RESIDENCY IN SPAIN

A complete guide



2025

By: Balcells Group

- Find the residency permit to fit your needs
- The main requirements
- Legal processes to follow, step by step..

Life in Spain

Delicious food? Sunny weather? Majestic mountain ranges? Lovely beaches? Vibrant cities? Rich culture? And warm people?

Spain has all of these, making it the perfect place for foreigners to, not just visit, but also live in!

So, how can we make this happen for you? What is the exact legal process one must follow?

There are different processes and permits to help you get your residency card and become a legal resident.

In this guide, we will help you find not only which the right residence permit is for you (and your family), but also what the main requirements and legal processes are to follow, step-by-step.

So if you would like to access a comprehensive and complete guide containing everything you need to know about Spanish residency... keep reading!



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Process overview



01 Short-stay / Tourist Visa

If you want to stay up to 90 days in Spain, you must apply for a short-stay visa at the Spanish Embassy or Consulate in the country of origin. There are several requirements you must meet (find the complete list in the next page), including sufficient funds for each day in the country or health insurance.

02 Temporary Residence Permit

If you plan to stay in Spain for more than 90 days, you must apply for temporary residency (which implies also obtaining a physical card). As we will see, there are several residency options with different requirements, and you must fully understand their specifics in order to decide what is the most suitable path for you and your relatives.



03 Permanent (Long-term) Residence Permit

After five years in the country, and provided that you have been continuously and legally living in Spain for those years, you can apply for permanent residency. PR allows you to indefinitely reside in the country, and work in Spain with the same rights as any national.

04 Citizenship

If you wish to apply for Spanish citizenship, you must have resided in Spain for 10 years (although there are exceptions where this period is reduced to just 2 or even 1 year). While the process may take some time, obtaining a Spanish passport will allow you to work in any EU country and travel freely to 183 countries.

Short-stay Visa



The short-stay visa/tourist visa, also popularly known as the Schengen Visa, allows non-EU citizens to stay in Spain for 90 days. This visa allows them to do tourism in the country, attend a business meeting or event, etc.

As we will see, certain residence permits can be applied for directly from Spain with a tourist visa, but many others cannot.

Also, bear in mind that EU citizens can visit Spain without the need to apply for a tourist visa.



General requirements

- Schengen visa application form (find it here)
- Original passport (which must expire at least 3 months after your exit of Schengen)
- 2 recent passport-sized photos
- Travel medical insurance
- Payment of the visa fee
- Round-trip flight tickets
- Invitation letter or hotel/apartment reservation
- Proof of sufficient financial means (100€ per day)
- ETIAS form

IMPORTANT NOTE: Depending on your country of origin, you may NOT be required to apply for a tourist visa to enter Spain. Nevertheless, you ALWAYS need to comply with those requirements, even if you are not required to obtain a visa.

Countries that NEED a short-stay visa to enter Spain:

- Afganistán
- Arabia Saudita
- Argelia
- Angola
- Armenia
- Azerbaiyán
- Bahréin
- Bangladesh
- Belice
- Benín
- Bielorrusia
- Birmania/Myanmar
- Bolivia
- Botsuana
- Burkina Faso
- Burundi
- Bután
- Cabo Verde
- Camboya
- Camerún
- Chad
- China
- Comoras
- Congo
- Corea del Norte
- Costa de Marfil
- Cuba
- Ecuador
- Egipto
- Eritrea
- Etiopía
- Filipinas
- Fiyi
- Gabón
- Gambia
- Ghana
- Guinea
- Guinea Bissau
- Guinea Ecuatorial
- Guyana
- Haití
- India
- Indonesia
- Irak
- Irán
- Jamaica
- Jordania
- Kazajstán
- Kenia
- Kirguistán
- Kosovo
- Kuwait
- Laos
- Lesoto
- Líbano
- Liberia
- Libia
- Madagascar
- Malaui
- Maldivas
- Malí
- Marruecos
- Mauritania
- Mongolia
- Mozambique
- Namibia
- Nepal
- Níger
- Nigeria
- Omán
- Pakistán
- Autoridad Palestina
- Papúa Nueva Guinea
- Precio
- Qatar
- República Centroafricana
- República Democrática del Congo
- República Dominicana
- Ruanda
- Rusia
- Senegal
- Sierra Leona
- Somalia
- Sri Lanka
- Sto. Tomé y Príncipe
- Sudáfrica
- Sudán
- Sudán del Sur
- Surinam
- Suazilandia
- Siria
- Tanzania
- Tailandia
- Tayikistán
- Togo
- Túnez
- Turkmenistán
- Turquía
- Ucrania
- Uganda
- Uzbekistán
- Vietnam
- Yemen
- Yibuti
- Zambia
- Zimbabue

