



LEXATLAS

YOUR GLOBAL LEGAL
COMPASS

Cross-Border Marriage Kit

FRA ↔ GBR

CROSS-BORDER MARIAGE KIT

FRA – GBR

TABLE OF CONTENTS

OVERVIEW	4
LEGAL REQUIREMENTS	5
MARRYING IN FRANCE (WITH A UK CITIZEN)	6
MARRYING IN THE UK (WITH A FRENCH CITIZEN)	6
RECOGNITION IN THE OTHER COUNTRY	7
SPECIAL CASES & RED FLAGS	8
CHECKLISTS	8
TEMPLATES	10
OFFICIAL SOURCES	11
GLOSSARY & NOTES	12
ANNEXES	13
LEGAL DISCLAIMER & THANK YOU	14

CROSS-BORDER MARIAGE KIT

FRA – GBR

Overview

CATEGORY	FRANCE	UNITED-KINGDOM
AUTHORITIES IN CHARGE	Town Hall (<i>Mairie</i>) –civil registrar	Register office / approved venue; authorized religious officiant
COSTS	Civil ceremony is free	Notice from £42 pp (£57 if referred); ceremony fees vary
PROCESSING TIMES	Publication of banns: 10 days minimum. Full process: ~3–6 weeks	E&W: ≥29 days (up to 70 if referred); Scotland: M10 ≥29 days; NI: ≥28 days
LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS	All documents must be in French. Certified translation required.	English/Welsh; interpreter as needed
APOSTILLE / LEGALIZATION	French apostille for UK use	FCDO apostille for France use
IMMIGRATION EFFECT	VLS-TS then VPF card	Appendix FM partner visa; MIR £29,000

KEY INSIGHTS

- **Authority & venue:** France – civil registrar at the Town Hall (*mairie*).
UK – local register office or approved venue; authorized religious officiants where applicable.
- **Pre-marriage notice:** France – 10-day banns.
UK – minimum 29 days in England & Wales (up to 70 if referred), 29 days in Scotland (Form M10), 28 days in Northern Ireland (GRO446).
- **Residency:** France – one spouse domiciled/resident in the commune.
England & Wales – 7 days in district before notice; Scotland/NI – no 7-day rule.

CROSS-BORDER MARIAGE KIT

FRA – GBR

Legal Requirements

FRANCE

- Civil marriage only has legal effect; religious ceremonies are optional with no civil effect.
- One spouse domiciled or resident in the commune; file lodged with the Town Hall (mairie).
- Possible pre-marriage interview (audition); interpreter if needed.
- Banns displayed publicly for at least 10 days.
- Foreign documents: apostille/legalization and sworn (assermenté)
French translations as required; EU Reg. 2016/1191 simplifies some cases.
- 2–4 witnesses (adults with ID).
- If previously married: provide divorce/death certificate (apostilled/translated as needed).

UNITED-KINGDOM

- Give notice: E&W ≥ 29 days; Scotland — Form M10 (≥ 29 days);
NI — notice (GRO446) ≥ 28 days.
- E&W: 7 days' residence in the registration district before giving notice;
Scotland/NI: no 7-day rule.
- If a party is not a 'relevant national', notice at a designated register office;
may be referred to Home Office (up to 70 days).
- Original documents required; non-English/Welsh documents must have certified translations.
- Fees: notice from £42 per person (£57 if referred);
ceremony/certificate fees vary by council/venue.
- Ceremony must occur within 12 months of giving notice/issue of schedule.

CROSS-BORDER MARIAGE KIT

FRA – GBR

Marrying in France (with a UK citizen)

DOCUMENTS

- Passports/IDs of both parties.
- Proof of residence in the commune.
- Birth certificates (French spouse: extract ≤ 3 months; UK spouse: recent certificate with apostille and sworn French translation).
- Proof of capacity/free-to-marry as required by the mairie (often a statutory declaration/attestation).
- If previously married: divorce decree or death certificate (apostilled/translated as applicable).
- Sworn (assermenté) translations; apostille/legalization where required.

STEPS & TIMELINE

1. Confirm document list and booking with the mairie.
2. Obtain apostilles and sworn translations (allow 2–6 weeks).
3. Lodge the file; attend the interview if required.
4. Banns posted for 10 days.
5. Civil ceremony with 2–4 witnesses; obtain certificate (and livret de famille if applicable).
6. If moving to France: validate VLS-TS and then apply for VPF residence permit.

