



SSM
SWISS SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT

M A D R I D

The Essential Guide to Studying in Spain:

Visa, Residency, and Beyond



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Disclaimer



The information provided in this handbook is intended for general guidance only and may not reflect the most current regulations or procedures. Immigration laws and requirements can change frequently. Therefore, we strongly recommend that readers verify all information with the official Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs or their local Spanish consulate before making any decisions. The authors and publishers of this handbook assume no responsibility for any discrepancies or inaccuracies in the information provided.

Warm regards,

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What is a Spanish Student Visa ?

A Spanish student visa permits non-EU citizens to study in Spain for longer than 90 days. EU citizens and citizens of certain countries may have different entry requirements.

MORE INFORMATION HERE:



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How long can I stay in Spain on a tourist visa before needing a student visa?

Generally, a tourist visa allows a stay of up to 90 days within a 180-day period. Staying longer requires a student visa (or another appropriate visa).



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What types of student visas are there?

A. **Short-Term Visa (91–180 days)**
For programs lasting between 91 and 180 days.

B. **Long-Term Visa (181+ days)**
For programs exceeding 180 days.

For further guidance, visit the official Spanish consular website on student visas.

Q: WHAT IF MY PROGRAM IS EXACTLY 180 DAYS?

A: For programs lasting precisely 180 days, it is best to contact the Spanish consulate directly. The requirements may depend on specific circumstances.

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DO I STILL NEED A VISA IF...

Q: My course is online. Do I still need a visa?

- › A: Even if your course is online, you may need a student visa if you plan to reside in Spain for longer than 90 days. For clarification, consult with the Spanish consulate.

Q: I'm a dual citizen (EU and non-EU). Do I need a visa?

- › A: If you hold both European Union (EU) and non-EU citizenships, you are entitled to the rights of EU nationals. This means:
- You do not need a student visa to study in Spain.
 - However, if your stay exceeds 90 days, you are required to:
 - Register your residence with local authorities.
 - Obtain a Foreigner Identity Number (NIE) and a Certificate of Registration (Certificado de Registro), which serve as proof of your legal residence in Spain.

For more information on residence rights for EU nationals studying in other EU countries, refer to the official European Union portal:

[Your Europe - Residence Rights for Students](#)

Requirements and Application Process

Q: What is the minimum age requirement for a student visa?

- 01** For **Higher Education or Specialized Studies:** Applicants are typically 18 years or older, aligning with the standard age for entry into universities or similar institutions. There is no official maximum age, as long as the program requirements are met.
- 02** **Language or Short-Term Study Programs:** Applicants of all ages can apply if they meet the program's eligibility criteria. However, minors under 18 must have parental consent and proper documentation.

For more specific details or exceptions related to minors, you can consult the official Spanish consulate or embassy website: [Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs – Study Visa](#)

Application Process & Documentation

Q: Where do I find the visa application form?

- A: The visa application form is usually available on the website of the Spanish embassy or consulate in your country. [Access the visa application form here.](#)

Q: What is the application fee, and is it refundable?

- A: The fee varies depending on the type of visa and is not refundable if your application is rejected. Check the consulate's website for the current fee amount. [View consular fees here.](#)

Q: Can I apply for a visa from any country?

- A: You typically apply from your country of residence. If you are residing in a country other than your home country, contact the Spanish consulate to clarify the application procedure. [Find the Spanish Consulate in your country here.](#)

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Q: What constitutes sufficient proof of financial means?

A: Proof of financial means is required to demonstrate that you can support yourself during your stay in Spain. The Spanish authorities typically require this proof for student visa applications. Here are the generally accepted forms of proof:

▶ **Bank Statements:**

- **Recent Statements:** Usually, bank statements from the last 3-6 months are required.
- **Minimum Funds Required:** As of 2023, the amount required is at least €700 per month of your stay. For a 12-month program, this totals around €8,400.
- The account should preferably be in your name, or accompanied by a letter from the account holder if the funds are not yours (e.g., a sponsor).

▶ **Prepaid Accommodation:**

If you've prepaid your housing, provide proof (e.g., a receipt or agreement) to potentially reduce the total amount you need to demonstrate.

▶ **Internationally Recognized Bank or Escrow Account:**

Some consulates may accept proof of funds in an escrow account or via a recognized international bank.

▶ **Scholarship or Grant Letter:**

If you have a scholarship, include an official letter confirming the award, the amount covered, and the duration.

▶ **Financial Sponsorship:**

1. If a family member or another individual is sponsoring you, you must provide:

- A notarized sponsorship letter.
- Proof of their financial capability (e.g., their bank statements, income proof).
- Proof of Regular Income:

If you have personal income (e.g., rental income, part-time job income), provide documentation such as pay slips, rental agreements, or tax returns.

▶ **Credit Card Limit Documentation:**

A credit card statement showing an adequate credit limit may be acceptable, but this varies by consulate.

Additional Notes:

- **Translation:** Any document not in Spanish must be officially translated.
- **Certification:** Some documents may need to be apostilled or legalized.
- **Verification:** Spanish authorities may cross-verify the authenticity of submitted documents.