Countries that DON'T NEED a short-stay visa to enter Spain:

- Albania
- Andorra
- Antigua & Barbuda
- Argentina
- A.R.Y.M.(Antigua República Yugoslava de Macedonia)
- Australia
- Bahamas
- Barbados
- Bosnia y Herzegovina
- Brasil
- Brunéi Darussalam
- Canadá
- Chile
- Colombia
- Corea del Sur
- Costa Rica
- Dominica
- El Salvador
- Emiratos Árabes Unidos
- Estados Unidos
- Georgia
- Granada
- Guatemala
- Honduras
- Islas Marshall
- Islas Salomón
- Israel
- Japón
- Kiribati
- Malasia
- Mauricio
- México
- Micronesia
- Moldova Mónaco
- Montenegro
- Nauru
- Nicaragua
- Nueva Zelanda
- Palau
- Panamá
- Paraguay
- Perú
- Samoa
- San Cristóbal y Nieves
- San Marino
- San Vicente y las Granadinas
- Santa Lucía
- Santa Sede
- Serbia
- Seychelles
- Singapur
- Timor Oriental
- Tonga
- Trinidad y Tobago
- Tuvalu
- Uruguay
- Vanuatu
- Venezuela



Spanish Residency

If you are a Non-European citizen who would like to stay in Spain for more than 90 days, you must apply for a temporary residence permit in Spain.

This initial residency permit can be for 1 or 3 years (depending on the category), and will grant you a physical card.

On the other hand, if you are a European citizen or from Switzerland, it is not required to get a visa or residence permit to live and work in Spain. However, you do have to get your Identification Number in Spain (NIE) and your EU registry certificate.



Although the requirements vary for each type of residence permit, the general requirements are:

- You must be a Non-EU citizen over 18 years old
- You can't be in an irregular situation in Spain when submitting your application (unless arraigo)
- Clear criminal records for the last five years
- Full-coverage private or public health insurance in Spain (no co-payments)
- Sufficient financial means for the main applicant and any additional family members (varies according to the permit)
- Proof of payment of the corresponding fee
- Valid passport

Two existing regulations

All residency permits in Spain fall under 2 different laws: the general immigration regime and the Entrepreneur's Law. Before 2013, there was only the General Immigration Regime. The Entrepreneur's Law or Law 14/2013 was created to help Spain recover from the 2008 economic crisis. Permits under it are easier to obtain and offer greater advantages for the applicant: they are processed faster, can be applied for directly in Spain, and grant longer initial residency peiods.

General immigration regime

The foreigner must first submit all required documents at the Consulate or Embassy of Spain in the country of origin, which usually takes three months. She will be granted a visa (which will contain the NIE, the Foreign Identification Number that she will use for any legal process in the country), to enter Spain.

Within a month of arrival, the individual must make an appointment to register her fingerprints and finally obtain her TIE ("Tarjeta de Identidad de Extranjero" or physical residency card), which will be issued at the corresponding police station.

Entrepreneur's law

The Entrepreneur Law was created to attract foreign talent and investment to Spain. If the individual is already in Spain, applications under this law can be initiated directly from within the country, even with a tourist visa. Additionally, it offers a fast-track resolution process, which takes a maximum of 20 working days.

This law operates under positive administrative silence, meaning that if there is no update after 20 working days, the application is considered approved. Initial residence permits under this law are granted for three years.

Steps to obtain Spanish Residency

General Immigration Regime

Go to the Spanish Consulate in the country of origin to apply for a visa

Receive Spanish visa with the NIE

Entrepreneur's Law

Travel to Spain

Go to the Town Hall to obtain your Empadronamiento

Process application through the UGE (if under the Entrepreneur's Law)

Have your fingerprints taken at the Police Station

Pick up your TIE after 30-40 days

Non-lucrative visa

The perfect option for people who wish to retire or enjoy Spain for one year, as long as they have sufficient financial means and can live comfortably without working in the country. After one year, you have the possibility to transition to a work permit.

Duration of the initial residency card:
One year

From where can it be applied?
It must be applied for from your country of origin at the Spanish consulate

Renewal:
For the first and second renewals, this residence card will have a duration of 2 years. For the third renewal, the applicant may apply for long-term residence (5 years).

