



FAMILY REUNIFICATION VISA

OVERVIEW

Visa for family members of foreigners who already have legal resident status in Spain and who wish to exercise the right to family reunification.

This type of visa is not issued to family members of citizens of the European Union or of the Member States of the European Economic Area or of Switzerland (see “Visas for family members of EU citizens”).

Family members who can obtain a family reunification visa:

- The spouse, not separated in fact or in law, or the person who maintains a partnership with the applicant that is analogous to a marital relationship (partner entered on a public register, provided that the registration has not been cancelled, or unregistered partner provided that proof can be provided of the continuity of a cohabitation relationship established before the applicant settled in Spain).
- The children of the applicant, the children of the spouse or partner—including adopted children (provided that the adoption is valid in Spain)—and those represented legally by the applicant, provided that they are under the age of 18 or that they have disabilities and are not objectively capable of providing for their own needs due to their health status.
- The applicant's parents (mother or father) and those of their spouse or partner, provided that they are in the care of the applicant, they are older than 65 and there are reasons substantiating the need to authorize their residence in Spain. On an exceptional basis, and for humanitarian reasons, the reunification of parents under the age of 65 may be permitted.

The process must start in Spain with the sponsor requesting the **family reunification authorization** from the Foreign Office in the region where the work contract will take place.

The approval of this family reunification authorization is mandatory in order to submit your visa application.

HOW TO APPLY

All visa appointments of the Consulate General of Spain in Edinburgh will be booked only via BLS International Edinburgh web: <https://uk.blsspainvisa.com/edinburgh/>

Your non lucrative visa application must be submitted in person at BLS centre in Edinburgh on the day of the appointment, along with the rest of the required documents detailed in this checklist.

BLS centre address: **6 Dock Place, Suite 1A, Edinburgh, EH6 6LU.**



FEES

The fee for the visa application process is comprised of the following charges:

- **BLS fee:** £ 14.55
- **Visa administration fee**, to which the Principle of Reciprocity will be applied:
 - UK citizens: £516
 - Other nationalities:
<https://www.exteriores.gob.es/Consulados/edinburgo/es/Consulado/Documents/TASAS%20CONSULARES%202023.pdf>

Fees must be paid at the moment of submission, in cash or by card.

If you decide to cancel your application, or your application is refused, you will not be refunded the price of the visa application process.

TERRITORIAL JURISDICTION OF THE CONSULATE GENERAL OF SPAIN IN EDINBURGH

Your visa application will be accepted only if your place of residence falls within of our consular jurisdiction.

Our jurisdiction comprises of:

Scotland and Scottish Isles

Northern Ireland

And the following English counties:

Cleveland, Cumbria, Durham, Northumberland, Tyne & Wear and Tees Valley (Redcar and Cleveland, Stockton on Tees, Hartlepool, Darlington and Middlesbrough).

CONDITIONS OF APPLICATION

An appointment does not guarantee a visa. This Consulate General is not responsible for the expenses of the intended travel and will not accept any expenses claim in the event of a visa refusal.

Photocopies of all original documents must be provided at the time of application. Screenshots will not be considered.

Your application, passport and visa fees will be forwarded to the Consulate General of Spain in Edinburgh.

When necessary to assess the application, the Consulate General may request additional documents or information, and may also ask you to come in for a personal interview.

Due to data protection regulations, we will not provide information on the status of a visa over the phone or by email. You will need to wait to be notified within the established timeframes (see section “**DURATION OF APPLICATION**”).



LIST OF REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

1. Valid, unexpired passport. The original and a photocopy of the page/s of the passport that contain biometric data must be submitted. The passport must have a minimum validity period of 1 year and contain two blank pages. Passports issued more than 10 years ago will not be accepted.

2. One completely filled and signed National Visa Application Form.

3. A recent passport size colour photograph taken in the last 6 months, which meets the ICAO specifications: https://www.icao.int/Security/mrtd/Downloads/technical%20reports/annex_A-photograph_guidelines.pdf

4. Proof of residence in the consular district: This must be provided in document form with your name and address visible (i.e. bills, bank statements etc...).

5. For non-British citizens: UK residence permit. It can be either in form of Visa stamped on the applicant's passport or a Residency Card. Holders of a UK C-visit Visa are not eligible for applying through our Consulate.

6. Medical (Health) Certificate signed and stamped by a registered doctor. This Certificate must literally state that you, the Applicant, "does not suffer from any illness which represents a risk or a danger to the public according to the International Health Regulations of 2005".

The document must be legalised by the Hague apostille and officially translated into Spanish.

If this certificate is issued in Spain, the legalisation and translation are not required.

This certificate should be issued within three months prior to submitting the application.

The Consulate does not provide or require a specific template for the medical certificate.

7. Certificate of Good Conduct (only in the case of persons over 18 years of age), issued by the country or countries where the applicant has resided in the past five years.

Only the ACRO police certificate is valid for the UK. The disclosure Scotland certificate is not accepted for visa purposes.

The police certificate must be translated by a Sworn Translator and legalised with the Hague Apostille if the country is a signing member of the Hague Convention. If the country is not a signing member, the document must be verified by the Spanish Consulate in the country of issuance.

This certificate should be issued within six months prior to submitting the application, unless the certificate itself specifies a different expiration date.

8. Initial family reunification permit issued by the Delegation or Sub-delegation of the Government in Spain, at the applicant's request.

*The approval of this permit is mandatory in order to submit your visa application.

