

Criminal record checks for non-Spanish citizens or for those with dual nationality

General rule:

Non-Spanish residents or those with dual citizenship (Spanish + another nationality) must provide a clear criminal record certificate (issued by their country of origin, translated and in accordance with the existing international agreements), based upon any of the offences included in article 13.5 from the 1/1996 Spanish Act. The scope and the issue of the aforementioned certificate depends on each country's regulations, as materialised in the Violent and Sexual Offenders' Register (already existing in many countries) or the country's Criminal Record/Register.

Specific details:

- **In the case of EU nationals**, the Spanish Central Register of Convicted Offenders will request further information on the applicant's criminal record from their country of origin to include such information in the criminal record certificate provided by the Spanish authorities.
- **In the case of non-EU nationals whose countries have no Register of Convicted Offenders**, the applicant may be asked to provide a certificate of good conduct issued by their consulate.

Requirements for the validity of official non-Spanish/foreign documents in Spain:

Unless a previous Agreement or Treaty exists that provides exemption from legalizing the documents required by any Spanish administrative procedure, these must be legalized through:

- **Apostilling** if the country issuing the document belongs to the 5th October 1961 Hague Convention, or
- **Legalised/Attested by the embassy**, if the country issuing the document does not belong to the Hague Convention.

Any official document must be provided in its Spanish translation or in any of the co-official languages in the Spanish territory.

Hague Apostille and legalisation through diplomatic channels

- **Hague Apostille:** In accordance with the Hague Convention, the only requirement for any documents issued by the States belonging to such Convention is the apostille seal/stamp.
- **Legalisation through diplomatic channels:** This procedure applies to the legalisation of official documents issued by the Hague Convention's non-member States. Any such document must be attested and legalised by the Spanish Embassy or Consulate in the country where the document has been issued, and must contain the Embassy's or Consulate's legal signature and their security label.

The Hague Convention

All the signatory countries to the 12th Convention of the Hague Conference on Private International Law (5th October 1961) **attest to the authenticity of the documents issued in other countries, if bearing the apostille.** The 'apostille' is therefore a legalisation procedure that involves adding an apostille that **attests to and certifies the authenticity of the documents issued in another country.**

[Check/consult here the countries included in the Hague Convention](#)

Translation of foreign documents

Only the following translations are valid:

- Spanish translations by a sworn translator authorised or registered in Spain or translations into any of the co-official languages in a Spanish autonomous region/community by a sworn translator duly authorised and registered in such region.
- Any translations made and revised by:
 - The Diplomatic Missions or Consular Offices of Spain abroad, which must bear their duly signed translation seal, and then must proceed to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation (Legalization Section) to legalize the translation and add the mandatory security tag/label.
 - The Diplomatic Missions or Consular Offices of the country of origin of the document in Spain, which must be apostilled or legalized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation (Legalization Section) and contain the mandatory security tag/label.