Does it allow you to work?
No, the non-profit visa does not allow you to work. Remote workers can apply for a digital nomad visa instead

Relatives?
Yes, a joint application can be made with spouse and children



Main requirements: Non-lucrative visa

- Form EX-01 (find it here)
- Original Passport
- Clear criminal records from all countries one has resided in for the last 5 years
- Medical Certificate
- Private health insurance contracted with a Spanish company for 1 year
- Proof of sufficient financial means (100% of the IPREM: €28,800 for the main applicant, €7,200€ for each additional relative
- Passport-sized photo

*Bear in mind that specific requirements may change according to your consulate

***Tenga en cuenta que los requisitos específicos pueden cambiar según su consulado**

Entrepreneur Visa

This is the ideal permit for those who wish to set up their own company in Spain, as long as the project involves a high level of technology and is completely innovative. A detailed business plan is required, which must demonstrate how the project will boost and impact Spain's socioeconomic development and employment.

Duration of the initial card:
3 years

From where can it be applied?
The Entrepreneur Visa can be applied for directly from Spain or from the country of origin

Renewal:
2 additional years, but the individual must show that the business is performing well and will continue to do so

Work?
Yes.

Relatives?
Yes, a joint application with spouse and children is possible



Main requirements: Entrepreneur Visa

- Application Form (find it here)
- Original Passport
- Non-EU citizen over 18 years old
- Clear criminal records from all countries one have resided in for the last 5 years
- Private health insurance contracted with a Spanish company for one year
- Proof of sufficient financial means (€30,250 in your bank account)
- A detailed business plan that emphasizes the creation of employment, innovation, and positive impact on the socio-economic growth of Spain. It must be sent to the Commercial Office
- Favorable report. If the business plan is approved by the Commercial Office, the document can be presented to the corresponding Immigration Office

Work Permit as a Highly Qualified Worker

This special type of work permit is granted to those who have completed higher education studies and have received an offer in a managerial or technical position earning more than €50,000 per year.

Initial Permit Duration:
3 years or equivalent to the duration of the contract.

Where can it be applied from?
The visa for Highly Qualified Professionals can be applied for either from Spain or from the country of origin, but the application is processed by the UGE (Large Companies and Strategic Groups Unit).

Renewal:
An additional 2 years, if the applicant has remained with the same company, in the same position, and continues to meet the minimum required salary.

Work?
Yes.

Family?
Yes, a joint application can be submitted for spouse and children.



Main requirements: Work Permit as a Highly Qualified Worker

- Application Form (find it here)
- Original Passport
- For non-EU citizens over 18 years old
- Clear criminal records from all countries one has resided in for the last 5 years
- Proof of sufficient financial means
- Full-coverage Social Security insurance in Spain (provided by the company)
- Work contract that proves the business relationship
- Applicant's resume
- Job description and proof of meeting qualification standards
    - Additional option: advanced degree from a prestigious academic institution

Intra-Corporate Transfer (ICT) Visa

This applies to employees of multinational companies who need to transfer to the Spanish headquarters to continue working or to undergo any type of training.

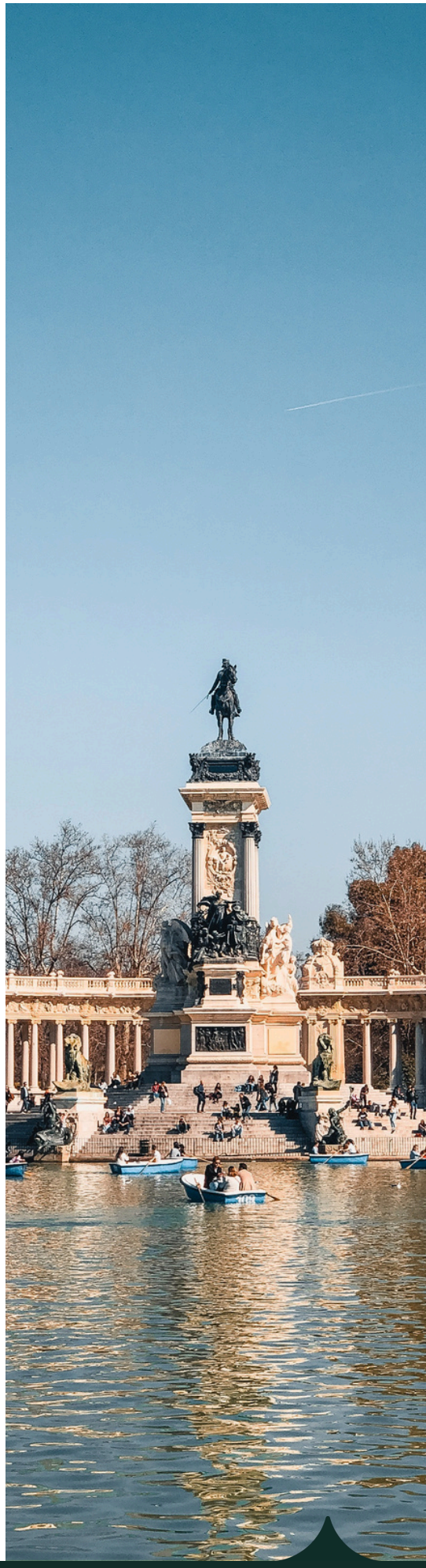
Initial Permit Duration:
3 years or the duration of the employment contract.