For the most accurate and up-to-date guidelines, consult the official Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs or your local Spanish consulate:

[Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs – Student Visa Requirements](#)

HEALTH INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS

for a Spanish Student Visa



WHAT TYPE OF HEALTH INSURANCE IS ACCEPTABLE?

For a student visa to Spain, health insurance is mandatory to ensure you have coverage for medical expenses during your stay. The insurance must meet specific criteria set by Spanish authorities. Here's what constitutes acceptable health insurance:

1. Coverage Requirements:

- **Comprehensive Coverage:** The insurance must cover all basic healthcare services, including hospitalization, emergencies, and repatriation in case of serious illness or death.
- **Minimum Coverage Amount:** Policies typically require a minimum coverage of €30,000 (or equivalent).
- **No Deductibles or Co-Payments:** Some Spanish consulates explicitly require insurance without deductibles or co-payments.

2. Duration:

The insurance must cover the entire duration of your study program. If your program lasts 180 days or more, ensure the policy is valid for the entire stay.

3. Provider Criteria:

- **Authorized in Spain:** The insurance provider must be licensed to operate in Spain. Many consulates recommend choosing a Spanish-based insurer.
- **Private Insurance Policies:** While public health insurance is generally not acceptable for visa purposes, private health insurance from recognized providers is required.
- **EU Health Card:** If you are an EU citizen, you may use the European Health Insurance Card (EHIC). However, private insurance is still advisable for comprehensive coverage.

4. Documentation:

- **Certificate of Coverage:** Provide a letter or certificate from the insurance company, stating the policy details, including:
 - Full name of the insured.
 - Policy number.
 - Coverage details and dates.
- **Translation:** If the document is not in Spanish, it must be officially translated.

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insurance



1. Recommended Providers:

Some popular insurance companies frequently accepted for Spanish visas include:

- Sanitas
- Mapfre
- Adeslas
- AXA

Additional Notes:

Travel Insurance vs. Health Insurance: Travel insurance covering emergencies alone is insufficient for long-term stays. Ensure the policy explicitly includes full health coverage.

Repatriation Clause: This is a common requirement for non-EU citizens. Confirm your policy includes repatriation benefits.

For specific consulate or embassy guidelines regarding health insurance, visit the official Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs page:

[Health Insurance Requirements for Spain Student Visa](#)

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Medical Certificate FAQ's

Q: Do I need a medical certificate?

A: Yes, a medical certificate may be required for a student visa to Spain, depending on the duration of your stay.

Q: When Is a Medical Certificate Required?

- **For Stays Exceeding 180 Days:**

A medical certificate is mandatory to demonstrate that you do not have any diseases that could pose a threat to public health, as outlined in the International Health Regulations (e.g., tuberculosis, yellow fever).

- **For Stays of 180 Days or Less:**

Typically, a medical certificate is not required for short-term student visas. However, it is advisable to confirm this with the specific Spanish consulate or embassy where you are applying.

Q: What Should the Certificate Include?

- **Content:**

The certificate must state that you are free from any diseases that could endanger public health, using language similar to:

"This medical certificate confirms that [your name] does not suffer from any diseases that could have serious public health implications as per the International Health Regulations of 2005."

- **Issued by a Licensed Physician:**

The certificate must be signed and stamped by a licensed medical professional.

- **Recent Document:**

The certificate should be issued within the last 3 months before your visa application date.

- **Translation:**

If the certificate is not in Spanish, it must be officially translated and, if required, legalized or apostilled.

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Apostille or Legalization

Requirements

If the certificate is issued in a country outside Spain, it may need to be authenticated with an Apostille of The Hague or legalized by the Spanish consulate.

Where to Get It?

You can obtain the medical certificate from your primary care doctor or a certified medical practitioner. Ensure they follow the wording and format required by the consulate.

Official Reference:

For specific guidelines and requirements, check the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs or your local Spanish consulate:

[Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs – Visa Requirements](#)

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Q: What kind of proof of accommodation is needed?

A: When applying for a student visa to Spain, proof of accommodation is required to demonstrate where you will be staying during your studies. The specific type of proof depends on your living arrangements. Below are the acceptable forms of documentation:

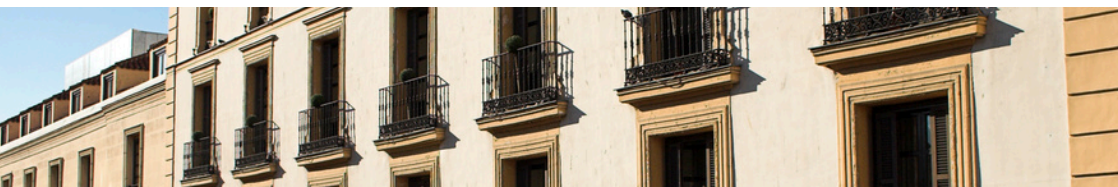
1. University Housing or Dormitories

- Official Letter: If you will be staying in university-provided accommodation, submit a confirmation letter or certificate from the institution stating:
 - Your name.
 - The address of the accommodation.
 - The duration of your stay.
 - Ensure the letter is on official university letterhead and signed.

