we have available at the moment. Please be assured we continue to feed back to government departments in London on this issue. |
| (Debbie) What are the plans for future pension aggregation in a no-deal scenario? | Hi Debbie, thanks for your question. For anyone who falls under the Withdrawal Agreement the right to aggregate social security contributions to work out your final pension amount will continue, even if you claim your pension after the end of the implementation period. In the event of a no deal, the Spanish government have said on their Brexit website that as part of their contingency plans they will look to take periods of work in the UK before 29 March into account when calculating someone’s pension entitlement. We await further information when their full contingency plans are published. |
| (Steve) I receive care allowance for my disability and my wife receives carers’ allowance. Will that continue? | Good question Steve. The Withdrawal Agreement protects the right of UK nationals who are legally resident in Spain by the end of 2020 to continue to receive exportable benefits from the UK, as long as they continue to meet the eligibility criteria for that benefit. Equally, in a no deal scenario, the UK government has said UK nationals can continue to receive exportable benefits already in payment. |
| (Kate) Will we be able to draw a pension in both Spain and the UK on retirement as up until now? | Thanks for your question Kate. If you have paid social security contributions in both the UK and Spain, it is possible that you are entitled to a pension from both countries. If you are correctly registered as a resident in Spain, your right to have your pension contributions added together to work out your final pension amount is protected under the Withdrawal Agreement. In a no deal scenario, the UK is looking at options to protect social security contributions made in the EU and the Spanish are similarly looking to include similar measures in their contingency plans. Full details on this are not yet available but follow our pages for more information as and when we have it. |
| (Sandra) I’ve been here since 1983 and am due to retire in 3 years. Who will pay my pension? I have paid in both countries and am currently working in Spain? | Hi Sandra, like others, if you have worked and paid social security contributions in both the UK and Spain, under the Withdrawal Agreement you will have the right to have your contributions aggregated in order to work out your final pension amount. You might be eligible for a pension payment from both countries. If the UK leaves the EU without a deal the Spanish have indicated on their Brexit website their contingency plans will look to take UK social security contributions before 29 March into account, and the UK have similarly said they are looking at options for protecting contributions made in EU countries. |
| (Isabel) Will the state pension paid to British retirees continue to be index linked? | Thanks Isabel. If the UK leaves the EU with a deal, as is the government’s intention and you are correctly registered as a resident in Spain by the end of the transition period (31 December 2020), you would be covered by the Withdrawal Agreement and have your right to an indexed or uprated pension protected. This is true even if you are not yet receiving your pension but will claim it in the future. In a no-deal scenario, the UK government has committed to uprating the UK state pension for the financial year 2019-2020. After that, the uprating of the UK state pension will depend on reciprocal agreements being made with the EU. |
| (Sonja) If we leave without a deal will we get our state pension, benefits and free healthcare as now? | Hi Sonja, UK’s exit from the EU will not affect your ability to receive your UK state pension payments in Spain, even in a no deal scenario, as the UK state pension can be paid anywhere in the world.  Similarly, the UK government have said that if someone is in receipt of an exportable benefit from the UK while living in Spain, as long as they continue to meet the eligibility criteria for that benefit, it will continue to be paid, no matter if the UK leaves with or without a deal.  When you refer to ‘free healthcare’ I think you are referring to the access UK state pensioners have to the public healthcare system in Spain under the S1 form.  In a no deal scenario, securing healthcare rights for UK nationals living in the EU is a priority for the government and the Department of Health& Social Care is seeking agreements with countries such as Spain to ensure such healthcare cover continues.  The Spanish government have also said on their Brexit website that their contingency plans will also look to guarantee healthcare access for UK nationals living here.  We are expecting more news on these plans later this month. |
| (Linda) If I become a Spanish citizen would I lose my state pension rights? | Good question Linda, but no, you wouldn’t lose your UK state pension rights as these are based on the social security contributions you’ve paid in the UK, rather than your nationality. |
| (Rita) What about those who receive pensions in both places? If I visit the UK and break my leg, how can I show I am a (partial) British pensioner? | Hi Rita, how you access healthcare in the UK will depend on how you are covered for healthcare as a resident in Spain.  If ultimately Spain is covering your state pension and consequently your healthcare, you will normally require a Spanish EHIC to access treatment in the UK.  The use of the EHIC will continue in a deal scenario throughout the transition period (end 2020), though we always recommend travellers take out travel insurance as well.  In a no deal, our advice would be to ensure you have comprehensive travel insurance for any visits to the UK after 29 March. |
| (Gina) I have lived and worked in Spain for over 40 years and have Spanish state pension and healthcare. If I had to move back to the UK, would it affect my pension and could I just sign back on to the NHS? | Thanks for your question Gina. If you move to the UK, you would need to inform the Spanish authorities of the change in your circumstances and double check with them if this would affect the payment of your Spanish pension in any way. If you are a UK national, you can move to the UK at any time and, once resident there, use the NHS. |
| (Lesley) We plan on moving permanently to our house in Spain. If there is a deal will be be entitled to reciprocal healthcare and if not? | Hi Lesley, if you move to Spain and correctly register as a resident before the end of 2020, you will fall under the Withdrawal Agreement if the UK leaves the EU with a deal.  Reciprocal healthcare for residents is available to people who are in receipt of a UK state pension or certain contributions based exportable UK benefits.  If this applies to you, you would need to apply for an S1 form from the UK and register it with the Spanish authorities to then enjoy access to the Spanish public healthcare system.  In the event the UK leaves without a deal, if you move before 29 March, and you fall into one of the categories above, you should still apply for an S1 form and register it.  The UK government is seeking agreements with countries such as Spain to ensure such healthcare cover can continue.  If you move to Spain after 29 March in a no deal scenario, you may need to ensure you have private healthcare cover if you will not be working and not paying Spanish social security.  Please check the NHS Country profiles to see what options may be available to you: <https://www.nhs.uk/using-the-nhs/healthcare-abroad/healthcare-when-travelling-abroad/healthcare-in-spain/> You can also sign up to our living in Spain email alerts and check the Spanish Brexit website for further updates as and when they are available. |