Where can it be applied from?
The application process is initiated by the company and processed by the UGE (Large Companies and Strategic Groups Unit). If approved, the applicant will receive an "intra-corporate transfer residence authorization," which will be used to apply for the visa. The applicant does not need to be in Spain during the application process.

Renewal:
3 years for managers and specialists, and 1 year for trainees.

Work?
Yes.

Family?
Yes, a joint application can be submitted for spouse and children.



Main requirements: Intra-Corporate Transfer (ICT) Visa

- Application Form (find it here)
- Original Passport
- Non-EU citizen over 18 years old
- Clear criminal records from all countries one has resided in for the last 5 years
- Full-coverage health insurance in Spain
- Proof of sufficient financial means
- Accreditation of the company's business activity
- Proof of a professional relationship with the company for a minimum of 3 months prior to the application
- Proof of 3 years of experience or possession of higher-degree education
- Document from the company that confirms the relocation process

Research visa

A special type of permit designed for researchers and the scientific community. This is for those who travel to Spain to work in an R&D center or do authorized research. It can also include teachers hired by universities or higher education centers.

Duration of the initial card: 3 years or equal to the duration of the research contract

From where can it be applied? The research visa can be applied directly from Spain or from your home country. The application must be initiated by the research institution that is hiring, and submitted completely online through the electronic system of the Ministry of Inclusion, Social Security and Migration

Renewal: 2 additional years if the initial conditions are maintained.

Work? Yes.

Relatives? Yes, a joint application with spouse and children is possible



Main requirements: Research visa

- Application Form (find it here)
- Original Passport
- Non-EU citizen over 18 years old
- Cannot be an irregular situation
- Clear criminal records from all countries one has resided in for the last five years
- Private health insurance contracted with a Spanish company for one year, with no copayments
- Proof of sufficient financial means
- Job contract or agreement

Student visa

There are two types of student visas: short-term (90-180 days) and long-term (more than 6 months). If the academic year is more than 6 months and less than a year, the applicant will have to process a residency card upon arrival (for studies lasting less than 6 months no residency card will be issued). One of its main advantages is that you can easily move to work permit after completing your studies

Initial Permit Duration:
One year.

Where can it be applied from?

- For higher education studies: from Spain while on a tourist visa, or from the country of origin.
- For other types of studies (such as language courses): only from the country of origin.

Renewal:
If the studies are extended, the individual may renew the permit. In some cases, the student visa can be modified into a work permit.

Work?
Yes, for up to 30 hours per week, as long as the working hours are compatible with class hours.

Family?
Yes, a joint application can be submitted for spouse and children under 18, but they will not be allowed to work.



Main requirements: Student Visa

- National Visa (find it here)
- Just for non-EU citizens
- Must be in a legal status when submitting your application
- Sufficient economic funds for the duration of the studies, which is a monthly 100% of the IPREM (€7,200 annually for the main applicant, €5,400 for the spouse, and €3,600 for each child)
- Medical Certificate
- Full-coverage private health insurance in Spain
- Acceptance or admission letter from the academic institution
- Even though the vast majority of courses and educational centers will be valid, make sure to verify that they comply with these requirements
- Clear criminal records from all countries one has resided in for the last 5 years
- Empadronamiento
- For short-term study visas: round-trip flight tickets from the home country, but wait for the issued visa before finalizing payments
- For higher-education studies, such as a master's or postgraduate degree: very likely, the homologation or validation of the individual's university degree received in the country of origin
- Studies can't be online, and must be of at least 20 hours per week

Student visa

After completing studies, one has six options to obtain a work permit:

Modification to Employment or Self-Employment Permit
Find a job offer or start your own business project (only valid if you have completed higher education studies).

Residence Authorization for Internships
Work under a traineeship contract or a university agreement, for a maximum of 2 years.

Job-Seeking Visa
Up to two years to find a job, without being allowed to work during that time.

Work Permit for Highly Qualified Professionals
Minimum required salary: €30,000 for those under 30 years old, or over €40,300 for those over 30.

Entrepreneur Visa
For those who wish to launch an innovative project in Spain.

Digital Nomad Visa
For those who want to work remotely or for a foreign-based company (only valid if you have completed higher education studies).

Residence authorization to internship

Students who have finished or have currently been taking level 6 studies or higher for the last 2 years, can transition from a student visa to this permit. This authorization is obtained through a: traineeship contract or internship agreement, and the internship should be within the same scope and qualification level as the higher studies taken.