Marrying in the UK (with a French citizen)

DOCUMENTS

- Valid passports/IDs for both parties.
- Proof of address and, where relevant, immigration status.
- If previously married: divorce decree or death certificate (apostille/translation if foreign).
- Certified English/Welsh translations for any non-English/Welsh documents.

STEPS & TIMELINE : England & Wales

1. Complete 7 days' residence in the registration district.
2. Give notice in person (≥ 29 days; up to 70 if referred).
3. Hold the ceremony within 12 months; obtain the marriage certificate.

STEPS & TIMELINE : Scotland

4. Submit Marriage Notice (Form M10) with documents
5. Collect the marriage schedule shortly before the ceremony.
6. Hold the ceremony; return the completed schedule for registration.

CROSS-BORDER MARRIAGE KIT

FRA – GBR

Recognition in the other country

French marriage recognized in United-Kingdom

REQUIREMENT	HOW TO PROVIDE	WHERE	TIMING	NOTES
MARRIAGE CERTIFICATE	Obtain official French marriage certificate	From <i>mairie</i> where marriage was celebrated	Issued after ceremony	Must be recent (certified copy) for use abroad
APOSTILLE	Requests apostille from French authorities	Court of Appeal (France)	1–2 weeks	Confirms authenticity of the certificate under Hague Convention
CERTIFIED TRANSLATION	Translate into English	Sworn/certified translator	Few days	Attach original + translation
USE IN THE UK	Present to authorities/organizations	Home Office, banks, HMRC, etc.	Case-by-case	No central UK registration required

CROSS-BORDER MARIAGE KIT

FRA – GBR

UK marriage recognized in France

REQUIREMENT	HOW TO PROVIDE	WHERE	TIMING	NOTES
MARRIAGE CERTIFICATE	Certified copy of UK certificate	Local registrar/GRO	After ceremony	Ensure correct jurisdiction format
APOSTILLE	FCDO apostille on UK certificate	FCDO Legalization	1–3 weeks	Hague 1961
CERTIFIED TRANSLATION	Sworn French translation	Court-sworn translator	Few days	Attach original + translation
USE IN FRANCE	Submit apostilled + translated certificate	French Consulate London / SCEC Nantes	1–3 months	Creates French civil record

Special cases & red flags

- *Home Office referral* (England & Wales) may extend notice to 70 days for non-relevant nationals.
- *England & Wales* 7-day residence rule before notice.
- *Foreign divorces* may require verification; fees apply in the UK.
- *Sworn/certified translations* required (France vs UK standards differ).
- *Apostille routing* (FCDO vs French authority).
- *Venue changes* (England & Wales) can require fresh notice.
- *UK partner visa* subject to Minimum Income Requirement (£29,000).

CROSS-BORDER MARIAGE KIT

FRA – GBR

Checklists

FRANCE

1. Confirm requirements with the mairie.
2. Collect recent civil status documents.
3. Get FCDO apostille on UK documents (if any).
4. Arrange sworn French translations.
5. Prepare statutory declaration/free-to-marry if requested.
6. File at the mairie; attend interview if required.
7. Ensure banns posted for 10 days.
8. Hold civil ceremony with witnesses.
9. Collect certificate (and livret de famille if applicable).
10. If relocating to France: validate VLS-TS and apply for VPF.

UNITED-KINGDOM

1. Choose jurisdiction and venue.
2. Check immigration/visa route (if applicable).
3. Gather originals and certified translations.
4. England & Wales: complete 7 days' residence in district.
5. Book appointment to give notice / submit forms (M10/GRO446).
6. Pay notice fees (from £42 pp; £57 if referred).
7. Observe waiting period (E&W \geq 29 days;
Scotland \geq 29; NI \geq 28; up to 70 if referred).
8. Confirm registrar/celebrant and witnesses; pay ceremony fees.
9. Hold ceremony; obtain certificate/schedule.
10. If relocating to the UK: prepare Appendix FM partner visa (MIR £29,000).

CROSS-BORDER MARRIAGE KIT

FRA – GBR

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 UK citizen, in lieu of a UK “Certificate of No Impediment”.

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

2. Scotland – Marriage Notice (Form M10)

Mandatory notice form for all marriages in Scotland.

 [Download Form M10 \(National Records of Scotland, PDF\)](#)

3. Northern Ireland – Marriage Notice (Form GRO446)

Notice form required for marriages in Northern Ireland.

