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COMPASS

Cross-Border Marriage Kit

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CROSS-BORDER MARIAGE KIT

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Overview

CATEGORY	FRANCE	SPAIN
AUTHORITIES IN CHARGE	Town Hall (Mairie) – civil registrar. Banns must be posted (10 days).	Civil Registry (Registro Civil) or Town Hall (Ayuntamiento) – civil marriage is the only legally valid form. Religious marriages must be registered at the Registro Civil.
COSTS	Civil ceremony is free ; costs apply for translations and extra copies.	Civil marriage is generally free or modest (~30–50€). Additional costs for translations and certificates.
PROCESSING TIMES	Banns posting: at least 10 days . File preparation usually 1–2 months .	Expediente matrimonial (marriage file) takes 1–2 months . Authorisation valid for 6 months .
LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS	Foreign documents must be translated into French by a sworn translator , unless issued as EU multilingual forms .	Foreign documents must be in Spanish ; translations by a sworn translator (traductor jurado) are required unless multilingual extracts are provided.
APOSTILLE / LEGALISATION	Not required for civil-status documents (EU Regulation 2016/1191).	Same: Spain accepts multilingual extracts of French certificates without apostille.
IMMIGRATION EFFECT	Spanish spouse in France → needs a VLS-TS long-stay visa , then a Vie privée et familiale residence card .	French spouse in Spain → has right of residence under EU free movement rules but must register at the Oficina de Extranjeros / Ayuntamiento .

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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 usually required.
- **Banns:** must be published for **10 days** at the mairie.
- **Witnesses:** minimum **2**, maximum **4**, all with valid **ID**.

Documents required (Spanish spouse):

- **Passport or Spanish ID card (DNI).**
- **Full birth certificate** (issued within last **6 months**).
- **Certificate of no impediment to marriage** (*Certificado de Capacidad Matrimonial*), issued by the **Spanish Civil Registry (Registro Civil)**.
- **Proof of residence** in France.
- If previously married → **divorce decree** or **death certificate**.
- **Translations:** all Spanish documents must be translated into **French** by a **sworn translator (traducteur assermenté)**, unless delivered as **multilingual extracts**.
- **Apostille/legalisation:** **not required** under **EU Regulation 2016/1191**.

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SPAIN

- **Civil marriage** before the **Civil Registry (Registro Civil)** or **Town Hall (Ayuntamiento)** is the **only legally valid** form. Religious ceremonies are optional but must be registered.
- **Eligibility:** both spouses must be at least **18 years old** and legally capable.

Documents required (French spouse):

- **Passport or French ID card.**
- **Full birth certificate** (issued within last **3 months**).
- **Certificat de Capacité à Mariage (CCAM)**, issued by the **French Consulate in Spain** (mandatory for French citizens marrying abroad).
- **Certificado de empadronamiento** (residence certificate in Spain, issued by the local Ayuntamiento).
- **Proof of civil status:** attestation of single status, or **divorce decree / death certificate** if previously married.

Procedure:

- Submit documents for the **expediente matrimonial** (marriage file) at the Civil Registry.
- Possible **interview** with both spouses to confirm consent and authenticity.
- Once approved, marriage must be celebrated within **6 months**.
- **Translations:** French documents must be translated into **Spanish** by a **sworn translator (traductor jurado)**, unless provided in **multilingual format**.
- **Apostille/legalisation:** not required under **EU Regulation 2016/1191**.

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Marrying in France (with a Spanish citizen)

DOCUMENTS

- **Passports/IDs** for both spouses.
- **French spouse:** recent **birth certificate** (≤ 3 months).
- **Spanish spouse:** recent **birth certificate** (≤ 6 months) + **Certificate of no impediment to marriage** (*Certificado de Capacidad Matrimonial*).
- **Proof of residence** in the commune (utility bill, lease, attestation).
- If previously married → **divorce decree** or **death certificate**.
- **2–4 witnesses** with valid **ID**.
- **Translations:** Spanish documents must be translated into **French** by a **sworn translator**, unless issued as **EU multilingual extracts**.

STEPS & TIMELINE

1. **Gather documents** (allow **4–6 weeks** for Spanish certificate + translations).
2. Submit file to the **mairie** of residence.
3. Possible **pre-marriage interview (audition)**.
4. **Publication of banns** for **10 days**.
5. **Civil ceremony** at the mairie with witnesses.
6. Receive **French marriage certificate** and **livret de famille**.
7. Spanish spouse registers marriage in Spain (via consulate or Registro Civil).