**Swallows**

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| (Hazel) Will non-resident home-owners who have paid the relevant taxes be able to use their property for longer than the 90 days stated for “tourists”? | Hi Hazel. We received many questions about this and we know it’s important to many of you. If the UK leaves the EU with a deal, as is the government’s intention, travel to the EU will remain the same as now during the transition period. In a no deal scenario, the rules for travelling to Europe will change after 29 March 2019. The European Commission has already set out that in a no deal situation, British citizens would not need a visa for short stays in the Schengen area or elsewhere in the EU therefore you would be able to stay for up to 90 days in any 180-day period visa-free. Staying longer than 90 days in the Schengen area will continue to be an option, however you may need to get a visa before you travel. It will be for the Spanish to announce what entry requirements will apply. We’ll update our Travel Advice and Living in Spain page once further information is announced: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/advice-for-british-nationals-travelling-and-living-in-europe>  <https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/spain/entry-requirements> |
| (Jeff) How can will I be able to keep a vehicle in Spain and how many months can I stay as a non-resident? | Hi Jeff, if you spend more than 6 months of the year in Spain, you must register your vehicle with the Spanish traffic authorities and pay the necessary taxes such as registration tax, road tax etc. Please see here for further details: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/living-in-spain#driving-in-spain>  Regarding your question on non-residents, it’s unclear from your message exactly what you mean by that, but if you plan to be in Spain for more than 3 months you need to register as resident. For further information please see:  <https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/spain/entry-requirements> and <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/living-in-spain#visas-and-residency> |
| (Sally) Should we apply for residencia? We come for 5 months each year and still work in the UK. | Hi Sally, the Spanish authorities state that if you plan to reside in Spain for more than 3 consecutive months, you should register as a resident. If you see your base as Spain and wish to fall under the Withdrawal Agreement and enjoy the rights it protects for UK nationals living in the EU, you must ensure you correctly register with the Spanish authorities. If, however, you visit Spain for 5 months over the course of the year and your residence remains in the UK, you will need to comply with any new rules introduced for UK visitors to the EU in the future. At the moment, we know that in the event the UK leaves the EU without a deal, the EU has proposed that UK residents will be able to visit the EU visa-free for up to 90 days in a 180 day period. Follow the information on our travel advice page to keep up to date on this issue |
| (Vince) I spend over 90 days in Spain, but less than 183. I am finding it impossible to get health insurance as a diabetic. | Hi Vince, without knowing your full circumstances, it is hard for us to provide a personal answer. We understand from your question that you are a resident in the UK. If this is the case, you can use your UK-issued EHIC to access any necessary treatment while you are in Spain.  If the UK leaves the EU with a deal, your UK EHIC will continue to be valid during the transition period and the UK wants to be continue to be part of the scheme in the future too.  If the UK leaves the EU without a deal, you will need comprehensive travel insurance as your UK-issued EHIC may not be valid after 29 March. If you cannot get comprehensive travel insurance due to pre-existing conditions, you should consider whether you would be able to cover the potential costs of medical treatment if the EHIC no longer covers you. In the event that the EHIC is no longer valid, the UK will not be able to reimburse treatment costs incurred after 29 March 2019. |
| (Alison) How might the different scenarios affect those who are non-resident, but own a house here? Are there any provisions from the Spanish government for this? | Hi Alison, thanks for your question. If the UK leaves the EU with a deal, as is the government’s intention, travel to the EU will remain the same as now during the transition period.  In a no-deal scenario, the rules for travelling to Europe will change after 29 March 2019. The European Commission has already proposed that in a no deal situation, British citizens would not need a visa for short stays in the Schengen area or elsewhere in the EU, therefore you would be able to stay for up to 90 days in any 180-day period visa-free. Staying longer than 90 days in the Schengen area will continue to be an option,however, you may need to get a visa before you travel. It will be for the Spanish to announce what entry requirements will apply. We’ll update our Travel Advice and Living in Spain page once further information is announced: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/advice-for-british-nationals-travelling-and-living-in-europe>  <https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/spain/entry-requirements> |
| (Diana) How will I be able to be in Spain for up to 6 months, but not as a permanent resident? Will the 90 days in any 6-month period apply? Does this mean that after 90 days you are not allowed to return for another 3 months at least? | Hi Diana, If the UK leaves the EU with a deal, as is the government’s intention, travel to the EU will remain the same as now during the transition period. In a no-deal scenario, the rules for travelling to Europe will change after 29 March 2019. The European Commission has proposed that in a no-deal situation, British citizens would not need a visa for short stays in the Schengen area or elsewhere in the EU, therefore you would be able to stay for up to 90 days in any 180-day period visa-free. Staying longer than 90 days in the Schengen area will continue to be an option, however, you may need to get a visa before you travel. It will be for the Spanish to announce what entry requirements will apply. We’ll update our Travel Advice and Living in Spain page once further information is announced: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/advice-for-british-nationals-travelling-and-living-in-europe>  <https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/spain/entry-requirements> |
| (David) Will Spain be considering offering a visa to English property owners that are retired and would like to spend more than 90 days and less than 180 days here? | Hi David, we received many questions about this and we know it’s important to many of you. The European Commission has proposed that in a no-deal situation, British citizens would not need a visa for short stays in the Schengen area or elsewhere in the EU therefore you would be able to stay for up to 90 days in any 180-day period visa-free. Staying longer than 90 days in the Schengen area will continue to be an option, however, you may need to get a visa before you travel. It will be for the Spanish to announce what entry requirements will apply. We’ll update our Travel Advice and Living in Spain page once further information is announced: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/advice-for-british-nationals-travelling-and-living-in-europe>  <https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/spain/entry-requirements> |
| (Sandra) As a 3rd country national will we be able to apply for a non-lucrative/retiree visa, so we can stay for 5/6 months in our homes? | Hi Sandra. If the UK leaves the EU with a deal, as is the government’s intention, travel to the EU will remain the same as now during the transition period. In a no deal scenario, the rules for travelling to Europe will change after 29 March 2019. The European Commission has proposed that in a no-deal situation, British citizens would not need a visa for short stays in the Schengen area or elsewhere in the EU therefore you would be able to stay for up to 90 days in any 180-day period visa-free. Staying longer than 90 days in the Schengen area will continue to be an option, however, you may need to get a visa before you travel. It will be for the Spanish to announce what entry requirements will apply. We’ll update our Travel Advice and Living in Spain page once further information is announced: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/advice-for-british-nationals-travelling-and-living-in-europe>  <https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/spain/entry-requirements> |
| (Diana) As a UK resident, spending up to 5 months a year in Spain will I only be able to spend up to 90 days in Spain at one time and if so when can one return? | Hi Diana, thanks for your question on this. If the UK leaves the EU with a deal, as is the government’s intention, travel to the EU will remain the same as now during the transition period. In a no-deal scenario, the rules for travelling to Europe will change after 29 March 2019. The European Commission has proposed that in a no-deal situation, British citizens would not need a visa for short stays in the Schengen area or elsewhere in the EU therefore you would be able to stay for up to 90 days in any 180-day period visa-free. Staying longer than 90 days in the Schengen area will continue to be an option, however, you may need to get a visa before you travel. It will be for the Spanish to announce what entry requirements will apply. We’ll update our Travel Advice and Living in Spain page once further information is announced: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/advice-for-british-nationals-travelling-and-living-in-europe>  <https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/spain/entry-requirements> |

