

# Registering with your Town Hall in Spain (the Padrón)



Foreign &  
Commonwealth  
Office



Foreign &  
Commonwealth  
Office



## What is the *Padrón*?

***Padrón*** - a list of all the people who live in a certain town

***Empadronarse*** - the act of registering yourself on this list with your local town hall.

## Who should register?

Officially all residents in Spain are required by law to register on the *padrón*, yet many British ex-pats still have not done so. Perhaps some view the *Padrón* as a means of vigilance by the State, in 'big-brother' fashion. However, in reality, it is simply a way for the town hall to know how many people live in their area, without entering into investigations about a person's official residence status or financial affairs. In addition, the information provided at registration is confidential and protected by data protection laws.

## How do I register?

You don't have to own your house to register, just have an address where you habitually live, no matter whether you are the owner, you rent, or live with family or friends. Simply go to the *Padrón* office of your town hall and fill in the form they provide. Take along official identification, such as a passport, and also your NIE or residence certificate/card, a recent utility bill in your name, and the deeds to your house or a copy of your rental contract. Although you may have to return to collect your certificate, the actual registration is completed all on the same day.

## What are the benefits?

Once you've completed the simple process, you can begin to enjoy all the advantages being on the *Padrón* offers, such as:

### Better public services

Central Government allocates money to the different municipalities according to how many people are on the *Padrón*. Therefore, if you are not registered, your town hall is losing money for the provision of health centres, police officers, fire fighters and schools.

### Access to benefits and social care

You must be on the *Padrón* for a certain period of time to take advantage of some income-related benefits and other aspects of social care available through social services at your town hall.

### A reduction in taxes

Depending on the Town Hall, registration on the *Padrón* could mean up to 50% off Property Tax, as well as reductions in certain community charges and inheritance tax. Furthermore, those on the *Padrón* can also often enjoy discounted courses, leisure and cultural activities run by the town hall.

### Voting rights

In order to register to vote in local or European elections, you must first be registered on the *Padrón*.

### An easier life

You'll find you need your *Padrón* certificate to carry out various administrative tasks, such as registering for healthcare, registering your car with Spanish number plates or enrolling your children in school.

### More information (in English) can be found at

[www.residenteseuropeos.com/padron\\_en.php](http://www.residenteseuropeos.com/padron_en.php)

(The information on this link is produced by the Alicante provincial authorities but is valid for the whole of Spain)

---

Please visit [www.ukinspain.fco.gov.uk](http://www.ukinspain.fco.gov.uk) for advice for British nationals visiting or living in Spain