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Marrying in Spain (with a French citizen)

DOCUMENTS

- **Passports/IDs** for both spouses.
- **Spanish spouse:** recent **birth certificate** (≤ 6 months).
- **French spouse:** recent **birth certificate** (≤ 3 months) + **CCAM (Certificat de Capacité à Mariage)** from the French Consulate in Spain.
- **Certificado de empadronamiento** (certificate of residence, issued by the local Ayuntamiento).
- If previously married → **divorce decree** or **death certificate**.
- **Translations:** French documents must be translated into **Spanish** by a **sworn translator (traductor jurado)**, unless issued in **multilingual format**.

STEPS & TIMELINE

1. **Open expediente matrimonial** (marriage file) at the **Registro Civil** or Ayuntamiento.
2. File verification and possible **interview** with both spouses.
3. Once approved, the **authorisation is valid for 6 months**.
4. Celebrate **civil ceremony** before the Registrar.
5. Obtain the **Spanish marriage certificate (Certificado de matrimonio)**.
6. For recognition in France → request **transcription** at the **French Consulate in Spain** or the **SCEC Nantes**.
7. Once transcribed → obtain the **French livret de famille**.
8. French spouse living in Spain → register residence at the **Oficina de Extranjeros** or local Ayuntamiento.

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Recognition in the other country

French marriage recognized in Spain

REQUIREMENT	HOW TO PROVIDE	WHERE	TIMING	NOTES
MARRIAGE CERTIFICATE	Obtain official French marriage certificate (multilingual extract recommended).	From the mairie where the marriage took place.	Immediately after marriage.	Spain accepts multilingual extracts directly.
APOSTILLE / LEGALISATION	Not required under EU Regulation 2016/1191 .	N/A	N/A	Civil-status documents circulate freely in the EU.
TRANSLATION	Only needed if no multilingual extract is provided.	Sworn translator in Spain (<i>traductor jurado</i>).	Few days.	Multilingual extract avoids this.
REGISTRATION IN SPAIN	Register the French marriage certificate at the Registro Civil .	Local Registro Civil in Spain.	2–6 weeks.	Ensures recognition for residence, benefits, and admin purposes.

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Spanish marriage recognized in France

REQUIREMENT	HOW TO PROVIDE	WHERE	TIMING	NOTES
MARRIAGE CERTIFICATE	Marriage certificate	Obtain Spanish marriage certificate (Certificado de matrimonio) , preferably multilingual.	Issued by the Registro Civil .	Immediately after marriage.
LEGALISATION	Apostille / legalisation	Not required under EU Regulation 2016/1191 .	N/A	N/A
FRENCH TRANSLATION	Translation	Only required if no multilingual extract is presented.	Sworn French translator (<i>traducteur assermenté</i>).	Few days.
TRANSCRIPTION IN FRANCE	Transcription in France	Submit Spanish marriage certificate for transcription .	French Consulate in Spain or SCEC Nantes .	1–3 months.

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Special cases & red flags

- **Residence condition** → In both France and Spain, at least **one spouse must reside** in the commune/municipio where the marriage will be celebrated. Proof of residence is required.
- **Banns vs. expediente matrimonial** → In **France**, banns must be **published for 10 days** at the mairie. In **Spain**, the equivalent is the **expediente matrimonial** filed at the Registro Civil, which can take **weeks or months** to process.
- **Document validity** → Both countries require **recent birth certificates** (France \leq 3 months, Spain \leq 6 months).
- **Translations** → France requires **sworn French translations**; Spain requires **sworn Spanish translations** (*traductor jurado*). This can add significant time and cost if multilingual extracts are not provided.
- **CCAM is mandatory** → French citizens marrying in Spain must obtain a **Certificat de Capacité à Mariage (CCAM)** from the French Consulate **before** the marriage. Without it, transcription in France may be refused.
- **Delays** → The **Spanish marriage application** (expediente matrimonial) is often slow, especially in major cities (Madrid, Barcelona). Couples should start the process well in advance.
- **Divorce recognition** → Divorces granted in EU countries are **automatically recognised** in both France and Spain (Brussels II bis Regulation).

Immigration impact →

- A **Spanish spouse in France** must apply for a **VLS-TS visa** and then a **Vie privée et familiale residence card**.
- A **French spouse in Spain** has the right to reside under **EU free movement rules**, but must **register with the Ayuntamiento** or **Oficina de Extranjeros**.

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Checklists

FRANCE

1. Contact the **mairie** to confirm the **required documents**.
2. Prepare **passports/IDs** for both spouses.
3. Obtain a **recent French birth certificate** (≤ 3 months).
4. Obtain a **Spanish birth certificate** (≤ 6 months).
5. Request a **Spanish certificate of no impediment** (*Certificado de Capacidad Matrimonial*) from the **Registro Civil**.
6. Provide **proof of residence** in the French commune.
7. If previously married → supply **divorce decree** or **death certificate**.
8. Arrange **sworn French translations** of Spanish documents, unless delivered as **multilingual extracts**.
9. Submit the **marriage application** 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**.