**Nationality**

https://www.gov.uk/dual-citizenship

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| (Claire) Can I give up my British citizenship for a Spanish one? | Hi Claire. Acquiring a new nationality is a personal decision therefore we recommend that you consider getting professional advice about the implications of taking out Spanish citizenship as a British national in Spain, before initiating what can be a lengthy process. Information regarding this process and about the necessary requirements can be found here:  <http://www.exteriores.gob.es/Portal/es/ServiciosAlCiudadano/InformacionParaExtranjeros/Paginas/Nacionalidad.aspx>  All British citizens automatically retain their citizenship irrespective of how long they are absent from the UK. The only way to lose citizenship is due to criminality, national security reasons or if the person specifically wishes to do so and applies to the Home Office to renounce their British citizenship. Please see here for further information: <https://www.gov.uk/renounce-british-nationality> |
| (Sandra) I’m British, but my children were both born here. Can they have both UK and Spanish passports? | Hi Sandra. Yes, your children can be holders of both a Spanish and UK passport at the same time. As you state in your message, your children were born in Spain and are therefore considered Spanish nationals to the Spanish Authorities. However, they are also entitled to a British passport as they are British by descent. For further information on British child passports please see here: <https://www.gov.uk/get-a-child-passport> <https://www.gov.uk/overseas-passports> |
| (Steve) I am British, married to a Spaniard. Our three children have British passports. Am I protected and should I change the nationality of my children? | Hi Steve. If the UK leaves the EU with a deal, as is the intention of the UK government, and you are correctly registered as a resident in Spain, you will be covered by the Withdrawal Agreement which protects the rights of UK nationals to live and work in Spain more or less as they do now. This is irrespective of you being married to a Spaniard. However, you must ensure you are correctly registered as a resident and in possession of a green A4 or credit card sized piece of paper that proves you are registered with the *Registro Central de Extranjeros*.  In a no deal scenario, the Spanish government have said they will protect the rights of UK nationals, but we await the publication of their full contingency plans to know their specific provisions for UK nationals. As a family member of an EU citizen you may have additional residence rights. [This page](https://europa.eu/youreurope/citizens/residence/family-residence-rights/index_en.htm) may be helpful to find out more.  Regarding your children and their nationality, it is unclear from your message if they were born in the UK or in Spain. If the former applies and they were born in the UK to UK and Spanish parents, and their birth was correctly registered with the Spanish consulate in the UK, they could apply for a Spanish passport by descent. If the latter applies and they were born in Spain, they are therefore considered to be Spanish nationals by the Spanish Authorities as Spain does not recognise dual nationality with UK nationals. In this case, they would of course be entitled to a Spanish passport. |
| (Stuart) If I become a Spanish national, how would that affect me if I wanted to return to the UK eg if a family member became sick? | Hi Stuart. Acquiring a new nationality is a personal decision therefore we recommend that you consider getting professional advice on the implications of taking out Spanish citizenship as a British national in Spain, before initiating what can be a lengthy process. Information regarding this process and about the necessary requirements can be found here:  <http://www.exteriores.gob.es/Portal/es/ServiciosAlCiudadano/InformacionParaExtranjeros/Paginas/Nacionalidad.aspx>  All British citizens automatically retain their citizenship irrespective of how long they are absent from the UK. The only way to lose citizenship is due to criminality, national security reasons or if the person specifically wishes to do so and applies to the Home Office to renounce their British citizenship. Please see here for further information: <https://www.gov.uk/renounce-british-nationality>.  Therefore, unless you formally renounce your British citizenship, you retain the right of abode in the UK, which means you’re allowed to live or work in the UK without any immigration restrictions. Access to social security in the UK will be subject to meeting the conditions of entitlement and, for some benefits, the habitual residence criteria. |
| (Jayne) Will having Spanish nationality mean we lose any British benefits (eg going back to live there)? | Hi Jayne. Acquiring a new nationality is a personal decision therefore we recommend that you consider getting professional advice on the implications of taking out Spanish citizenship as a British national in Spain, before initiating what can be a lengthy process. Information regarding this process and about the necessary requirements can be found here:  <http://www.exteriores.gob.es/Portal/es/ServiciosAlCiudadano/InformacionParaExtranjeros/Paginas/Nacionalidad.aspx>  All British citizens automatically retain their citizenship irrespective of how long they are absent from the UK. The only way to lose British citizenship is due to criminality, national security reasons or if the person specifically wishes to do so and applies to the Home Office to renounce their British citizenship. Please see here for further information: <https://www.gov.uk/renounce-british-nationality>.  Therefore, unless you formally renounce your British citizenship, you automatically have the right of abode in the UK, which means you’re allowed to live or work in the UK without any immigration restrictions. This means you will not need a visa to go to the UK and there is no limit on the length of time you can spend in the country. Access to social security in the UK will be subject to meeting the conditions of entitlement and, for some benefits, the habitual residence criteria. |
| (Clare) After 42 years resident and married in Menorca, will I have to change my British nationality? | Hi Clare. There is no obligation for you to change your nationality, irrespective of whether the UK leaves the EU with or without a deal. If the UK leaves the EU with a deal, as is the government’s intention, those correctly registered will have their rights in Spain protected under the Withdrawal Agreement and will be able to live and work in Spain more or less as they do now. However, you must ensure you are correctly registered as a resident and in possession of a green A4 or credit card sized piece of paper that proves you are registered with the *Registro Central de Extranjeros*.  In a no deal scenario, the Spanish government have said they will look to protect the rights of UK nationals but we await the publication of their full contingency plans to know their specific advice to UK nationals who are working here.  Taking out citizenship is a personal decision therefore we recommend that you consider getting professional advice on the implications of taking out Spanish citizenship as a British national in Spain, before initiating what can be a lengthy process. Information regarding this process and about the necessary requirements can be found here:  <http://www.exteriores.gob.es/Portal/es/ServiciosAlCiudadano/InformacionParaExtranjeros/Paginas/Nacionalidad.aspx> |