Duration of the initial card: For the traineeship contract, the maximum is 2 years with a minimum of 6 months; for the internship agreement, the maximum is 6 months, but can be renewed for another 6 months.

From where can it be applied? The residence authorization to internship can be applied directly from Spain or from your home country, and the process can be fulfilled online.

Renewal: Once the contract or agreement finishes, the individual can transition to an employee's residence permit, which can be renewed until permanent residency

Work? Yes

Relatives? No, unless the relatives joined the applicant while he or she was on a student visa



Main requirements: Residence authorization to internship

- Original Passport
- Non-EU citizen over 18 years old
- EX-04 Form (find it here)
- Clear criminal records from all countries one has resided in for the last 5 years
- Full-coverage private health insurance in Spain for at least one year
- Proof of sufficient financial means (100% IPREM: €7,200 for the main applicant)
- Document from the company detailing the internship's description, duration, conditions, working hours, and who the supervisor is
- The contract or internship agreement signed by all parties involved
- The company offering the internship must be up to date with payments to the Spanish Tax Agency and Social Security. It will be the company that initiates the application at the government office where it is located or where its operations are carried out

Job seeking visa

The búsqueda de empleo or student job search permit allows foreign students in Spain to extend their stay for another year to look for a job or start their own company. The student must have finished their studies at the time of application, and can apply for this permit 60 days before their student authorization expires or 90 days after.

Duration of the initial card:
One year

From where can it be applied?
The búsqueda de empleo is applied for online and directly from Spain, after completing your studies

Renewal:
Not possible, the búsqueda de empleo is just for 1 year. Finding a job or putting up a business would allow the applicant to change to a work permit.

Work?
No, it is a non-lucrative permit

Relatives?
No, unless the relatives joined the applicant while he or she was on a student visa



Main requirements: Job seeking visa

- Non-EU Citizen
- Having legal status in Spain
- EX-01 Form (find it here)
- Proof that the individual completed at least Level 7 studies in Spain, which is a bachelor's degree, so a language course will not be enough
- The academic institution must be on the list provided by the government for the application to be accepted, as not all help students with this permit.
- Sufficient economic funds (100% of the IPREM: €7,200 for the main applicant, €5,400 for the spouse, and €3,600 for each child)
- Full-coverage private or public medical insurance in Spain.
- Clear criminal records from all countries one has resided in for the last 5 years

Digital Nomad Visa

For the remote workers and freelancers based in Spain who have clients abroad. Just remember, there has to be an existing employment relationship of at least 3 months prior to the application, and proof of sufficient experience and/or education. Foreigners with this visa will enjoy greater tax advantages.

Initial Permit Duration:
Up to 3 years.

Where can it be applied from?
It can be requested directly from Spain or from your country of origin.

Renewal:
An additional 2 years.

Work?
Yes, but you must be working for or with companies located outside of Spain. If you work for Spanish companies, the income from those companies cannot exceed 20% of your total earnings.

Family?
Yes, a joint application can be submitted for spouse and children, but you must demonstrate possession of €9,720 for each additional family member, which represents 75% of the Spanish minimum wage.



Main requirements: Digital Nomad Visa

- Application Form (find it here)
- Original Passport
- Non-EU citizen over 18 years old
- Clear criminal records from all countries one has resided in for the last 5 years
- Full-coverage private health insurance in Spain
- Proof of existing employment relationship for at least 3 months prior to your application
- Proof that the company has been operating for at least 1 year prior to your application, and has specifically stated that your position allows for remote work
- For freelancers: must be working for at least 1 company outside Spain that has specified, through their terms and conditions, the possibility to work remotely
- Contract with that same company, as the valid duration of your residence authorization will depend on it
- Proof of either: 3 yeof ars work-related experience prior to application, or being a graduate or post-graduate from a reputable academic institution
- Proof of sufficient funds. You must have a yearly salary of €34,188, which is €2,849 per month. The job contract can be used to demonstrate the possession of these economic funds

Digital Nomad Visa

Attention:

Following the approval of the Law 28/2022, of December 21st, on the promotion of the ecosystem of start-ups, all those foreigners who establish their residence in Spain through the residency permit as digital nomad, can ONLY access the Beckham Law special regime, when the following conditions are met:

- They have not been a resident in Spain for the last 5 years
- The application for this special regime happened during the first 6 months of residence in Spain
- The transfer to Spain takes on an agreement with their employer, in which it is established that they can work remotely from Spain. In addition, there must be a bilateral agreement between Spain and the employer's country of residence on Social Security. Otherwise, the employer must register an entity in Spain to cover the costs of the social security of its employee in Spain

Those who applying for residency permit as self-employed workers (autónomos) will be taxed as regular spanish residents under the general regime of the Personal Income Tax of Individuals (IRPF), Property Tax (IP) and the Informative declaration of assets abroad (Model 720).

