

PARTNERS' NEWSLETTER - MAY 2011

Pension, Benefit and Healthcare Team



DWP



FACT OR FICTION?

You must have worked 15 years in Spain to have entitlement to a Spanish pension. Simple and straightforward. Right?

Wrong!

Everyday the Pension, Benefit and Healthcare Team (PBHT) see how rumours regarding social security entitlements spread throughout communities. Unfortunately this is a particularly common one because if you have worked and paid contributions for at least one year in Spain, you may have entitlement to some Spanish pension.

Under the European regulations, contributions you have paid in another EEA country can be taken into account when considering your application. Therefore, if you have worked one or more years in Spain and at least 15 years in the EEA in total, you should make an application for a pro-rata Spanish pension.

Remember, if you have worked in Spain, you should be making your pension application through the Spanish authorities anyway. For further information, or to make an application, contact the Instituto Nacional de la Seguridad Social (INSS). Our website of the month may also be of interest to you....

ASK THE TEAM!

Originally from Lisburn, Northern Ireland, Darryl moved to Spain and joined the team in February 2009. He enjoys travelling, keeping fit, and visiting Malaga's many tapas restaurants! We recently caught up with Darryl when he recently took some time out of his day to answer a few questions:

What advice would you give someone moving to Spain?

Make sure you fully research the move and that you are aware of your entitlements as a resident in Spain. I would also advise people to think about the future and not just base their move on their current financial situation.

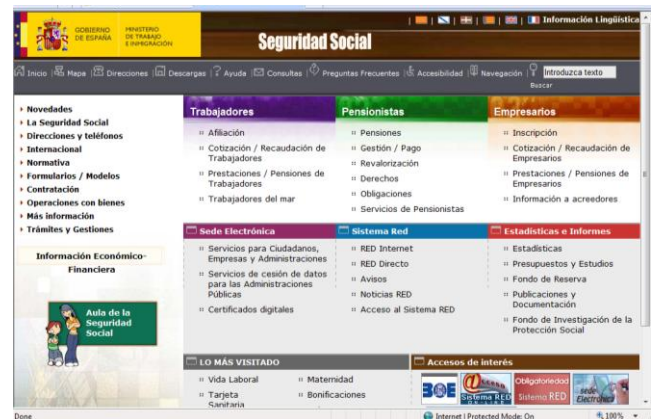
Do you have any advice for current residents?

Be sure that you are correctly registered for healthcare in Spain, don't simply rely on the fact that you have had no problems so far. Remember, unlike the UK, Spain is a contributions-based health system and being resident alone is not enough to give you cover. If anyone's unsure of how to register for healthcare here, there's lots of useful information on our [website](#).

WEBSITE OF THE MONTH

Are you working in Spain? Have you worked in Spain? Are you considering working in Spain? If you answered yes to any of these questions, you may well find it worth taking a look at our website of the month - the official website of the Spanish social security authorities - www.seg-social.es.

On here you'll find a lot of useful information on a wide range of topics, such as how to register as 'autonomo' (self-employed), eligibility requirements for different contribution-based benefits, and links to download various forms. And if your Spanish isn't as good as you'd like it to be, many of the pages are now available in English. So avoid the queues at your local INSS office and get informed by browsing instead!



Working in Partnership



During May the Royal British Legion will be holding training events on the Costa del Sol and Costa Blanca for caseworkers. Officers from the Pension, Benefit and Healthcare Team will be attending these sessions, giving a presentation to new caseworkers and answering questions they may have about accessing entitlements here in Spain. Our aim is that caseworkers go away with greater knowledge to take back into the community.

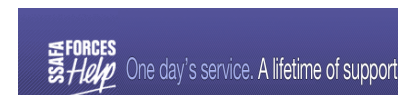
More information about the Royal British Legion in the areas of Spain North and Spain South can be found at <http://www.britishlegion.org.uk/counties/>. If you are interested in finding out more about becoming a caseworker, please contact Donna Wilson at dmwilson@britishlegion.org.uk.

For more information on Living in Spain, see <http://ukinspain.fco.gov.uk>

Age Concern Acción Social Asistencial (ACASA)



ROYAL WEDDING CELEBRATIONS AND WORKING TOGETHER TO HELP THOSE IN NEED



Age Concern Acción Social y Asistencial (ACASA) is an umbrella organisation bringing together many organisations with the aim of helping those most in need. The organisation brings together the expertise of the **British Consulate, Age Concern España, Age UK and SSAFA Forces Help** to provide a casework service for older people (over 50 years) and those with a services connection.



ACASA also works closely with many local organisations in Spain to deliver our objectives and extend our services directly benefiting our clients. An example of this is our work with The British Benevolent Fund of Madrid (BBF). The objective of the BBF is to provide financial aid or other assistance to British citizens resident or stranded in Madrid. This help has now been extended to cover emergency or special cases throughout Spain. The BBF has helped numerous beneficiaries of **ACASA** and continues to be a source of support for the work that we do here in Spain.

To celebrate the Royal Wedding and help raise funds for the BBF's charitable works, over 250 guests followed the Royal Wedding live on TV from the British Ambassador's residence in Madrid. A raffle and silent auction raised over €8,500 from generously donated, high-value prizes. The BBF would like to thank all of the donors who made such generous contributions of prizes.



Picture Right: British Ambassador Giles Paxman and his wife Ségonlène, cut the wedding cake



British Consular network, Spain

The British Consular Network, Spain

REGISTERING ON THE PADRÓN



Most of you will have heard about the "padrón", or town hall register, but did you know that registering on the padrón is required by law here in Spain? It is from the padrón that local councils know how many people are registered in their area in order to provide the right level of local public services locally such as medical centres, dustbin men and so on.

And did you also know that registering at your local town hall brings a number of benefits to both you and your neighbours?

For example, in order to access some income-related benefits and other aspects of social care available through social services at your town hall, you need to have registered for a certain amount of time.

Also, depending on the town hall, registration on the padrón could mean reductions in certain community charges and inheritance tax. Furthermore, it may also mean you enjoy discounted courses, leisure and cultural activities run by the town hall, in addition to reductions in certain community charges and inheritance tax.

You'll also find you need your padrón certificate to carry out various administrative tasks, such as register for healthcare, register your car with Spanish number plates or enrol your children in school.

In order to register, you don't have to own your house. You just need to have an address where you habitually live, no matter whether you are the owner, you rent, or live with family or friends. Nor is registration a long drawn out registration process.

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.

All the information provided at registration is confidential and protected by data protection laws.

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