**Education**

<http://www.lamoncloa.gob.es/lang/en/brexit/howtoprepare/Paginas/190109educacionyuniv.aspx>

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| (Kirsty) Having done the teaching masters degree here, if the convocatoria hasn’t been opened before Brexit, will I be allowed to do the secondary school oposiciones exams? | Hi Kirsty. As you might be aware, Spanish civil service jobs in Spain are, on current rules, only open to those who have EU citizenship and their spouses/partners. Whether UK nationals will be able to hold and apply for such jobs once the UK has left the EU will be for the Spanish government to decide. We hope to have more information on this once their contingency law is publicised later this month, but in the meantime you may wish to check yourself with the Spanish authorities. |

**Voting**

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/living-in-spain#voting>

http://www.lamoncloa.gob.es/lang/en/brexit/howtoprepare/Paginas/190109sufrage.aspx

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| (Trudi) Can you clarify if we can vote in the municipal and European parliament elections? | Hi Trudi. Once the UK leaves the EU, UK nationals will no longer be eligible to vote in European elections. However, the UK and Spanish governments have agreed and signed a bilateral treaty which protects the right of UK nationals to vote and stand as a candidate in local elections in Spain. In order to do so, you must be registered on the municipal register where you live (padrón municipal) and have formally declared your wish to vote in municipal elections. You can do this at the same office where you register on the padrón by completing a simple form to register on the local electoral roll. Check the Living in Spain guide for more information. |

**Pets**

<https://www.gov.uk/take-pet-abroad>

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/pet-travel-to-europe-after-brexit>

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| (Sue) We have two dogs – one with English passport and one with Spanish. We are due to go back to the UK from May to September. Will the current rules change? | Hi Sue – we know how important this is to many people. UK nationals will still be able to travel to and from the UK with a pet (cat, dog or ferret) when the UK leaves the EU, but the rules will change if the UK leaves the EU without a deal. You can find more detailed information [here](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/pet-travel-to-europe-after-brexit). |

**Travel**

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/uk-nationals-travelling-to-eu-essential-information#latest-updates>

<https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/spain>

<http://www.lamoncloa.gob.es/lang/en/brexit/howtoprepare/Paginas/190109viajar.aspx>