Family member of an EU citizen

Family members of EU citizens living in Spain can apply for an EU family member residence card (tarjeta comunitaria), a highly beneficial permit that allows them to live and work in the country for 5 years. The most common cases involve registered partners through a civil partnership (pareja de hecho) or marriage. **Please note: This does not apply to family members of Spanish nationals.**

Duration of the initial card: 5 years

From where can it be applied? If the individual needs a visa to enter Spain, the application process begins in the country of origin, wherein the individual has to request the visa as a family member of a Spanish citizen. Once in Spain, whether a visa was necessary or not, the individual must go to the town hall with the family member and register at the same address. From there, the process at the Spanish immigration office can begin.

Renewal: If during the first 5 years, one did not live outside Spain for more than 6 months in a 12-month period, a permanent community card can be obtained, which lasts for 10 years.

Work? Yes

Relatives? Yes



Main requirements: Family member of an EU citizen

- EX-19 Form (find it here)
- Sufficient economic means
- Full-coverage private or public medical insurance in Spain
- Clear criminal records from all countries one has resided in for last 5 years
- Documentation that demonstrates the kinship bond between the European citizen and the applicant (marriage certificate, registration certificate of the civil partnership, etc.)
- DNI (if Spanish) or EU certificate (green card), as the NIE number alone is not enough
- If the EU citizen is a student: enrollment document from the academic institution
- If the EU citizen is an employee: employment contract
- If the EU citizen is self-employed: the social security registry and the Census of Economic Activities
- In the case of not conducting any economic activity in Spain, a document that proves the possession of sufficient economic means

Family Reunification

Relatives, civil partners, and in-laws of Non-EU citizens residing in Spain can apply for family reunification, under the condition that the said foreigner living in Spain has been in the country for at least one year (with a valid permit). This residency card allows the applicant both to live and work in the country.

Duration of the initial card: 1 year

From where can it be applied?
The process is initiated at the Foreigner's Office by the individual already residing in Spain. If the file is approved, the applicant must request a visa from their country of origin.

Renewal:
If initial conditions are maintained, the residency card can be renewed depending on the permit of the individual already residing in Spain

Work? Yes

Relatives? Yes



Main requirements: Family Reunification

- Original passport
- EX-02 Form (find it here)
- Nationality of the foreigner living in Spain (Non-European), who has already lived in Spain for a year
- Current residency of the the foreigner living in Spain
- Full-coverage private medical insurance in Spain
- Clear criminal records from all countries one has resided in for the last 5 years
- Empadronamiento
- Documentation that demonstrates the kinship bond between the foreigner living in Spain and the applicant
- Applicant should not be in an irregular situation in the Spanish territory
- Proof that the applicant has sufficient and stable economic means
- Proof of adequate housing conditions for when the applicant arrives

Residence through Arraigo

Following the reform of the immigration regulation on May 20, 2025, there are currently five different types of arraigoresidence permits:

- Arraigo Sociolaboral
- Arraigo Social
- Arraigo Socioformativo
- Arraigo Familiar
- Arraigo de Segunda Oportunidad

The requirements to obtain any of these arraigo permits are divided into two main categories: general requirements, which apply to all of these exceptional residence authorizations, and specific requirements.

On the next page, we will first analyze the general requirements you must meet regardless of the type of arraigo you wish to apply for, and then we will go over the specific requirements for each one.



Arraigo Sociolaboral

Who can apply for Arraigo Sociolaboral?

Individuals who can prove that they have been living irregularly in Spain for 2 consecutive years prior to the application and who have a job offer.

The job must pay at least the minimum wage and provide a minimum of 20 working hours per week. Additionally, the employer must have been economically active for at least one year.

It is also possible to submit more than one job contract when:

- The jobs are seasonal in nature or related to seasonal productive activities, arranged consecutively for more than one employer.
- The jobs are part-time, either in the same or different occupations, carried out simultaneously for more than one employer.



Arraigo social

Who can apply for Arraigo Social?

Foreign nationals who meet any of the following conditions:

- Have family ties in Spain with other foreign nationals who hold a valid residence permit. This includes a spouse or registered partner, as well as first-degree relatives in the direct line (parents or children).
- Obtain a report certifying integration efforts.
- "Effort of integration" is understood to mean participation in training activities and the demonstration of knowledge and respect for:
  - Spain's constitutional values
  - Statutory values of the Autonomous Community of residence
  - European Union values
  - Human rights and public freedoms
  - Democracy, tolerance, and gender equality
  - And learning of the official languages of the place of residence

Provide proof of sufficient financial means.
All gross income is counted, including extra payments, except in the case of economic activities, which are assessed based on net income. Also included are pensions, benefits, capital gains (according to income tax returns), income from social assistance, and average assets over the last six months.
Not counted are study and housing-related aid (rental or purchase), as well as compensatory or child support payments, except if the latter are in favor of the person being regrouped.



