



## Non-EU Family Members of EU citizens

Please note that the below information applies to **visa required nationalities**. To check if your nationality is visa required please [consult the link](#). If you are a **non-visa required nationality**, please see **Question 6**.

1. I hold an EU Family Card (Familiar de Ciudadano de la Unión). Can I travel to Ireland without a visa?
2. My EU Family Card qualifies me to travel without a visa. What other documents do I need?
3. I do not qualify to travel to Ireland without a visa. What do I need to do now?
4. I am a family member of an EU citizen but I do not have an EU Family Card.
5. I am a family member of an Irish citizen and I have an EU Family Card. Can I apply for a visa under EU Treaty Rights?
6. I am a family member of an EU citizen and my nationality does not require a visa to travel to Ireland.

### [1. I hold an EU Family Card \(Familiar de Ciudadano de la Unión\). Can I travel to Ireland without a visa?](#)

If you hold a **Spanish EU Family Card (Familiar de Ciudadano de la Unión)**, issued to certain family members of EU citizens, you can use the [European Commission website](#) to check if your EU Family card qualifies you to travel to Ireland without a visa under **EU Directive 2004/38/EC** (the “Free Movement Directive”). Please note that as the Embassy is not the issuing authority, we cannot validate your residence card for you.

### [2. My EU Family Card qualifies me to travel without a visa. What other documents do I need?](#)

If you do qualify to travel without a visa, we suggest that you also carry evidence of your right to hold an EU Family Card (e.g. a marriage certificate with a certified translation if it is not in English), as Border Authorities may request this.

In addition, we recommend that you **check the policies of individual airlines and carriers to ensure that you do not have any problems at the point of departure in Spain**.

On arrival, the Irish immigration authorities retain the right to grant or refuse entry into Ireland and to determine the duration of the visit. You will have to satisfy an Immigration Officer that you meet the conditions of entry for the purpose of your visit to Ireland. For more information, please consult the [Irish Immigration website](#).

If you are granted permission to remain and intend to stay in Ireland for more than 90 days, you must register with Registration and apply for a residence permit from the Irish



Immigration Service before your permission to remain expires. For more information, please consult [EU Treaty Rights](#) and [EU Treaty Rights FAQs](#).

If you are **not** travelling with your EU family member who qualified you for the EU Family card, we recommend that you apply for a visa.

### 3. I do not qualify to travel to Ireland without a visa. What do I need to do now?

If your EU Family Card does not allow you to travel without a visa, you must apply for a **visa** to travel to Ireland. You may apply under the European [Directive 2004/38/EC](#) whereby EU citizens have the right to travel to any member state of the Union with their non-EU family members. This application is processed under the Directive, also known as **EU Treaty Rights (EUTR)**, and applicants are exempt from paying the visa fee. If granted, the visa will be a **short-stay, single entry visa**.

- You should include an **application letter in English** stating that you are exercising your EU Treaty right to free movement under the Directive 2004/38/EC
- **Your EU family member** should include a **letter in English** indicating if they are travelling with you or if they are resident in Ireland.
- **Valid original residence card and a photocopy**
- **Valid original passport** and a **photocopy** of all pages with stamps and visas
- Copy of the data page of your **EU family member's valid passport**
- **Original document** proving family ties with the EU citizen (e.g. marriage certificate, birth certificate, etc) and, if applicable, proof of dependency, durability of partnership etc. You must also provide **photocopies of all original documents**.
  - **Please note the Visa Office does not accept original document unless accompanied by a photocopy.**
  - **If the document is not in English** or not multi-lingual, you must include a **certified translation. If you want the translation to returned, you must include a photocopy.** If not, the Visa Office will not return the translation.
  - If the document originates outside the EU, it must be attested or apostilled by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the issuing country.
  - **Please do not staple documents.**
- **Proof** that you will **accompany or join** the EU citizen in Ireland, that is:
  - proof that the EU citizen is already resident or present in Ireland.
  - if the EU citizen is not yet present in Ireland: a declaration that the EU citizen will travel to Ireland.

If you wish to apply for a **multiple-entry visa**, or to **travel without your EU family member**, you must apply for **Visit visa**. As this application is not made under the Free Movement Directive, it is processed under Irish national legislation and there is **no expedited process**. You must also **pay the visa fee** and **submit all required documents**. Processing time is a minimum of **8 weeks** from the time we receive all the documents.



#### 4. I am a family member of an EU citizen but I do not have an EU Family Card.

You may apply for a visa under the European [Directive 2004/38/EC](#) whereby EU citizens have the right to travel to any member state of the Union with their non-EU family members. This application is processed under the Directive, also known as **EU Treaty Rights (EUTR)**, and applicants are exempt from paying the visa fee. If granted, the visa will be a **short-stay, single entry visa**.

- You should include an **application letter in English** stating that you are exercising your EU Treaty right to free movement under the Directive 2004/38/EC
- **Your EU family member** should include a **letter in English** indicating if they are travelling with you or if they are resident in Ireland.
- **Valid original residence card and a photocopy**
- **Valid original passport** and a **photocopy** of all pages with stamps and visas
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If you wish to apply for a **multiple-entry visa**, or to **travel without your EU family member**, you must apply for **Visit visa**. As this application is not made under the Free Movement Directive, it is processed under Irish national legislation and there is **no expedited process**. You must also **pay the visa fee** and **submit all required documents**. Processing time is a minimum of **8 weeks** from the time we receive all the documents.



#### 5. I am a family member of an Irish citizen and I have an EU Family Card. Can I apply for a visa under EU Treaty Rights?

As the holder of an EU Family Card issued by Spain, you may travel to Ireland with your Irish family member without a visa (please see Question 2 above for more information). However, if you wish to apply for a visa, **you cannot apply under EU Treaty Rights**, because your EU family member is travelling to the country of which they are a national.

If you are travelling for a short stay and you wish to apply for a visa, you should apply for a Visit visa. If you wish to move to Ireland with your Irish family member, you must make an application to Join your Irish family member. As these applications are not made under the Free Movement Directive, they are processed under Irish national legislation. There is **no expedited process** and you must **submit all required documents**. Processing time is a minimum of **8 weeks** from the time we receive all the documents.

#### 6. I am a family member of an EU citizen and my nationality does not require a visa to travel to Ireland.

Non-visa required nationalities do not require a visa to travel to Ireland. However, they are subject to immigration control. The immigration official reserves the right to grant or deny entry to the state and to determine the duration of the stay. Visitors will have to satisfy an Immigration Officer on arrival that they meet the conditions of entry that attach to the purpose of their stay in Ireland. For more information, please consult [Irish Immigration](#).

If you intend to reside more than 90 days, you must register with [Immigration Registration](#) in Ireland before your permission to stay expires. Please find information on how to register for EU Treaty Rights [here](#) and more information in this link [EU Treaty Rights FAQs](#).

You may wish to contact the Registration section of the Department of Justice in Ireland directly for further information in relation to these queries. Contact details can be found on the [Immigration Service Delivery website](#) and the EUTR email is [eutreatyrights@justice.ie](mailto:eutreatyrights@justice.ie).

For everything you need to know on how to apply for a visa, please see our **Frequently Asked Questions**.

Visa Section  
Madrid

31 August 2023