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| (Janet) How will a no deal affect flights to and from Spain? | Hi Janet. Flights to and from Spain should not be affected, however, we advise following FCO travel advice on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/fcotravel) and signing up for travel advice alerts at <https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/spain> |
| (Peter) When ETIAs are introduced, as a Spanish resident will I need to complete the documentation if I go to the UK to enable me to return? | Hi Peter, good question. UK nationals who are resident in the EU, so in this case Spain, and who are covered by the Withdrawal Agreement will not be required to have an ETIAS once this scheme is introduced. |
| (Stuart) Are we safe to travel to England at the end of June or should we stay put? | Hi Stuart. There is no reason for you not to travel to the UK at the end of June. In a deal scenario, travel between the UK and Spain will continue as it is now until the end of 2020. In the event of a no deal you will still be able to travel but should be aware that to re-enter the Schengen area you may need to have at least 6 months’ validity on your passport. If you live in Spain, it would also be a good idea to have your residency document on you when you are travelling back to Spain |
| (Ruth) I live in the Canaries and have a flight from Athens to London on 29 March and London to La Palma on 30 March. I have Spanish residency and a UK passport with more than 6 months on it. Am I ok to travel? | Hi Ruth. You should be fine to travel. If the UK leaves the EU with a deal, there will be no changes to the current rules for travel during the transition period. In a no-deal scenario, we don’t yet know if UK nationals who are resident in Spain would be asked for proof of residency when re-entering Spain, so it might be a good idea to take this with you as well. You can keep up with the latest news by registering for email alerts for our Living in Spain page and by following Brits in Spain on Facebook. And, as always, keep up to date with the airline’s news and advice. They should advise you if there’s any issues with your particular flights. |
| (Lee) As a UK passport holder with Spanish residency, will I be able to travel freely within Schengen whilst respecting member states’ 90-day rule? | That’s right Lee. If there is a deal then UK nationals will be able to travel in the EU broadly as they do now during the implementation period that takes us up to the end of December 2020. If the UK leaves the EU without a deal the EU has proposed that if you are a British Citizen, you would not need a visa for short stays in the Schengen area. You would be able to stay for up to 90 days in any 180-day period. If you are intending to stay in the Schengen area for longer than 90 days, or your stay would take you over the 90 days in the 180-day limit, then you may need to get a visa before you travel. |
| (Erica) What happens if you live in Spain and visit relatives in the UK? What paperwork will you need to re-enter Spain? | Hi Erica. If the UK leaves with a deal, as the government anticipates, you will be able to continue to travel between the UK and Spain as you do now throughout the transition period (e.g. until the end of 2020). It is only in a no deal that the rules might change slightly after 29 March this year. In this scenario, you may need to have at least 6 months’ validity on your passport when re-entering Spain. We are waiting for further details from the Spanish Government on whether, in this scenario, residents in Spain would also need to show their residency document, together with their passport.. |
| (Jayne) I’m travelling to Italy over 29 March. Will I have problems returning to Spain? I am a legal resident. | Hi Jayne - you shouldn’t have any problems returning to Spain, as long as all your paperwork is in order. We advise travelling with your registration certificate as well as your passport and do make sure your passport has at least six months’ validity remaining on it. |
| (Barrie) My passport expires in 2020. Can I continue to use it until then or should I get a new one? | Barrie, there is no need to get a new British passport until your current one expires. However, if the UK leaves the EU without a deal, any UK national travelling into the Schengen area will need 6 months’ validity on their passport. It is also important to note that if your passport is valid for more than 10 years (e.g. for 10 years and 3 months), any extra months’ validity will not be recognised. For any doubt, have a look at the [online passport checker](https://www.passport.service.gov.uk/check-a-passport) |
| (Graeme) Once we have the new TIE card, will we be exempt from applying and holding the 3-year electronic visa providing we do not visit other EU countries? | Hi Graeme – I think you’re talking about the ETIAS scheme here (which is a kind of visa-waiver registration system for some travellers to the EU which is due to come into force in 2021). If you are correctly registered in Spain and fall under the Withdrawal Agreement, you will not need to apply for an ETIAS. |
| (Nick) If I’m a Spanish resident and want to travel in Europe for a few months, does my Schengen zone clock only start once I leave Spain? | Hi Nick – yes, the clock starts ticking once you leave your country of residence! |
