

# After living in Spain for 10 years you can apply for Spanish nationality or citizenship.

*If you become a Spanish citizen, however, you will need to give up your original nationality and passport. You will enjoy all the same rights as other Spanish citizens, as well as become a citizen of the EU with freedom of movement throughout the EU. You can also vote in European elections.*

You have to prove that you have adequate financial resources to provide for you and your family (if applicable) and proof of public or private health insurance with a company authorised to operate in Spain. When you have this permit, you can work freely and enjoy social services and benefits in Spain. You can generally move between other EU member states for up to three months, and longer for certain purposes if you're granted a permit to do so.

If you hold a Blue Card from another EU-member state, and have lived elsewhere in the EU for the same period, this also permits you to long-term residence in Spain as long as you have lived for two years in Spain beforehand.

If you hold an EU long-term residence permit granted by another EU member state and want to stay on in Spain, you will have to relinquish your long-term residence status in the other country and apply for an EU long-term residence permit from the Foreigner's Office (Oficina de Extranjeros) in Spain. Dual nationality is recognized to South Americans, who are not obliged to renounce their original nationality to apply for the Spanish nationality.

## ***The Criteria***

Any person aged 18 years or emancipated.

The person aged than 14 years assisted by the legal representative.

The legal representative of the minor under 14 years of age or incapable, previous authorization of the authority in charge of the Spanish Civil Registry and previous statement of the Public Prosecutor.

## ***What documentation will I need?***

Your own birth certificate and your spouse's birth certificate, if you are married with a Spanish national, in which case the marriage certificate will be also required.

Consular certificate, containing the following:

- Your former nationality
- Your criminal records
- Your military situation with your home country.
- A certificate of Spanish criminal records.
- Your registration at the Spanish town Council.
- A police certificate stating the time of legal residence in Spain.

Any foreign documentation must be officially translated into Spanish and authenticated by the consulate of your country of origin.

Visit

<http://www.exteriores.gob.es/Portal/es/ServiciosAlCiudadano/SiEstasEnElExtranjero/Paginas/RegistroCivil.aspx> for more details.

*Note: This information is for guidance only and you should always seek specific legal advice from the Spanish embassy or consulate, as well as your own legal representative.*