

# Consular ID Cards

## A Consumer Action Publication

### What is a consular ID card?

A consular ID card is a document that many consulates issue to identify the citizens of their country who reside abroad. Foreign governments use this information to collect census data from their citizens living abroad and to provide certain protections. Although this document is issued regardless of the immigration status of the applicant, it does not, however, constitute a proof of legal residence and does not substitute for papers that the United States requires from foreign citizens to legally reside in this country.

Each cardholder is given a unique identification number that is displayed on the card. In general, these cards also include the cardholder's photo, address, birthplace and expiration date. Special security features may be added.

### How do I obtain a consular ID card?

Contact your local consulate to find out if they offer consular ID cards. Some consulates offer the option to apply by mail, but most require the applicant to obtain an appointment and visit their offices in person.

Here is a list of some of the consulates that currently issue consular ID cards. To locate your local consulate, visit the following websites or contact the appropriate embassy:

#### **ARGENTINA** - *Matrícula Consular Argentina*

[www.embassyofargentina.us/espanol/consuladosargentinoseneeu/consuladosargentinoseneeu.htm](http://www.embassyofargentina.us/espanol/consuladosargentinoseneeu/consuladosargentinoseneeu.htm)

Embassy: (202) 238-6401

#### **BRAZIL** - *Matrícula de Cidadão Brasileiro*

[www.brasilemb.org/consulado/consular\\_jurisdictions.shtml](http://www.brasilemb.org/consulado/consular_jurisdictions.shtml)

Embassy: (202) 238-2828

#### **COLOMBIA** - *Tarjeta de Registro Consular*

[www.colombiaemb.org/opencms/opencms/consulates/consulates.html](http://www.colombiaemb.org/opencms/opencms/consulates/consulates.html)

Embassy: (202) 387-8338

#### **GUATEMALA** - *Tarjeta de Identificación Consular*

[www.guatemala-embassy.org/main.php?parent\\_id=7&id\\_area=109](http://www.guatemala-embassy.org/main.php?parent_id=7&id_area=109)

Embassy: (202) 745-4952

#### **GUINEA**

[www.guineaembassy.com](http://www.guineaembassy.com)

Embassy: (202) 986-4300

#### **MALI** - *Carte d'Identité Consulaire*

[www.maliembassy.us](http://www.maliembassy.us)

Embassy: (202) 332-2249

Consulate General of Mali in NY: (212) 737-4150

#### **MEXICO** - *Mexican Matrícula Consular de Alta Seguridad*

To find your consulate, visit [www.embassyofmexico.org](http://www.embassyofmexico.org) or <http://directorio.gob.mx> and click on Relaciones Exteriores, Embajadas y Consulados, Consulados de México en el extranjero.

Embassy: (202) 728-1600

#### **SENEGAL** - *Carte Consulaire*

[www.senegalembassy-us.org/enOurReps.htm](http://www.senegalembassy-us.org/enOurReps.htm)

Embassy: (202) 234-0540 or (202) 234-0541

The following countries are in the process of establishing their own consular ID card programs or may have an alternative document (such as a national ID) that could be utilized as a form of identification and/or for accessing certain financial services.

#### **DOMINICAN REPUBLIC**

Their *localizador de archivo* and original passport are accepted by some financial institutions.

Contact your local consulate for more information.

[www.domrep.org](http://www.domrep.org)

Embassy: (202) 332-6280

#### **ECUADOR**

[www.ecuador.us/info/consulate.htm](http://www.ecuador.us/info/consulate.htm)

Embassy: (202) 234-7200 ext. 224

#### **EL SALVADOR**

[www.elsalvador.org/home.nsf/infoconsular](http://www.elsalvador.org/home.nsf/infoconsular)

Embassy: (202) 265-9671

#### **HONDURAS**

[www.hondurasemb.org](http://www.hondurasemb.org)

Embassy: (202) 737-2972/78

#### **NIGERIA**

*Atlanta*

[www.nigeria-consulate-atl.org](http://www.nigeria-consulate-atl.org)

(770) 394-6261

*New York*

[www.nigeria-consulate-ny.org](http://www.nigeria-consulate-ny.org)

(212) 850-2200

Embassy: (202) 986-8400

#### **PAKISTAN**

Consulate General of Pakistan

[www.pakistanconsulateny.org](http://www.pakistanconsulateny.org)

(212) 879-5800

#### **PERU - Documento Nacional de Identificación**

Peruvian consulates do not offer consular ID cards. However, their national ID may be accepted as form of ID by some institutions or companies.

[www.consuladoperu.com/archivos/jurisdicciones.com](http://www.consuladoperu.com/archivos/jurisdicciones.com)

Information Hotline: (800) 535-3953

Embassy: (202) 833-9860/69

### **What are the requirements for obtaining a Consular ID card?**

Each country establishes different requirements. In general, you may be asked to provide the following:

- Original and copy of passport
- Original and copy of national ID
- Original and copy of birth certificate
- Up to 4 passport-size photos
- Proof of address (utility bill, apartment lease, etc)

More specific requirements include being at least 18 years old (Guatemala), providing a document showing blood type (Colombia) and proof of legal residence (Pakistan).

