

Homologación or equivalencia: choosing right the first time

They sound alike and are not the same. Asking for the wrong one costs a non-refundable fee and months of waiting for a no.

1 · The papers to gather first

Get everything together before you start. Almost every step in this guide stops dead for one missing document, and starting again costs more than waiting a day.

- The original qualification, apostilled by the issuing country, and its sworn translation into Spanish.
- The academic transcript with subjects, hours and marks, also apostilled and translated.
- The syllabus stamped by the university, where the chosen route requires it.
- Your valid identity document or passport, and your NIE if you already have one.
- The fee receipt, paid once the route is chosen and not before.

2 · The order to do things in

- 1 Decide first what you want it for. Practising a regulated profession and evidencing an academic level are two different aims, which is why they are two procedures.
- 2 Check which ministry is yours: it is not the same for a university degree as for a vocational or secondary qualification.
- 3 Ask for the apostille in the country that issued the qualification, not in Spain. It is the slowest part and the one least in your hands.
- 4 Commission the sworn translation once you hold the apostille, so that the translation covers it too.
- 5 File the complete application and answer every request within the time limit: an unanswered request closes the file.

3 · The mistakes we see again and again

- Applying for homologación when equivalencia was enough, or the other way round. It is the most expensive mistake in the procedure.
- Apostilling a photocopy instead of the original, or of the notarised copy the country accepts.
- Translating before apostilling. The sworn translation must also cover the apostille.
- Paying the fee before knowing which route you are asking for. It is not refunded.
- Letting a ministry request slip because it arrived in August. The clock runs anyway.

4 · Where you can check it yourself

Official pages, checked on 22/09/2026. The administration changes its screens without warning: if something does not match, the official source wins, not this guide.

■ **Ministerio de Ciencia, Innovación y Universidades**

<https://www.universidades.gob.es/>

■ **Ministerio de Educación, Formación Profesional y Deportes**

<https://www.educacionyfp.gob.es/>

■ **Sede electrónica del Ministerio de Justicia, legalización y apostilla**

<https://sede.mjusticia.gob.es/es/tramites>

If you would rather we did it

€199 the complete file, built and submitted

€59 the route ruling and the document list only

We choose the route, build the file and answer every request until the decision. We do not decide: the decision is the ministry's and its timescales are long today. We promise neither an outcome nor a month, and be wary of anyone who does.

A question? One message is enough

Write to us on WhatsApp at **+34 613 13 87 84** (wa.me/34613138784) and a person answers. Asking costs nothing and commits you to nothing.

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