What steps do I need to take to acquire the Norwegian citizenship? I am a Spanish nationa.

I'll research the Norwegian Citizenship Act (statsborgerloven), its regulations, preparatory works and case law to map out the steps for you.

Used 29 tools, loaded tools

A Spanish citizen is an EEA citizen, so you apply under the ordinary rule in statsborgerloven § 7, with one special adjustment in § 14. Below are the steps in order.

Step 1: Have the right to reside in Norway as an EEA citizen and register

If you stay more than three months, you must register within three months of entering Norway, under utlendingsloven § 117. Your right to reside depends on being a worker, self-employed, a student, or having enough money and health insurance, under utlendingsloven § 112. Keep your registration certificate, because it shows when your residence started.

Step 2: Meet the residence-time requirements

You do not need permanent residence. § 14 removes the permanent-residence condition in § 7 first paragraph (d) for EEA citizens. Instead, you must have lived in Norway for the **last three years** with a right of residence under utlendingsloven §§ 112–116. The preparatory work, Ot.prp. nr. 41 (2004–2005), says the purpose is to ensure some continuity in your stay. It also says all the other conditions in § 7 apply to you as to everyone else.

You also need enough total time in Norway. Which track applies depends on your situation:

- **Standard:** 8 years in Norway within the last 11 (§ 7 first paragraph (e)).
- **Sufficient income:** 6 years within the last 10 (§ 10). This requires income of at least 3 times the National Insurance basic amount (3G) in your last year with a final tax assessment (statsborgerforskriften § 6-1).
- **Married to, or the registered partner or cohabitant of, a Norwegian citizen:** 5 years within the last 10. Your time in Norway plus your time living together with your spouse must also add up to at least 7 years (§ 12).

The wording of § 7 speaks of "permits of at least one year's duration." These sources do not say exactly how UDI (the Directorate of Immigration) counts EEA registration periods towards the 8 years. UDI has a residence-time calculator that you should use.

Watch your time abroad. If your trips abroad in a calendar year add up to two months or less, they count as time in Norway. If they add up to more than two months, the whole time abroad is deducted (statsborgerforskriften § 3-4).

Step 3: Pass the language and citizenship tests (ages 18–67)

You need at least **B1 in an oral Norwegian test** and a **passed citizenship test** (§ 8). Exemptions exist. For example, 30 credits of Norwegian at university level exempts you from the language test (statsborgerforskriften § 4-1). Having passed Norwegian social studies or certain education exempts you from the citizenship test (§ 4-2).

Step 4: Meet the other conditions

- You must be at least 12 years old, and you must live in Norway and intend to keep living here (§ 7 first paragraph (b) and (c)). Temporary stays abroad for studies, medical treatment, or work of up to three years are allowed (statsborgerforskriften § 2-1).
- You must prove your identity with your **original passport** or another reliable ID document (statsborgerforskriften § 1-1).
- You must have a **clean criminal record**, or have waited out the required waiting period after any sentence (§ 9). A complete police certificate must come with your application (§ 7 fourth paragraph).

Step 5: Apply and pay the fee

You submit the application to the **police**, who prepare the case. **UDI** decides it, and you can appeal a refusal to **UNE**, the Immigration Appeals Board (§ 27). The fee is **NOK 6,500** (statsborgerforskriften § 15-2). That text was last amended in 2022, so check the current fee with UDI.

You can keep Spanish citizenship on the Norwegian side

Norway dropped the "one citizenship" principle, so you no longer have to give up your other citizenship (Prop. 111 L (2017–2018)).

The Spanish side is the real risk. Under Spanish law, a Spaniard who voluntarily takes the citizenship of a country that isn't Ibero-American or one of a few listed countries can lose Spanish nationality. You avoid this by declaring, within three years, that you want to keep it, at the Spanish consulate or civil registry [modellkunnskap — verifiser]. These sources don't cover Spanish law, so confirm this with the Spanish Embassy in Oslo before you apply.

Case law

Høyesterett (the Supreme Court) has no published decisions on these acquisition requirements. The decisions citing § 7, such as HR-2025-260-A, are about revoking citizenship. I haven't read them; the court's own page serves the decision text. Most practice in this area comes from UNE, not the courts.

I'm not a lawyer, and this is information from the sources above, not legal advice. If your residence history is complicated, have it checked; you can find an immigration lawyer through Advokatenhjelperdeg.

Sources: Statsborgerloven · Statsborgerforskriften · Utlendingsloven · Ot.prp. nr. 41 (2004–2005) · Prop. 111 L (2017–2018) · HR-2025-260-A

14 minutes ago

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