Although some consular ID cards have no cost to consumers, most require a fee that ranges from \$2 to \$30. In most cases, consular ID cards have an expiration date and are valid from one to five years.

### **What about the Mexican Matrícula Consular?**

If you are a Mexican citizen and wish to obtain a matrícula consular, you will need to complete an application in person at any of the 47 Mexican consulates in the United States. To find out the address of your closest consulate, visit the embassy at [www.embassyofmexico.org](http://www.embassyofmexico.org) or [directorio.gob.mx/](http://directorio.gob.mx/) and

### **Mexican Matrícula Consular**

#### **Proof of nationality includes:**

- Mexican birth certificate
- Mexican passport
- Certification of Mexican nationality
- Declaration of Mexican nationality

#### **Proof of identity includes:**

- Mexican driver's license
- U.S. driver's license
- State-issued ID card (United States)
- Mexican passport
- U.S. passport
- U.S. work permit
- Mexican voter registration card
- Any official identification with a photograph issued by the Mexican government

#### **Proof of residence in the consular district:**

- Utility bill
- Mexican or U.S. government correspondence to the U.S. address
- Government-issued identification with U.S. address

click on Relaciones Exteriores, Embajadas y Consulados, Consulados de México en el extranjero.

The cost for obtaining a matrícula consular is \$27. You will also need to take with you proof of Mexican nationality, proof of identity, and proof of local address. *(See chart on page 2)*

## How are consular ID cards used?

Consular ID cards are now accepted by many US cities, counties and even financial institutions as a form of identification. You can use your consular ID card to open an account at a bank or credit union or to make any other financial transaction such as cashing a check or sending money to your home country.

Under the 2003 USA PATRIOT ACT, financial institutions are allowed to accept consular ID cards. There are currently no laws that prohibit banks from doing so. It is up to the bank or financial institution to evaluate the risks and decide if they want you to be their customer.

## Which financial institutions accept consular ID cards?

According to the National Council of La Raza, over 350 financial institutions accept matrículas. Below is a list of financial institutions that accept this consular ID card from México. Please contact each bank to find out if they accept other ID cards.

Keep in mind that services may vary. For example, while First National Bank of Telluride, CO, only accepts the matrícula consular for check cashing purposes, their counterpart in Omaha, NE, accepts matrículas for opening accounts and accessing other services. Check with your local branch to see what services are available for consular ID cardholders in your area.

## National Institutions

### Banco Popular

www.bancopopular.com  
Toll Free: (800) 377-0800

### Bank of America

*(Also accepts cards issued by the Guatemalan consulate)*  
www.bankofamerica.com  
California: (800) 622-8731  
Idaho and Washington: (800) 442-6680  
All other states: (800) 432-1000

### Citibank

*(Also accepts cards issued by consulates from Colombia, Ecuador and Guatemala)*  
www.citibank.com  
(800) 374-9700 - Español

### First Union National Bank

*(Contact Wachovia Bank)*

### Harris Bank

Arizona, Florida, Illinois and Indiana  
www.harrisbank.com  
(800) 546-6101

### HSBC

www.us.hsbc.com  
(800) 975-HSBC ((800) 975-4722)

### JP Morgan Chase

www.jpmorganchase.com  
Chase: (877) 68CHASE ((877) 682-4273)  
Español: (877) 31CHASE ((877) 312-4273)

### US Bank

www.usbank.com  
(800) US BANKS ((800) 872-2657)

### SunTrust Bank

www.suntrust.com  
(800) SUNTRUST ((800) 786-8787)

### Wachovia Bank

*(Also accepts cards issued by consulates from Colombia and the citizen ID from Honduras)*  
www.wachovia.com  
(800) WACHOVIA ((800) 922-4684)

### Washington Mutual

*(May also accept cards issued by the Guatemalan consulate)*  
www.wamu.com  
Toll Free: (800) 788-7000

### Wells Fargo

*(Also accepts cards issued by consulates from Argentina, Colombia and Guatemala)*  
www.wellsfargo.com  
Toll Free: (800) 869-3557

# State Institutions

## Arizona

### Desert Schools Federal Credit Union

www.desertschools.org  
(602) 433-2233  
Toll free: (800) 933-7328

## California

### San Francisco

“Bank on San Francisco,” a partnership between the city of San Francisco and twelve banks and credit unions allows consumers to open accounts even if they don’t have a California State ID card. The box on the right contains a list of local and national financial institutions that participate.