SPAIN

1. Contact the **Registro Civil** or **Ayuntamiento** to begin the **expediente matrimonial**.
2. Prepare **passports/IDs** for both spouses.
3. Obtain a **Spanish birth certificate** (≤ 6 months).
4. Obtain a **French birth certificate** (≤ 3 months).
5. Request the **CCAM (Certificat de Capacité à Mariage)** from the French Consulate in Spain.
6. Provide **certificado de empadronamiento** (residence certificate) from the Ayuntamiento.
7. If previously married → provide **divorce decree** or **death certificate**.
8. Arrange **sworn Spanish translations** (*traductor jurado*) of French documents, unless in **multilingual format**.
9. Submit the **marriage file (expediente matrimonial)**.
10. Attend the **interview/hearing** if requested.
11. Once approved, celebrate the **civil ceremony** within **6 months**.
12. Obtain the **Spanish marriage certificate (Certificado de matrimonio)**.
13. For recognition in France → request **transcription** at the French Consulate or **SCEC Nantes**.
14. 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

Official French self-declaration sometimes required by mairies.

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

2. Spain – Certificate of No Impediment (Certificado de Capacidad Matrimonial)

Issued by the **Registro Civil** confirming you are free to marry.

 administracion.gob.es/matrimonio

3. France – CCAM (Certificat de Capacité à Mariage)

Mandatory for French citizens marrying in Spain, issued by the **French Consulate**.

 es.ambafrance.org/mariage

4. France/Spain – Sworn & Certified Translation Services

Official directories to find recognised translators:

 [Find a sworn translator \(Service-Public tool\)](#)

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Official Sources

TOPIC	AUTHORITY / URL	NOTES
GENERAL MARRIAGE IN FRANCE	Service-Public — Getting married in France	Official rules: residence, banns, witnesses, dossiers.
TRANSCRIPTION OF A FOREIGN MARRIAGE (FRANCE)	Service-Public — Marriage abroad	How to obtain the CCAM and transcribe a Spanish marriage into French registers (Consulate / SCEC Nantes).
LEGALISATION / APOSTILLE (FR-ES)	EUR-Lex — EU Regulation 2016/1191	Abolishes apostille for many civil-status documents; introduces multilingual forms.
SPAIN — GENERAL MARRIAGE PROCEDURES	Ministry of Justice — administracion.gob.es/matrimonio	Official guidance on expediente matrimonial , documents, and civil ceremonies.
FRANCE — CCAM FOR MARRIAGE IN SPAIN	French Consulate in Spain — Mariage	Consular steps for CCAM and post-marriage formalities in Spain.

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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. Mandatory in France.
EXPEDIENTE MATRIMONIAL (SPAIN)	Preliminary marriage application file required in Spain. Filed at the Registro Civil/Ayuntamiento , includes document verification and possible interviews. Valid for 6 months once approved.
CCAM (CERTIFICAT DE CAPACITÉ À MARIAGE)	Certificate issued by the French Consulate in Spain proving a French citizen is free to marry. Mandatory before marriage can be recognised in France.
CERTIFICADO DE EMPADRONAMIENTO	Spanish certificate of residence , issued by the Ayuntamiento. Required to marry in Spain.
CERTIFICADO DE CAPACIDAD MATRIMONIAL	Spanish certificate of no impediment to marry , issued by the Registro Civil for Spanish citizens marrying abroad.
MULTILINGUAL CIVIL-STATUS FORMS	Standardised extracts (birth, marriage, death) under EU Regulation 2016/1191 and the CIEC Convention . Accepted by both France and Spain without apostille/legalisation.
TRANSCRIPTION (FRANCE)	Recording a Spanish marriage in French civil registers (via consulate or SCEC Nantes) to obtain a livret de famille .
LIVRET DE FAMILLE	French family record book delivered after transcription. Required for administrative procedures (residence, visas, registering children).
SWORN TRANSLATOR	Traducteur assermenté (France) or Traductor jurado (Spain). Required if civil-status documents are not issued in multilingual form.

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Annexes

ANNEX	TITLE	FILE
MARRIAGE IN FRANCE WITH A FOREIGNER	Service-Public page on rules and documents for marrying a foreign national in France.	service-public.fr/F930
MARRIAGE ABROAD – TRANSCRIPTION	Procedure for transcribing a Spanish marriage into French registers.	service-public.fr/F21614
FRENCH CONSULATE IN SPAIN – CCAM & MARRIAGE	Consular guidance for French citizens marrying in Spain.	es.ambafrance.org/Mariage
SPAIN – MARRIAGE PROCEDURES	Spanish government portal with marriage rules and requirements.	administracion.gob.es/matrimonio
EU REGULATION 2016/1191	EU law abolishing apostilles and creating multilingual civil-status forms.	eur-lex.europa.eu/2016/1191

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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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