 [Marriage Notice Form GRO446 \(nidirect.gov.uk, PDF\)](#)

4. England & Wales – Guidance on Giving Notice

Explains how to give notice of marriage in England & Wales, with timelines and required documents.

 [Get Your Document Legalised \(FCDO, gov.uk\)](#)

CROSS-BORDER MARRIAGE KIT

FRA – GBR

Official Sources

TOPIC	AUTHORITY / URL	NOTES
GENERAL MARRIAGE IN FRANCE	Service Public — Se marier en France	Official overview of civil marriage rules in France.
CERTIFICATE OF CAPACITY TO MARRY (FRANCE)	Service Public — Certificat de capacité à mariage	Required for French citizens marrying abroad.
ENGLAND & WALES — GIVE NOTICE OF MARRIAGE	gov.uk: Give Notice of Marriage	UK Government guidance for giving notice of marriage and statutory waiting periods.
SCOTLAND — GETTING MARRIED	Registering a marriage or civil partnership (NRS)	National Records of Scotland official guidance on marriage procedures and forms (M10).
NORTHERN IRELAND — GETTING MARRIED	Guidance on marriage procedures (nidirect.gov.uk)	Official NIDirect guidance on marriage requirements and forms (GRO446).
HOME OFFICE — SHAM MARRIAGE REFERRAL SCHEME	Referral & Investigation Scheme (Home Office PDF)	Guidance on referrals and investigations when a marriage is suspected to be a sham (Immigration Act 2014).
UK — APOSTILLE / LEGALISATION SERVICE (FCDO)	gov.uk: Get Your Document Legalised	How to obtain an apostille for UK marriage certificates and other documents.
FRANCE APOSTILLE AUTHORITY	Service Public — Légalisation ou apostille	French Ministry of Justice explanation; Apostille is issued by Courts of Appeal.

CROSS-BORDER MARRIAGE KIT

FRA – GBR

Glossary & Notes

TERM	DEFINITION / NOTES
APOSTILLE	An international certification under the Hague Convention (1961) that authenticates public documents (e.g., birth, marriage certificates) for use abroad
BANNS OF MARRIAGE	Public notice of intended marriage in France. Must be displayed at the town hall (mairie) of residence for a minimum of 10 days before the ceremony.
CERTIFICATE OF CAPACITY TO MARRY (CERTIFICAT DE CAPACITÉ À MARIAGE)	Issued by French consulates to French nationals marrying abroad. Confirms legal capacity under French law.
NOTICE OF MARRIAGE	UK pre-marriage declaration; E&W ≥29 days (up to 70 if referred); Scotland M10; NI ≥28 days.
CONSULAR TRANSCRIPTION	French Central Civil Status Office that transcribes marriages celebrated abroad.
DESIGNATED REGISTER OFFICE	Specific offices where non-relevant nationals must give notice in England & Wales.
APPENDIX FM	UK immigration rules for family/partner visas.
MINIMUM INCOME REQUIREMENT (MIR)	Financial threshold for UK partner visas; currently £29,000.
SWORN TRANSLATOR	Translator registered with a French Court of Appeal; produces certified translations accepted by French authorities.

CROSS-BORDER MARIAGE KIT

FRA – GBR

Annexes

ANNEX	TITLE	FILE
1	Sample French Marriage Certificate (Acte de mariage)	Service-Public — Marriage certificate: request for full copy or extract.
2	UK Apostille — FCDO legalisation	gov.uk/get-document-legalised
3	Certificate of Capacity to Marry (France)	Service-Public — Certificat de capacité à mariage.
4	Scotland — Marriage Notice (Form M10)	Download the M10 Form (National Records of Scotland)
5	Northern Ireland — Marriage Notice (GRO446)	Marriage Notice Form (nidirect.gov.uk)
6	French Apostille — official model	HCCH — Model Apostille Certificate (PDF).
7	England & Wales — Give notice of marriage	gov.uk/marriages-civil-partnerships/give-notice
8	French Consulate in London — Civil status	State Civil and Nationality – France in the UK (French Embassy)
9	Home Office — Referral & Investigation Scheme	UK – Referral and Investigation Scheme (Home Office leaflet PDF)
11	Livret de famille (France)	Service-Public — Livret de famille.

CROSS-BORDER MARRIAGE KIT

FRA – GBR

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.

Thank you for choosing **LexAtlas**.

By using this kit, you are saving time, money, and avoiding unnecessary legal pitfalls.

We are committed to making international legal processes

clear, accessible, and affordable for everyone.