Arraigo familiar

Who can apply for Arraigo Familiar?

- Mother, father, or legal guardian of a minor who is a national of another European Union Member State, the European Economic Area, or Switzerland.
  - Reside in Spain at the time of the application.
  - Live with and be responsible for the minor.
  - Be up to date with parental obligations.

- A person providing support to an individual with a disability, who is a national of another EU Member State, EEA country, or Switzerland, in the exercise of their legal capacity.
  - The applicant must be a family member of the person with a disability.
  - They must live together, and the person with a disability must be in the applicant's care.

For this type of arraigo, the requirement to have continuously resided irregularly in Spain for 2 years is eliminated; it can be requested without any minimum prior time spent in the country.



Arraigo socioformativo

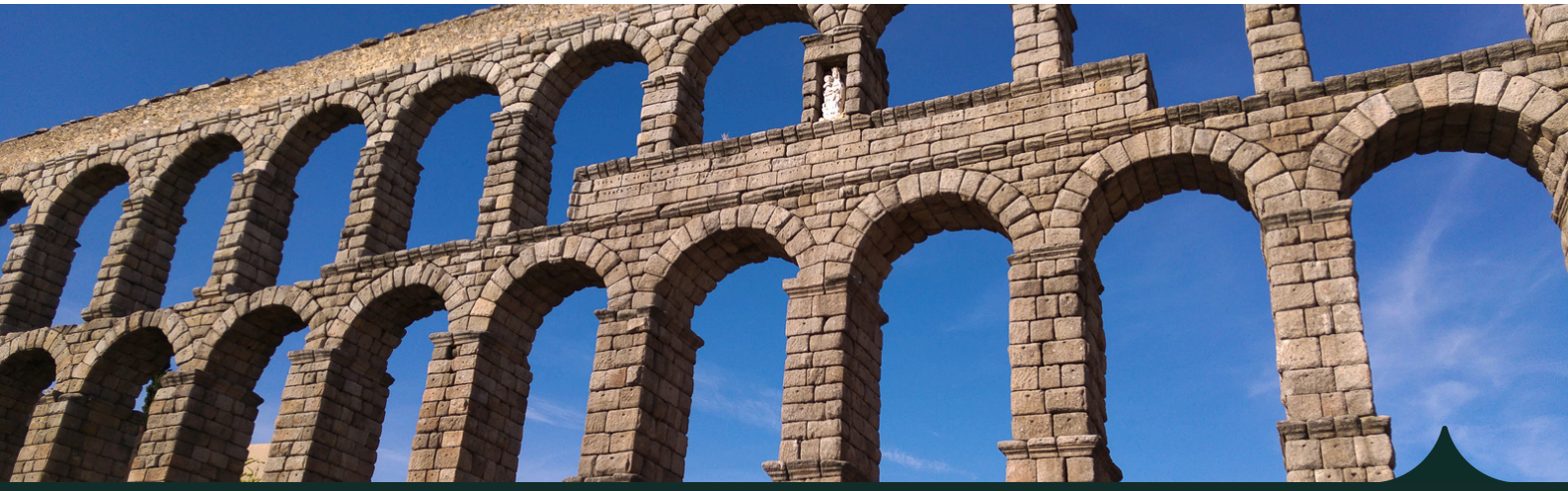
¿Quién puede solicitar el arraigo para la formación?

Personas que han estado viviendo de manera irregular en España durante al menos dos años, y desean iniciar estudios específicos o formación de cualificación para el empleo. Debe tratarse dee formaciones promovidas por los Servicios Públicos de Empleo en España y estar orientadas al desempeño de ocupaciones incluidas en el Catálogo de ocupaciones de difícil cobertura.

Los 3 supuestos. Puedes solicitar este arraigo tanto si ya te has matriculado en el curso concreto, si has iniciado los estudios o si te comprometes a hacerlo en un futuro próximo.

Requisito clave. Deberás conseguir un informe de inserción social para poder conseguir este arraigo.

Trabajar con el arraigo socioformativo. Podrás trabajar hasta 30 horas por semana siempre que la oferta te pague como mínimo el SMI; y una vez terminada la formación, modificar a permiso de trabajo.



Familiar de español

This is a residence permit available to foreign nationals who are not citizens of a European Union Member State, nor of a country that is part of the European Economic Area or Switzerland, and who have a family relationship with a Spanish citizen, regardless of when or where the family bond was established.