| (Penelope) Is the 90-day rule for one country or the whole Schengen zone? Important for people driving through France | Good question Penelope. So, to give you the short answer – the 90-day rule is for the whole Schengen zone not individual countries. If the UK leaves with a deal, travel to the EU will remain the same as now until at least 31 December 2020. You will not need to apply for a visa to travel or work in the EU during this time. The [European Commission](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-18-6402_en.htm) has proposed that in a no deal situation, if you are a British Citizen, you would not need a visa for short stays in the Schengen area or elsewhere in the EU. You would be able to stay for up to 90 days in any 180-day period. Visits to the [Schengen area](https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/sites/homeaffairs/files/e-library/docs/schengen_brochure/schengen_brochure_dr3111126_en.pdf) within the previous 180 days before your date of travel will count against the 90-day limit. Also be aware that the International Drivers permit is different in France to Spain, so worth having a look at https://www.gov.uk/guidance/prepare-to-drive-in-the-eu-after-brexit |

**Driving**

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/living-in-spain#driving-in-spain>

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/prepare-to-drive-in-the-eu-after-brexit>

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| (Kamey) I have a NIE, but do I have to have permanent residence to transfer to a Spanish licence if the UK leaves without a deal? | Hi Karney. You must be resident (ie holding the green certificate or credit card-sized piece of paper), but it doesn’t have to have permanent on it. If you are living in Spain, then you must register as a resident and we advise you exchange your UK licence now., But if you come to Spain as a visitor, then you may need an international Driving Permit to drive in the EU instead. You can apply for this at the post office. You can find more info on gov.uk on the page [“Prepare to drive in the EU after Brexit”](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/prepare-to-drive-in-the-eu-after-brexit) |
| (Wayne) We have been advised to exchange our driving licences, but there are no appointments. Any suggestions? | Thanks for flagging this Wayne. We are aware that there is a backlog in appointments. One option is to use a gestor, who sometimes have slots already booked. While we were doing the Q&A session, on the feed other UK nationals said choosing the ‘renovación’ option, rather than ‘canje’ has worked for them to get the appointment they needed. It may also be worth going to your nearest centre in person, as well as trying online. In any case if you cannot get an appointment until after the end of March, keep it and keep proof of your appointment. |
| (Alyson) If you can’t swap your licence before 29 March will you have to take a test? | Hi Alyson. If the UK leaves the EU with a deal, as is the government’s intention, your UK licence will continue to be recognised during the transition period. The Spanish government has not yet announced how it will treat UK licences in the event the UK leaves the EU without a deal and we expect there will be further detail on this in their contingency plans, therefore we can’t say whether you would need to take a test of not. Our advice is to make an appointment now to show when you tried to swap over |
| (Caroline, Laura) If I change to a Spanish driving licence to drive here, what does that mean when I go to the UK to drive my UK-based car there? | A number of people have asked this question and it’s a straightforward one! If you exchange your UK licence for a Spanish one, you will be able to use your Spanish licence in the UK if you go back to visit. There is more information on this on [gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/living-in-spain#driving-in-spain) |
| (Susan) I am travelling to the UK by car and ferry in the summer. Will we be able to drive our Spanish car on a Spanish driving license? | Hi Susan. Yes, you will be able to use your Spanish licence in the UK when you go back to visit. |
| (Denise) I have exchanged my UK licence for a Spanish one. If we returned to the UK would we have to re-sit our tests? And for visiting will our Spanish driving licences be accepted? | Hi Denise, thanks for your question. If you move back to the UK, you can exchange your Spanish licence back to a UK one without needing to take a test (if you originally passed your test in the UK, the EEA or another designated country). For visiting, you will be able to use your Spanish licence in the UK. More information is available on gov.uk [here](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/prepare-to-drive-in-the-eu-after-brexit). |
| (Sam) Do you have to be resident for 2 years before you can change your driving licence? | Hi Sam. Under the current rules, if you have the old paper-style UK driving licence, you are obliged to do so after two years but don’t have to wait this long to make the change. No matter what kind of UK licence you currently hold, we recommend exchanging it for a Spanish one as soon as you can. |
| (Kate) We live in Spain for less than 6 months each year as we are resident in Australia (dual UK/Australian citizens). Do we need to exchange our UK licences? | Hi Kate. If you are resident in Australia and come to Spain as a visitor, then you don’t need to exchange your licence for a Spanish one. However, if the UK leaves the EU without a deal, you might need an International Driving Permit (IDP) in order to use your UK licence in Spain while you are here. You would need to check with the authorities in Australia whether they would be able to issue you with the relevant IDP. |
| (Walt) I have a Spanish car and drive on a UK licence. Will this change? | Thanks for your question Walt. If you are resident in Spain then we recommend exchanging your UK licence for a Spanish to protect your right to continue to drive in Spain and throughout the EU, no matter what the scenario. |
| (Ann, Simon) Can I drive in the UK on a Spanish licence? | Ann, Simon. Yes, you certainly can. |

