

Atestado de Residencia

What it is & what it's not

By & Copyright to Steve Robinson

19th February 2022

The words 'atestado de' mean attest to & 'residencia' obviously means residency therefore the document attests to you living where you say you do & the document has to be countersigned by 2 people who live in the same parish & are listed on the electoral roll of that parish.

The Atestado de Residencia is obtained from your local Junta de Freguesia which is the parish council offices & will be marked on Google Maps & probably only open a few evenings of the week.

If you're new to Portugal & don't know anyone here then the obvious people to ask to countersign the document are the people you're renting from or a friendly estate agent & their partner or colleague & it's not unknown for newcomers to walk into the nearest café & offer to buy a beer to 2 people who are willing to sign it for you & in my case, when I went to get mine, I told the issuing officer I was brand new to Portugal & didn't know anyone & the issuing officer said to me 'you might not know anyone but we know who you are, where you came from, when you arrived & where you're staying so my colleague & I will sign it for you. 😊

This document is rarely a required document for specific applications but is a VERY useful document for pretty much any & all processes that require any proof of address so can be used for applications such as driving licence applications, NHS registration, opening a bank account & anything that requires an address update such as home moves etc.

Don't expect to find any specific wording of the Atestado de Residencia as they very often differ from Junta to Junta & often even by individual issuing officer & it's not at all unusual for them to be handwritten rather than even a Word document let alone a PDF of headed paper & cost is usually less than €5.

I'd recommend you keep several copies of the document as you'll find it's so useful & about the only people who never seem to want to see it are the GNR when they're doing road stops.