



Special Newsletter 2020: Brexit

**Pangea Office of Attention for
Foreign Citizen**
MANCOMUNIDAD LA VEGA



UK Citizens living in Spain: Brexit and the Transition Period

Until 31st of December 2020 we are still on the Transition Period for Brexit. The objective of this Newsletter is to inform about the procedures that UK Citizens have to follow before the end of the Transition Period if they plan to live in Spain after it is over. The negotiations are still in process, so this information is about how to be prepared for the different possible scenarios.

Currently there are two possible scenarios for UK Citizen living in Spain. In the second page of this newsletter, you will find detailed information of both scenarios.

1. British Citizen living in Spain with Residence a Certificate (Green Paper or TIE Card)

We are aware of the rumours regarding the obligation to change the Green Residency certificates for the TIE by 31st December. Please be assured that this is not the case. While the Spanish Government has highlighted that there may be some advantages to having the TIE – it is more durable, contains biometric data and may speed up administrative processes and border crossing – they made clear that the green certificate remains a valid evidence of your residency status and rights under the Withdrawal Agreement, even after the end of the Transition Period.



"[Residency FAQs](#)", video made by British Embassy in Madrid.



"[Exchanging a green certificate for a TIE](#)", video made by British Embassy in Madrid.

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2. British Citizens living in Spain: first time applicants for Residence Certificate

Until the end of the transition period, European Union's legislation on free movement will continue to apply, as determined in Title II of the Withdrawal Agreement, and all rights will be maintained until 31st December 2020 as if the United Kingdom was still a member of the European Union. Therefore, those citizens who have exercised their right to reside or work in accordance with the European Union law before the end of the transition period and who continue to do so after that period, shall have exactly the same rights under the Withdrawal Agreement as those who arrived before Brexit. Those who arrive after the end of the transition period and who are not included in it, will be considered as third-country nationals and will be subject to the provisions of the general regime for foreigners.

How to apply for the Residency for the first time?



"[Applying for Residency in Spain: What you need to know?](#)", video made by British Embassy in Madrid



"[Index questions for UK Nationals and their family members residing in Spain \(English version, updated in 21th of July 2020\)](#)", document created by Ministry of Inclusion, Social Security and Migration of the Government of Spain

Information and Support in the Alicante area: Babelia Association

The UK government has announced funding for organizations to provide practical support to UK nationals who may have difficulty completing their residency application or registration, this is pensioners, disabled people, people living in remote areas or who have mobility difficulties. The services include:

- answering questions about residency applications, such as the documents required and application procedures
- guiding individuals through the process, if necessary
- supporting people facing language barriers or difficulty accessing technology

In the Alicante area the organization is Babelia (Alicante, Valencia and Castellon)

Visit the [Babelia website](#).

Contact: +34 865 820 229 available Mon to Fri, 9am to 2pm, or by email info@asociacionbabelia.org

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Other important issues:

1. Access to Healthcare

UK Citizens living in Spain before the end of 2020, will find their rights to access the healthcare in Spain guaranteed and they will stay the same for as long as you remain a legal resident. The next guidance and Q&A session explains what you need to do depending on your circumstances.



"[Healthcare Q&A Session](#)", vídeo creado por la Embajada Británica de Madrid.



"[Guidance: Healthcare for UK nationals living in Spain](#)", web oficial del Gobierno de Reino Unido.

1. Driving License

If you are resident in Spain, you must exchange your UK driving license for a Spanish one. If you do this before 31st December 2020 you will not need to take a driving test. You will need a valid residence document to exchange your license.

The DGT is aware that the UK and other license holders are facing problems in obtaining an appointment. They will soon introduce a new process to streamline the current exchange process until the end of the year. UK license holders will be asked to complete a form with the details the DGT needs in order to verify the driving license with the UK authorities. This form must be submitted to the DGT by 25th December at the very latest. Once a person has presented their form, they will need to obtain an appointment with the DGT to finalize the exchange process. However, as long as the form is submitted by the date above, and the license verified by the DGT before the end of the year, the appointment to complete the process can be after 1st January 2021.

2. Passport

From the 1st January, passport validity rules are changing to travel to European countries. You will need to have at least 6 months left on an adult or child passport to travel to most countries in Europe (not including Ireland). If you renewed your passport early last time, any extra months added to the normal 10-year validity will not count towards meeting this requirement.

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We hope you find this information useful. For additional information, you can find our previous Newsletters in English here:



[PANGEA MLV Newsletter: presenting the Pangea Office of Attention for Foreign Citizen of Mancomunidad la Vega.](#)



[PANGEA MLV Newsletter: Rights, benefits and procedures of the Local Register \(Empadronamiento\)](#)

Contact of PANGEA Office MLV:



www.mancomunidadlavega.es



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You can also ask for a personal appointment in Social Services of your municipality:

- Algorfa: T. 966783048
- Jacarilla: T. 966772148
- Redován: T. 966755639
- San Miguel de Salinas: T. 966723115