**Work**

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/living-in-spain#working-in-spain>

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| (Jenny) What will happen to the working rights of people already living and working in Spain? | We’re sure many people have the same question Jenny, so thanks for asking. The Withdrawal Agreement protects the right of UK nationals to live and work in Spain more or less as they do now. However, you must make sure you are correctly registered as a resident to ensure you keep this right. In a no deal scenario, the Spanish government have said they will look to protect the rights of UK nationals but we await the publication of their full contingency plans to know their specific advice to UK nationals who are working here. Sign up for email updates on our [Living in Spain guide](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/living-in-spain) to be alerted as and when more information on this is added. |
| (Nikki) What paperwork/work permit will people need to continue their jobs in Spain? | Hi Nikki. If the UK leaves the EU with a deal, as is the intention of the UK government, and you are correctly registered as a resident in Spain, you can continue to work and pay social security contributions here as you do now. On their Brexit website, the Spanish government have said that, at some point, they will be introducing a new residence card for UK nationals who are correctly registered which will demonstrate that they fall under the Withdrawal Agreement and therefore continue to have the right to work in Spain. We don’t yet know when this card will be introduced or the process to get it, but we’ll update our [Living in Spain guide](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/living-in-spain) with more information once this becomes available. In a no-deal scenario, it will be for the Spanish to announce what changes, if any, there would be for UK nationals working in Spain. This information is not yet available but they have stressed that they are keen to protect the rights of UK nationals living here should the UK leave without a deal. Again, we’ll update our Living in Spain page once further information is announced. |
| (Kate) I am an autonomo translator. Can I continue to work for clients in other EU countries. | Hi Kate, thanks for your question. Under the Withdrawal Agreement, there would be a transition period from the end of March this year until the end of December 2020. During this time, you should be able to continue working as you do now. The next round of negotiations will determine what the future relationship will be between the UK and the EU in terms of citizens’ rights and business regulations. In the event the UK leaves without a deal, we can only provide general advice here as each business set up is different. We suggest looking at the technical notices produced by both the UK government and the European Commission as a starting point for information. Once the Spanish release further information on their no-deal contingency plans, this might also be of interest. And depending on which countries your clients are based in, and the exact nature of your work with them, you might also wish to check those countries’ no deal plans and their provisions for UK nationals who wish to undertake work there. |