**Altura Credit Union** - Riverside, Coachella, Corona, Hemet, Indio, Moreno Valley, Murrieta, Rancho Mirage, San Jacinto  
www.alturacu.com  
Toll free: (888) 883-7228

### Arrowhead Credit Union

www.arrowheadcu.org  
(909) 383-7300  
Toll free: (800) 743-7228

### Bank of the West

www.bankofthewest.com  
Toll free: (800) 488-BANK (2265)

### El Futuro Credit Union - Porterville

www.elfuturocu.org  
(559) 784-0324 or (559) 784-7901

### Episcopal Community Federal Credit Union - Los Angeles

www.ladiocese.org/creditunion/  
(213) 482-2040 ext. 254

### Valley Credit Union - Emeryville, Santa Clara, San Jose

www.valleycu.org  
Toll free: (800) 995-0287

### Union Bank of California

North of California, Washington, Oregon:  
(415) 765-2000  
South of California including San Diego:  
(323) 720-2000  
www.uboc.com

## Georgia

### United Americas Bank

www.unitedamericasbank.com  
Toll free: (877) 816-BANK ((877) 816-2265)

### “Bank on San Francisco”

- Bank of America
- Bank of the West
- Citibank
- Mission Area Federal Credit Union
- Mission National Bank
- Northeast Community Federal Credit Union
- Patelco Credit Union
- Spectrum Federal Credit Union
- Sterling Bank and Trust
- US Bank
- Washington Mutual
- Wells Fargo

For more information about locations visit:  
[www.sfgov.org/site/bankonsf\\_index.asp?id=46626](http://www.sfgov.org/site/bankonsf_index.asp?id=46626)

## Midwest

For a complete list of 70 banks and credit unions that accept the matrícula consular in Illinois, Minnesota and Wisconsin, visit:

<http://portal.sre.gob.mx/chicago/index.php?option=displaypage&Itemid=92&op=page&SubMenu=>

## New York

**Sleepy Hollow Bank** - New York  
(914) 631-5200  
[www.sleepyhollowbank.com](http://www.sleepyhollowbank.com)

## North Carolina

**Southern Community Bank and Trust** - Winston-Salem  
[www.smallenoughtocare.com](http://www.smallenoughtocare.com)  
(336) 768-8500  
Toll free: (888) 768-2666

**The Latino Community Credit Union (LCCU)** - Charlotte, Durham, Fayetteville, Greensboro, Raleigh  
[www.cooperativalatina.org](http://www.cooperativalatina.org)  
(919) 688-9270

## Oregon

**Point West Credit Union**  
[www.pointwestcu.com](http://www.pointwestcu.com)  
(503) 546-5000  
Toll free: (888) 468-5826

## Texas

### Velocity CU - Austin

www.velocitycu.com  
(512) 469-7000  
Toll free: (800) 933-2029

### Neighborhood CU - Dallas

www.myncu.com  
(214) 748-9393  
Toll free: (800) 321-3728

### DATCU - Denton

www.datcu.org  
(940) 387-8585  
Toll free: (866) 387-8585

### West Texas CU - El Paso

www.wtcu-ep.org  
(915) 772-5247  
Toll free: (888) 772-WTCU (9828)

### Unity One FCU - Fort Worth

www.unityone.org  
(817) 306-3100  
Toll free: (800) 628-5517

### Plus4 CU - Houston

www.plus4cu.org  
(713) 970-6200  
Toll free: (800) 621-6752

### Space City - Houston

www.spacecitycu.com  
(713) 222-1244  
Toll free: (800) 762-3543

### San Antonio City EFCU

www.sacefcu.org  
(210) 229-1128 in San Antonio  
Toll free: (800) CECU1st.

### First Central CU - Waco

www.firstcentralcu.com  
(254) 776-9333  
Toll free: (800) 780-7101

## Virginia

### Freedom First Credit Union

www.freedomfirstcu.com  
(540) 387-0579  
Toll free: (800) 388-6998

## What are Individual Taxpayer Identification Numbers (ITINs)?

An Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN) is a tax processing number issued by the Internal Revenue Service. The IRS issues ITINs to individuals who are required to have a U.S. taxpayer identification number. ITINs are for people who do not have, and are not eligible to obtain, a Social Security number (SSN). ITINs are issued regardless of immigration status because both residents and nonresidents may have U.S. tax return and payment responsibilities under the Internal Revenue Code. Individuals must have a filing requirement and file a valid federal income tax return to receive an ITIN, unless they meet an exception.

For more information about how to obtain an ITIN, visit the IRS website:

English: [www.irs.gov/individuals/article/0,,id=96287,00.html](http://www.irs.gov/individuals/article/0,,id=96287,00.html)

Spanish: [www.irs.gov/espanol/article/0,,id=98974,00.html](http://www.irs.gov/espanol/article/0,,id=98974,00.html)

This publication was produced by **Consumer Action - [www.consumer-action.org](http://www.consumer-action.org)** - 2007

221 Main St., Suite 480  
San Francisco, CA 94105  
(415) 777-9635  
[hotline@consumer-action.org](mailto:hotline@consumer-action.org)

523 West Sixth St., Suite 1105  
Los Angeles, CA 90014  
(213) 624-8327

English, Spanish and Chinese spoken.