9. Sponsor's residence card. Certified photocopy of the applicant's Foreigner Identification Card, which must be unexpired.



10. Documents proving family relationship with the applicant.

- **Spouses:** Marriage certificate issued by the competent civil registry. In the event of second or successive marriage, proof of divorce from the previous spouse.
- **Unmarried couples:** Certificate of registration as an unmarried couple or, if the couple have not entered their relationship on a register, documents proving the couple's relationship dates back to before the applicant established their residence in Spain.
- **Children:** Birth certificate issued by the competent civil registry. In the case of the children of just one of the spouses or members of the couple, proof must also be provided that they hold sole parental authority over the child or that they have been awarded custody and that the child is effectively in their care.
- **Parents:** Birth certificate of the applicant or of the spouse or partner issued by the competent civil registry and documents substantiating the reasons for which it was necessary to authorize their residence in Spain. Among other documents, proof must be provided that, over the past year, the applicant has transferred funds to or covered expenses incurred by the parent representing, at least, 51% of the per capita GDP of the parent's country of residence. Moreover, proof must be submitted of the annual income and properties owned by the parent and information on other direct family members who are resident in the country.

*Foreign documents must be legalized or apostilled and, where applicable, must be submitted together with an official translation into Spanish.

11. In order to have your passport delivered, the following options are available:

A pre-paid Special Delivery envelope for up to 500 g. provided by the applicant from the Post Office; or a BLS Guaranteed courier service, provided by BLS the day of your appointment.

SWORN TRANSLATIONS AND LEGALISATIONS

All foreign public documents must be legalized or apostilled to be valid in Spain and, where applicable, must be submitted together with an official translation into Spanish.

The Hague Apostille is a simplified procedure that has the same purpose as legalization and is applied between the States party to the Convention of 5 October 1961, which abolished the requirement to legalize foreign public documents.

- In order to obtain more information about the procedure of the Hague Apostille legalisation, you can visit the British government website in charge of this type of legalisation.
- Translations can be done by a sworn translator registered in Spain. You can find a registered sworn translator at our website:
<https://www.exteriores.gob.es/es/ServiciosAlCiudadano/Paginas/Traductores-Interpretes-Jurados.aspx>



*The document should be legalised first and then translated afterwards. The Hague Apostille does **not** need to be translated, **nor** does the translation need to be legalised. **It is only the original documents that need legalising and translating.***

OUTSTANDING DOCUMENTS

Make sure you have all the documents detailed in this checklist ready the day of your visa appointment.

Your visa application may not be accepted if more than two required documents of this checklist are missing on the day of your appointment. If the application is not accepted, a new appointment will be required.

In the event that the ACRO certificate and/or the medical certificate are missing the day of your appointment, **you must post them to BLS** as soon as you obtain them **legalised and translated**, along with its photocopies and a copy of your passport as a reference.

DURATION OF APPLICATION

The period for reaching a decision is 2 months from the day after the application submission date, but this period may be extended when an interview or additional documents are requested.

PASSPORT WITHDRAWAL WHILE THE VISA IS IN PROCESS

During the visa processing time the passport is secured in the Consulate General.

Passports can be withdrawn during this period if a signed written request is forwarded to the Consulate **through BLS**. The passport will then be returned via **BLS**, within 1 working day. No passports can be withdrawn directly from the Consulate.

Once you no longer require your passport, it should be sent back to BLS as soon as possible in order to finish the visa process. If you remove your passport towards the end of your visa application, it can cause short delays to your obtaining your visa, yet we will continue processing the application even whilst the passport has been withdrawn. **We do require the passport in order to issue the visa at the end of the process**, if your application has been successful.

Alternatively, on the day of your appointment, if you will require your passport for any reason (e.g. upcoming travel, form of identification), you are allowed to keep your passport with you, as long as you have presented the physical passport at your appointment. When you no longer require the passport, you must send it back as soon as possible to Consulate General (to the attention of the Visa Department) in order to continue the application process. Retaining the passport can cause short delays to obtaining your visa. If you would like to select this option please let the staff member know during the appointment.

You **must be in United Kingdom** when receiving your visa.



AFTER OBTAINING THE VISA

If your visa application is granted, then you will obtain a 90 day Visa. This visa will appear as a sticker inside your passport.

This period indicated on your visa sticker is the time you have to enter Spain and once there, you have one month to apply for the TIE (Tarjeta de Identidad de Extranjero). You will need to go in person to the “Policia Nacional” or to the “Oficina de Extranjería” corresponding to your place of residence. You can find more info on the following website: <http://www.interior.gob.es/web/servicios-al-ciudadano/extranjeria/regimen-general/tarjeta-de-identidad-de-extranjero>

Remember: that your passport needs to be stamped when you get to the border. Otherwise, the TIE could be refused and so could your legal right to stay in Spain.

SIGNATURES and AGREEMENT

1. For Visa Applicant:

I HAVE READ AND AGREED TO THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS VALID FOR THE VISA APPLICATION AS PER ABOVE.

I HAVE COMPLETED THIS APPLICATION TOGETHER WITH BLS STAFF AND I AM AWARE THAT NOT SUBMITTING ANY OF THE REQUIRED DOCUMENTS MAY LEAD TO REFUSAL OF VISA APPLICATION.

2. For BLS staff:

APPLICANT HAS BEEN INFORMED OF THE ABOVE. THE REMARKS HAVE BEEN COMPLETED TOGETHER WITH APPLICANT.

Applicant's name:

Signature:

Date:

Checked by (BLS staff):

Signature:

Date: