



LEXATLAS

YOUR GLOBAL LEGAL
COMPASS

Cross-Border Marriage Kit

FRA ↔ BEL

CROSS-BORDER MARIAGE KIT

FRA – BEL

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Overview

CATEGORY	FRANCE	BELGIUM
AUTHORITIES IN CHARGE	Town Hall (Mairie) – civil registrar. Banns must be posted (10 days).	Commune / État civil (House of the Registrar) – civil marriage is the only legally valid form.
COSTS	Civil ceremony is free ; extra costs apply for translations and copies.	Civil ceremony fees are modest (~ 20–40€) depending on commune; plus, translation/certification costs.
PROCESSING TIMES	Banns posting at least 10 days . File preparation: ~1–2 months depending on documents.	Marriage file check: usually 2–4 weeks . Marriage must take place within 6 months of approval.
LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS	Documents must be in French (or translated into French by a sworn translator).	Belgium has 3 official languages (French, Dutch, German). Documents must be submitted in the local commune's language .
APOSTILLE / LEGALISATION	Between France & Belgium , no apostille is required (EU Regulation 2016/1191); multilingual civil-status forms are accepted.	Same: Belgian authorities accept French certificates in multilingual extract format .
IMMIGRATION EFFECT	Belgian spouse in France → apply for VLS-TS long-stay visa , then vie privée et familiale residence card .	French spouse in Belgium → right of residence under EU free movement rules but must register at the commune of residence .

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Legal Requirements

FRANCE

- **Civil marriage** at the **Town Hall (Mairie)** is the **only legally valid** form. Religious ceremonies have **no legal effect**.
- **Where you can marry:** in the commune where at least **one spouse resides** (or where a **parent** resides). A **1-month residence link** is generally required.
- **Banns:** must be published for **10 days** at the mairie.
- **Witnesses:** minimum **2**, maximum **4**, all with valid **ID**.

Documents required (Belgian spouse):

- **Passport or Belgian ID card.**
 - **Full birth certificate** (issued within **6 months**).
 - **Certificate of no impediment to marriage** (*Certificat de capacité matrimoniale / Attest van huwelijksbekwaamheid*), issued by Belgian authorities.
 - **Proof of residence** in the French commune (utility bill, lease, or attestation).
 - If previously married → **divorce decree** or **death certificate**.
-
- **Translations:** all Belgian documents must be translated into **French** by a **sworn translator (traducteur assermenté)**, unless provided in **multilingual format**.
 - **Apostille/legalisation:** not required between France and Belgium thanks to **EU Regulation 2016/1191** (mutual recognition of civil-status documents).

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BELGIUM

- **Civil marriage** at the **commune / État civil (Registrar)** is the **only legally valid** form.
- **Eligibility:** both spouses must be at least **18 years old** and have legal capacity.
- **Declaration of marriage:** must be filed at the commune; this replaces the system of banns in Belgium.

Documents required (French spouse):

- **Passport or national ID card.**
 - **Full birth certificate** (issued within **3 months**).
 - **Certificate of Capacity to Marry (CCAM)**, issued by the **French Consulate in Belgium** (mandatory for French citizens marrying abroad).
 - **Certificate of residence/domicile.**
 - If previously married → **divorce decree** or **death certificate**.
-
- **Translations:** all French documents must be translated into the **official language of the commune** (French, Dutch, or German) by a **sworn translator**.
 - **Processing time:** after submission, the commune verifies the file; the marriage must be celebrated within **6 months** of approval.
 - **Apostille/legalisation:** not required within the EU; **multilingual civil-status forms** are valid.

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Marrying in France (with a Belgian citizen)

DOCUMENTS

- **Passports/IDs** for both spouses.
- **French spouse:** recent **birth certificate** (≤ 3 months).
- **Belgian spouse:** recent **birth certificate** (≤ 6 months) + **Certificate of no impediment to marriage** (*Certificat de capacité matrimoniale / Attest van huwelijksbekwaamheid*).
- **Proof of residence** in the French commune.
- If previously married → **divorce decree** or **death certificate**.
- **2–4 witnesses** with valid **ID**.
- **Translations:** Belgian documents must be translated into **French** by a **sworn translator**, unless presented as a **multilingual extract** (EU/CIEC).

STEPS & TIMELINE

1. **Gather documents** in both countries (allow **4–6 weeks** for Belgian certificate and translations).
2. **File submission** at the French mairie.
3. Possible **pre-marriage interview (audition)** at the mairie.
4. **Publication of banns** for **10 days**.
5. **Civil ceremony** at the mairie with **2–4 witnesses**.
6. Issue of the **French marriage certificate** and **livret de famille**.
7. If the Belgian spouse will live in France → apply for a **VLS-TS visa** (long-stay visa) and later for the **Vie privée et familiale residence card**.

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Marrying in Belgium (with a French citizen)

DOCUMENTS

- **Passports/IDs** for both spouses.
- **Belgian spouse:** recent **birth certificate** (≤ 6 months).
- **French spouse:** recent **birth certificate** (≤ 3 months) + **CCAM (Certificat de Capacité à Mariage)** from the French Consulate in Belgium.
- **Certificate of residence/domicile** for both spouses.
- If previously married → **divorce decree** or **death certificate**.
- **Translations:** French documents must be translated into the **language of the commune** (French, Dutch, or German) by a sworn translator.

STEPS & TIMELINE

1. **Declaration of marriage** filed at the Belgian commune.
2. Commune verifies documents (usually **2–4 weeks**).
3. Once authorised, the marriage must be celebrated within **6 months**.
4. **Civil ceremony** at the commune with registrar.
5. Issue of the **Belgian marriage certificate**.
6. For recognition in France → **transcribe the Belgian marriage** at the French Consulate in Belgium or the **SCEC in Nantes**.
7. Delivery of the **French livret de famille** after transcription.
8. French spouse residing in Belgium → registers at the **commune of residence** under **EU free-movement rules**.

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Recognition in the other country

French marriage recognized in Belgium

REQUIREMENT	HOW TO PROVIDE	WHERE	TIMING	NOTES
MARRIAGE CERTIFICATE	Obtain official French marriage certificate (preferably a multilingual extract).	From the mairie where marriage was celebrated.	Immediately after wedding.	Belgian communes accept multilingual extracts without translation.
APOSTILLE / LEGALISATION	Not required under EU Regulation 2016/1191.	N/A	N/A	Civil-status documents circulate freely between EU Member States.
TRANSLATION	Only needed if certificate is not in a language accepted by the commune (FR, NL, DE).	Sworn translator in Belgium.	Few days.	Avoided if using multilingual extract .
REGISTRATION IN BELGIUM	Register marriage in local commune for administrative purposes.	Belgian commune of residence.	Few weeks.	Ensures recognition for residence, benefits, and administration.

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Belgian marriage recognized in France

REQUIREMENT	HOW TO PROVIDE	WHERE	TIMING	NOTES
MARRIAGE CERTIFICATE	Obtain official Belgian marriage certificate (multilingual version recommended).	Issued by the Belgian commune after wedding.	Immediately after wedding.	Multilingual extract avoids translation.
APOSTILLE / LEGALISATION	Not required under EU Regulation 2016/1191 .	N/A	N/A	No apostille needed for EU marriages.
TRANSLATION	Only required if no multilingual extract is presented.	Sworn translator in France.	Few days.	Multilingual version is directly accepted.
TRANSCRIPTION IN FRANCE	Submit Belgian certificate for transcription .	French Consulate in Belgium or SCEC Nantes .	1–3 months.	Mandatory for the marriage to appear in French registers and obtain a livret de famille .

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Special cases & red flags

- **Residence condition** → In both France and Belgium, at least **one spouse must reside** in the commune where the marriage will be celebrated. Proof of domicile is required.
- **Banns / declaration** → In **France**, **banns must be posted for 10 days** at the mairie. In **Belgium**, banns are replaced by a **declaration of marriage** filed at the commune.
- **Validity of documents** → Both France and Belgium require **recent birth certificates** (≤ 3–6 months). Older certificates are refused.
- **Multilingual civil-status forms** → Thanks to **EU Regulation 2016/1191** and the **CIEC Convention**, French and Belgian civil-status documents can be issued in **multilingual format**, avoiding apostilles and translations.
- **Divorce recognition** → Divorces granted in any **EU country** are automatically recognised in both France and Belgium (under Brussels II bis Regulation).
- **Translations** → Required only if documents are not in **French, Dutch, or German**, and no multilingual extract is provided. Must be done by **sworn translators** in the relevant country.

Immigration effects →

- A **Belgian spouse in France** must apply for a **VLS-TS long-stay visa**, then a **Vie privée et familiale residence card**.
- A **French spouse in Belgium** benefits from **EU free movement rights**, but must **register at the commune** of residence.

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Checklists

FRANCE

1. Contact the **mairie** to confirm the **exact list of documents** required.
2. Prepare **passports/IDs** for both spouses.
3. Obtain a **recent French birth certificate** (≤ 3 months).
4. Obtain a **Belgian birth certificate** (≤ 6 months).
5. Request a **Belgian certificate of no impediment** (*Certificat de capacité matrimoniale / Attest van huwelijksbekwaamheid*).
6. Provide **proof of residence** in the French commune.
7. If previously married → add **divorce decree** or **death certificate**.
8. Arrange **sworn French translations** of Belgian documents, unless issued as **multilingual extracts**.
9. Submit the **marriage application file** at the mairie.
10. Attend the **pre-marriage interview (audition)** if required.
11. Ensure **publication of banns** for **10 days**.
12. Celebrate the **civil ceremony** at the mairie with **2–4 witnesses**.
13. Receive the **French marriage certificate** and **livret de famille**.

BELGIUM

14. Contact the **commune / état civil** to start the **marriage declaration**.
15. Prepare **passports/IDs** for both spouses.
16. Obtain a **Belgian birth certificate** (≤ 6 months).
17. Obtain a **French birth certificate** (≤ 3 months).
18. Request the **CCAM (Certificat de Capacité à Mariage)** from the French Consulate in Belgium.
19. Provide **certificate of residence/domicile** for both spouses.
20. If previously married → add **divorce decree** or **death certificate**.
21. Arrange **sworn translations** into the official language of the commune (French, Dutch, or German) if not already multilingual.
22. Submit the **marriage declaration file** at the commune.
23. Wait for the commune's approval (usually **2–4 weeks**).
24. Celebrate the **civil ceremony** at the commune within **6 months** of approval.
25. Obtain the **Belgian marriage certificate** (multilingual extract recommended).
26. For recognition in France → request **transcription** at the French Consulate or **SCEC Nantes**.
27. Receive the **French livret de famille**.

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Templates

This section provides **official resources and sample documents** commonly required :

Use the hyperlinks below to access the official template or instruction page.

1. France – Statutory Declaration / Attestation of Single Status

Often requested by French mairies when marrying a Belgian citizen.

 [Access the Attestation sur l'honneur template \(Service-Public\)](#)

2. Belgium – Certificate of No Impediment

Issued by Belgian civil authorities to confirm a person is free to marry.

 belgium.be/marriage

3. France – Certificate of Capacity to Marry (CCAM)

Issued by French consulates abroad, required for French citizens marrying in Belgium.

 france.diplomatie.belgium.be/mariage

4. France/Belgium – Sworn Translator Directories

To find official translators for sworn translations.

 service-public.fr/traducteurs

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Official Sources

TOPIC	NOTES	AUTHORITY / URL
FRANCE – MARRIAGE WITH A FOREIGNER	Official Service-Public guidance for marrying a foreign national in France (documents, banns, residence).	service-public.fr/mariage-france
FRANCE – TRANSCRIPTION OF FOREIGN MARRIAGES	Procedure to register a marriage celebrated in Belgium into French civil records.	service-public.fr/marriage-abroad
FRENCH CONSULATE IN BELGIUM – CCAM & MARRIAGE	Guidance for French citizens marrying in Belgium and obtaining the CCAM .	bruxelles.consulfrance.org/ccam
BELGIUM.BE – MARRIAGE	Belgian federal portal describing conditions, documents, and procedures for marriage.	belgium.be/marriage
EU REGULATION 2016/1191	Regulation abolishing apostilles for civil-status documents within the EU and introducing multilingual forms.	eur-lex.europa.eu/2016/1191

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Glossary & Notes

TERM	DEFINITION / NOTES
BANNS (FRANCE)	Public announcement of intended marriage posted at the mairie for 10 days before the wedding. Required in France.
DECLARATION OF MARRIAGE (BELGIUM)	Formal application filed at the commune in Belgium, replacing the French banns system. Marriage must take place within 6 months of approval.
CERTIFICATE OF NO IMPEDIMENT (BELGIUM)	Document issued by Belgian authorities (<i>Certificat de capacité matrimoniale</i> / <i>Attest van huwelijksbekwaamheid</i>) confirming that the Belgian spouse is free to marry.
CCAM (CERTIFICAT DE CAPACITÉ À MARIAGE)	Certificate issued by the French Consulate proving that the French citizen is free to marry abroad (mandatory for marriage in Belgium).
MULTILINGUAL CIVIL-STATUS FORMS	Civil-status certificates (birth, marriage, death) issued in multilingual format under EU Regulation 2016/1191 and CIEC Convention , exempt from apostille/legalisation.
TRANSCRIPTION	Process of recording a Belgian marriage into French civil registers (via Consulate or SCEC Nantes), allowing issuance of a livret de famille .
LIVRET DE FAMILLE	Official French family record book delivered after transcription. Needed for French administration (residence permits, registering children, etc.).
RESIDENCE REGISTRATION	In Belgium, the French spouse must register at the commune of residence . In France, the Belgian spouse must apply for a long-stay visa (VLS-TS) then a residence card .
BANNS (FRANCE)	Public announcement of intended marriage posted at the mairie for 10 days before the wedding. Required in France.

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Annexes

ANNEX	TITLE	FILE
MARRIAGE IN FRANCE	Official French rules on civil marriage (banns, residence, witnesses).	service-public.fr/mariage-france
FRENCH MARRYING ABROAD	Service-Public guide on CCAM and transcription of foreign marriages.	service-public.fr/mariage-etranger
BEFORE MARRIAGE IN BELGIUM — CCAM	French Consulate in Brussels page on how to get the CCAM .	bruxelles.consulfrance.org/ccam
AFTER MARRIAGE IN BELGIUM — TRANSCRIPTION	French Consulate in Brussels page on transcribing a Belgian marriage into French registers.	bruxelles.consulfrance.org/transcription
BELGIUM.BE – MARRIAGE	Belgian federal portal with official info on marriage procedures.	belgium.be/marriage

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Legal Disclaimer & Thank You

This Cross-Border Marriage Kit has been carefully researched and compiled to provide practical guidance for international couples.

However, it does **not constitute legal advice**.

- Laws and procedures may change at any time.
- Requirements may vary depending on the specific **State** or **French municipality** involved.
- Always verify your situation directly with the **competent civil authorities**, embassies, or consulates before submitting documents.
- LexAtlas cannot be held liable for any administrative delays, changes in law, or outcomes arising from the use of this guide.

For complex or exceptional cases (previous marriages, immigration complications, name changes, adoption, or nationality issues), we strongly recommend consulting a qualified attorney or notary.

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