**Other**

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| (Robert) We are planning to semi-retire to the Canaries in the future. Are we likely to have to prove minimum income, savings etc as third country nationals currently do? | Hi Robert, thanks for your question. If the UK leaves the EU with a deal, as is the UK government’s intention, UK nationals will still be able to move to Spain as they do now during the transition period (so until the end of December 2020) but they will need to ensure they are correctly registered as a resident by the end of that period. Unfortunately we do not have confirmation as yet as to what the future immigration rules will be for UK nationals moving to Spain after the end of the transition period (so from 2021 onwards) as this will be part of the future relationship negotiations. If the UK leaves the EU without a deal, UK nationals who move to Spain after 29 March may have to meet different residency requirements from those currently in place but we are awaiting further information from the Spanish authorities on this matter. Sign up for our [Living in Spain guide](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/living-in-spain) email alerts to keep up to date on any changes to the registration system. |
| (Warren) We have an apartment here and intend to retire there in 5 years. We would ideally like to work part time. How will we be affected? | Hi Warren, good question although I’m afraid we don’t have all the answers on this at the moment. We do not have confirmation yet on what the future immigration rules will be for UK nationals moving to Spain after the end of the transition period (so from 2021 onwards) as this will be part of the future relationship negotiations between the UK and EU. If the UK leaves the EU without a deal, UK nationals who move to Spain after 29 March of this year may have to meet different residency requirements from those currently in place but we are awaiting further information from the Spanish authorities on this matter. Sign up for our [Living in Spain guide](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/living-in-spain) email alerts to keep up to date on any changes to the registration system. |
| (Julie) We plan to retire to our property (previously a holiday home) full time in April. What do we need to do now? | Thanks for your question Julie. If the UK leaves the EU with a deal, then you will be moving to Spain during the transition period. You will need to ensure you register as a resident once you are living in Spain. The Spanish government have said on their [Brexit website](http://www.lamoncloa.gob.es/lang/en/brexit/howtoprepare/Paginas/190108residence.aspx) that UK nationals who arrive to live in Spain during the transition period will be issued with a new Foreigner’s Identity Card, which will demonstrate they fall under the Withdrawal Agreement. But we are waiting on more information about when these cards will start to be issued and the process for obtaining one. If the UK leaves the EU without a deal, UK nationals who move to Spain after 29 March of this year may have to meet different residency requirements from those currently in place but again we are awaiting further information from the Spanish authorities on this. No matter what happens, check our [Living in Spain guide](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/living-in-spain) on gov.uk (and consider signing up for email alerts) to see the latest information on residency requirements |
| (Billy) Will dual tax agreements still be in place? | Billy, yes it will. The UKs double taxation agreement with Spain is in no way dependent upon membership of the EU and therefore will continue to ensure that an individual is able to claim tax relief rather than have to pay tax on the same income in two different jurisdictions. |
| (Liz) I’m thinking of selling my flat and returning to the UK. If you currently do this within the EU you don’t pay capital gains tax. Will that still apply after Brexit or in the transition period? | Hi Liz, as I’m sure you’re aware tax can be quite complicated and we’re just not trained to provide information on this. Our recommendation is to seek professional tax advice on this one. |
| (Judy) I am a US citizen married to a UK citizen. We both have residency since 2016. Will I be afforded the same healthcare and other rights as my husband? | Hi Judy, in the event the UK leaves the EU with a deal, which is what both the UK and EU are working for, as a third country spouse of a UK national, already registered as a resident in Spain, you will also be protected by the citizens’ rights aspects of the Withdrawal Agreement. If the UK leaves the EU without a deal, the UK cannot unilaterally protect all the rights of UK nationals living in the EU and their family members, so here we need to look to the Spanish authorities for further information.We expect more information on their contingency plans in the coming weeks but in the meantime, they have said on their [Brexit website](http://www.lamoncloa.gob.es/lang/en/brexit/howtoprepare/Paginas/190108residence.aspx) that these contingency plans will protect the legal residency status of UK nationals and their family members. The only action to take now is to ensure you are correctly registered as a resident, which it sounds like you are. |
| (Simon) Will there be any change for a Spanish SL company invoicing UK ltd companies? | That’s a hard one Simon and it’s outside our remit of Citizens’ Rights. In the event the UK leaves the EU with deal, in general terms, during the transition period, arrangements for both citizens and business will remain more or less the same. The future relationship negotiations between the UK and EU will determine what the regulations will be for doing business between the EU and the UK once that transition period ends. In the event the UK leaves without a deal, you might find some of the technical notices that the UK government has produced helpful. Have a look at the business pages of gov.uk [here](https://euexit.campaign.gov.uk/) as a starting point. |
| (Barrie) I pay income tax in the UK and under EU regulations do not pay in Spain. Will this change? | Hi Barrie, I think you’re referring to the double taxation agreement here? If so, please be assured that this agreement is not affected by the UK’s exit from the EU. |
| (Carlos) Should those of us with assets in the UK be worried about greater taxation? | Thanks for your question Carlos. The only information we can provide about tax is that the double taxation agreement between the UK and Spain will be unaffected by the UK’s exit from the EU. For any advice beyond that, we suggest you seek professional advice from the UK or Spanish authorities, or a specialist lawyer or tax adviser. |
| (Linda) Can you comment on whether tax payments will be affected? We pay tax here as Spanish residents, but my husband pays some in the UK as an ex-teacher. | Hi Linda, the only information we can provide about tax is that the double taxation agreement between the UK and Spain will be unaffected by the UK’s exit from the EU. For any advice beyond that, we suggest you seek professional advice from the UK or Spanish authorities, or a specialist lawyer or tax adviser. |