This applies as long as the relationship is maintained and the applicant accompanies, joins, or reunites with the Spanish citizen in Spain—except in the case of sons or daughters whose parent is or was originally Spanish, in which case they may apply under any circumstances.

Co-residence requirement:
For this procedure, it is essential that the applicant lives with the Spanish citizen.

Residence and work authorization:
Once granted, this is a 5-year residence card that also gives the right to work in Spain, either as an employee or self-employed.



Family Members Who Can Apply for the Residence Card for Relatives of a Spanish Citizen

- Children under 26 years old of the Spanish citizen or their spouse/partner
- Children over 26 years old who are financially dependent on the Spanish citizen
- Parents of the Spanish citizen, if financially dependent; if they are under 80 years old, economic dependence must be proven
- Parents of the spouse or partner of the Spanish citizen, if financially dependent
- Spouse of the Spanish citizen (must be over 18 years old)
- Registered partner (in a public registry of an EU, EEA, or Swiss country)
- Stable partner, i.e., a non-registered partner who can prove, a minimum of 12 months of cohabitation, either inside or outside of Spain, or having a child in common
- Father, mother, guardian, or legal custodian of a Spanish minor, who either lives with the child or fulfills parental obligations
- Second-degree relatives who act as caretakers of a Spanish citizen with officially recognized dependency in Spain
- Children whose parent is or was originally Spanish
- Any other extended family member not mentioned above, as long as they are financially dependent and form part of the Spanish citizen's household

Permanent Residency

What is permanent residency in Spain?

Non-EU citizens who have been living continuously and legally in Spain for 5 valid years may apply for permanent residency (long-term residence).

Please note: time spent in Spain as a tourist or on a student visa does not count toward this 5-year period.

During these 5 years, you must not have been outside of Spain for more than 6 months in total; or 10 months in the case of individuals who obtained residency as family members of EU citizens.

The permanent residence card is valid for five years and is renewable. It allows you to live and work in Spain, either as an employee or self-employed, with the same rights as any Spanish national.



Permanent Residency

Which documents will you need to submit?

- Proof of payment of the corresponding fee
- Completed EX-11 form
- Current residency card (the one about to expire)
- Original passport and copy
- Clear criminal record certificate for the last 5 years
- Proof of living in Spain uninterruptedly for the last 5 years (evidence can be: rental contracts, tax returns, or working payrolls)

It is recommended to begin the process 60 days before the current permit expires to give leeway in the case of any mishaps. The permit approval should arrive within 3 months, then the individual can begin to process the actual card at the Police Office.



Spanish Citizenship

What are the different types of Spanish citizenship?

There are four main ways in which you can obtain Spanish nationality:

- By having lived enough years in Spain (citizenship by residency)
  - 10 years is the standard
  - 5 years for refugees
  - 2 years for foreigners coming from any Latin American country, Andorra, Equatorial Guinea, Philippines, or Portugal
  - 1 year for those married to a Spanish national or children/grandchildren of Spanish citizens born in Spain
- By marrying a Spanish national (citizenship by marriage is possible after living in Spain for 1 year)
- By being a descendant or grandchildren of a Spanish citizen (citizenship by descent)
- And through your children (citizenship by option)



Spanish Citizenship

What are the benefits of a Spanish citizenship?

- The right to live and work anywhere in the European Union
- The ability to travel freely to 183 countries
- Simpler bureaucratic processes

In some special cases, such as those from France, Andorra, Portugal, Equatorial Guinea, the Philippines, or a Latin American country, dual nationality can be obtained without having to renounce to your original nationality.



Spanish Citizenship

What are the main requirements?

Generally, the main requirements include:

- Passport and NIE
- Current residence permit (one can't be in an irregular situation)
- Birth certificate
- Clear criminal records
- Marriage certificate, if necessary
- Empadronamiento
- Certificates that demonstrate passing the two required exams: DELE A2 (basic language test) and CCSE (cultural test)
- Proof of paying the corresponding fee, which is about €100
- Proof of sufficient economic means
- To grant the individual's children the possibility to get citizenship by option, include their birth certificates

The process for obtaining citizenship is legally 1 year, but because of delays or complications, this could be extended up to 2 or even 3 years.



Balcells Group

Any doubts? More questions?

Our lawyers are here to make things easy for you. We will:



Have an **initial consultation** with you (online or at our offices) to guide you step by step



Help you prepare all your documents so that we make sure you enjoy a successful application



Be next to you throughout the entire process, **solving any doubts** you may have along the way

Book a consultation with us

HERE!

and have an expert immigration lawyer assigned to you **today**

Rambla de Catalunya, 124, 1-2
08008 Barcelona (Spain)

Monday – Thursday | 9:00 – 18:00
Friday | 9:00 – 17:00

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