

Residence Card for Family Members of an EU Citizen



Requirements, procedure
and documentation checklist
for the application, step by step

What is residence as a family member of an EU citizen?

A residence permit for family members of citizens of the European Union, the European Economic Area and Switzerland who wish to reside in Spain for more than three months, when accompanying or joining the EU citizen.

The application is submitted from Spain, within three months of the date of entry into Spanish territory. The card is generally granted for a period of five years. After two years of legal, effective and continuous residence, and provided the other legal requirements are met, nationals of Ibero-American countries may apply for Spanish nationality. Alternatively, after five years of residence, and provided the applicable requirements are also met (more flexible than the above), a long-term residence authorisation or an EU long-term residence authorisation may be requested.

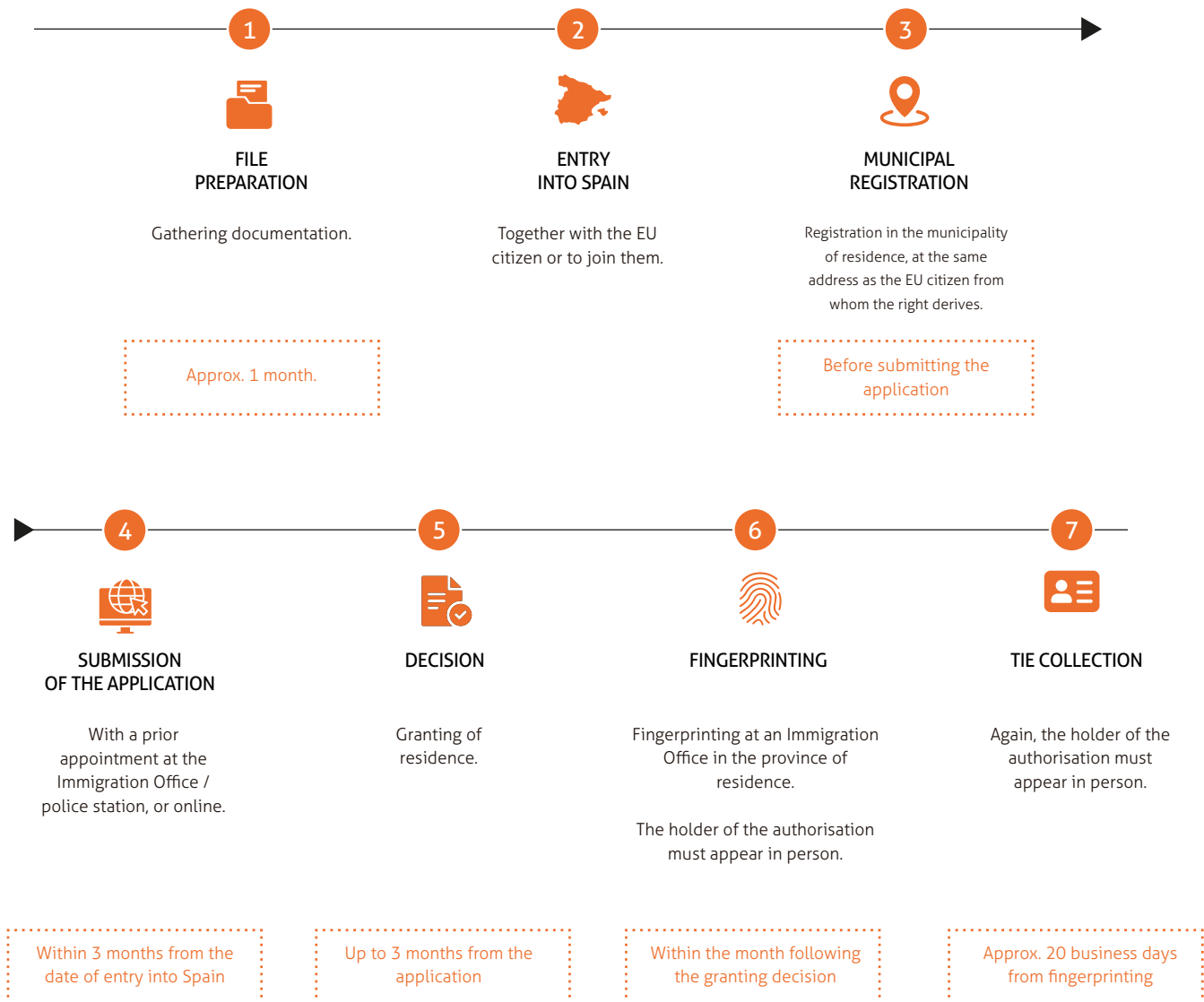
Who is it for?

- Spouses and stable partners (registered or not), provided the relationship is maintained under the legally required terms.
- Direct descendants and those of the spouse or registered partner: under 21 years of age, or older if dependent or with a disability.
- Direct ascendants of the EU citizen or of their spouse or partner, when they are dependants.
- Certain members of the extended family and unregistered stable partners, when dependency, cohabitation, a durable relationship or the specific required circumstances are evidenced.
- In the case of family members of Spanish citizens, the EU regime requires that the Spanish citizen has exercised their right to free movement; otherwise, the specific regime for family members of Spaniards may apply.

Requirements

- Accompany or join the EU citizen in Spain and evidence the family relationship or link that gives rise to the EU regime.
- The EU citizen must be in one of the following situations: an employed or self-employed worker; have sufficient financial means and health insurance; or be a student with health insurance and sufficient means for themselves and their family members.
- In the case of dependent family members, evidence the dependency under the terms required by the regulations. The dependency must exist in the country of origin.
- In the case of an unregistered partner, evidence a stable relationship and a durable bond; this is generally considered evidenced through at least one continuous year of marital cohabitation, unless there are common children and stable cohabitation is evidenced.

Step-by-step procedure and key deadlines



IMPORTANT: WHEN THE EU CITIZEN AND THEIR FAMILY MEMBER RELOCATE TO SPAIN TOGETHER, BOTH PROCEDURES MUST BE COORDINATED. FIRST, THE EU CITIZEN MUST OBTAIN THEIR EU CITIZEN REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE (CUE), AS THIS DOCUMENT MUST LATER BE SUBMITTED WITH THE APPLICATION FOR THE FAMILY MEMBER'S RESIDENCE CARD.

The success of an application depends on a detailed analysis of the particular circumstances of each case. The information contained in this document is provided for informational purposes only and does not constitute individualised legal advice, nor does it replace such an analysis. Requirements, supporting documentation and administrative fees may vary depending on the competent authority or office and are subject to any regulatory changes that may occur.



Documentation checklist

KEY STAGE	DOCUMENTATION	RECOMMENDATIONS
1 File preparation	☐ Form EX-19. ☐ Passport and full copy. ☐ Evidence of the link with the EU citizen. ☐ EU citizen's CUE. ☐ Evidence of the specific situation and, where applicable, health insurance and financial means.	Check the specific documentation required depending on your link with the EU citizen and their situation in Spain.
2 Entry into Spain	☐ Passport. ☐ Documentation evidencing the family link. ☐ Visa, where applicable.	Keep documentation that allows you to evidence the date of entry into Spain.
3 Municipal registration	Varies by municipality and type of housing use: ☐ Rented housing: rental agreement and proof of payment of the most recent month's rent. ☐ Owned housing: land registry extract (nota simple) or title deed, and the most recent IBI (property tax) receipt.	- Book the appointment in advance, especially in large municipalities such as Madrid, Barcelona or Valencia, where high demand often limits availability. - Check the specific requirements of your municipality.
4 Submission of the application		The proof of submission serves as a provisional work permit until you receive the decision and complete the TIE formalities.
5 Decision		A favourable decision takes effect from the evidenced date of entry into Spain as a family member of an EU citizen.
6 Fingerprinting / TIE issuance	☐ Original passport and copy of the personal data page. ☐ Form EX-17. ☐ Proof of payment of fee 790-012. ☐ Certificate of municipal registration. ☐ Recent passport-size photograph.	- Book the appointment by clicking this link. - Do this well in advance, as demand is very high. - You can also check with the nearest Immigration Office when fingerprinting appointments are released.
7 TIE collection	☐ TIE application receipt. ☐ Original passport.	- Check beforehand whether the police station requires an appointment for collection. - Check online in advance which batch of cards is available for collection at your Immigration Office.



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