2. Private Rental

- Rental Agreement: Provide a signed lease agreement that includes:
 - Your name and the landlord's name.
 - The address of the property.
 - The rental period.
 - Contact information for the landlord.
- Payment Proof (if available): Include a receipt or bank statement showing payment of the deposit or first month's rent.

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3. Host Family

- Invitation Letter: If you will be staying with a host family, include a notarized invitation letter from the host, which should state:
 - Their name and relationship to you (if applicable).
 - The address of their residence.
 - Confirmation that you are permitted to stay with them.
- Proof of Host's Residence: The host may need to provide a utility bill, property deed, or rental agreement to confirm their residence.

4. Hotel or Temporary Accommodation

- Hotel Booking: Submit a confirmed hotel reservation, including:
 - Your name.
 - The hotel's name and address.
 - The dates of your stay.

If this is a temporary arrangement, provide a written explanation of how you will secure long-term accommodation.

5. Accommodation Certificate from Local Authorities

In some cases, particularly for minors or students attending shorter programs, a formal accommodation certificate issued by local authorities in Spain may be required.

Additional Requirements

- Duration Coverage: The documentation must cover the entire duration of your stay or at least a significant portion, especially for long-term programs.
- Translation: If the documents are not in Spanish, they must be translated by an official translator.
- Legalization or Apostille (if required): For documents issued outside of Spain, check with the Spanish consulate to determine if they need legalization or an apostille.

Official Reference:

For specific details and updates, consult the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs or the website of the consulate where you will submit your visa application:

[Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs – Visa Information](#)

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Q: How long does the visa processing typically take?

A: The processing time for a student visa to Spain can vary depending on the type of visa, your location, and the consulate handling your application. Here's a general guideline:

Typical Processing Times

- **Short-Term Student Visa (up to 180 days):**

Processing time is typically 15 calendar days from the date of submission. However, it can take longer if additional documentation is requested.

- **Long-Term Student Visa (more than 180 days):**

Processing time is usually 1 to 2 months, as these applications may involve more extensive review, including background checks.

Factors Affecting Processing Time

- **Time of Year:**

Application volumes are often higher before the start of academic terms (e.g., summer months for fall enrollments), potentially leading to delays.

- **Completeness of Application:**

Missing or incomplete documents can significantly delay processing.

- **Jurisdiction:**

Processing times may vary by consulate or embassy due to differences in workload and staffing.

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Application Status and Tracking

When to Apply

It is recommended to apply for your visa at least 2-3 months before your intended departure date. This ensures you have enough time for processing and potential delays.

Expedited Processing

Some consulates may offer expedited processing for an additional fee or in emergency situations, but this is not guaranteed and depends on the specific consulate's policies.

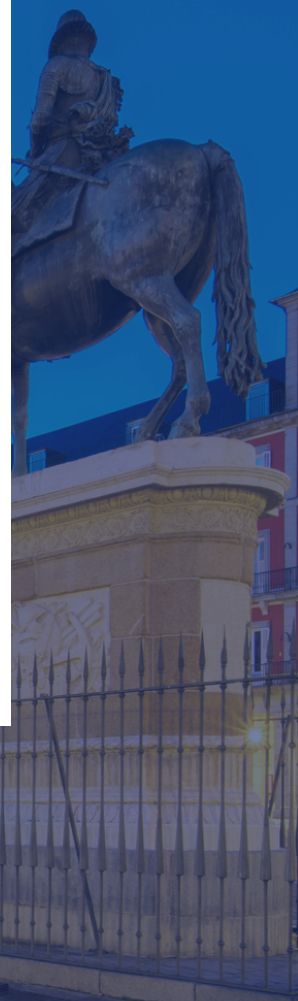
Checking Application Status

Most consulates allow you to track your application status online or by contacting them directly. Some consulates provide a receipt with tracking information.

Official Reference

For the most accurate information and updates, consult the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs or the consulate handling your application

[Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs – Visa Processing](#)



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Q: What happens if my application is rejected?

A: The consulate usually provides reasons for rejection. You may be able to reapply after addressing the issues raised.

Official Reference: [Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs – Visa Application Information](#)

Q: What do I need to do after arriving in Spain?

A: Register your residence with the local authorities (Ayuntamiento) and apply for your TIE (Tarjeta de Identidad de Extranjero) within the stipulated timeframe.

Official Reference: [Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs – TIE Application Information](#)

Q: Can I extend my student visa?

A: Extensions are possible under certain circumstances (e.g., continued enrollment in a related program).

For detailed information about visa rejections and appeals, refer to the **official Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs** page on visa procedures:

[Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs – Visa Application Information](#)

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Q: Can I work in Spain on a student visa?

A: Yes, international students in Spain can work part-time under certain conditions. The regulations are as follows:

Part Time Work

- You are allowed to work up to 20 hours per week, provided it does not interfere with your studies.
- Your employer may need to request a work authorization on your behalf.

Internships

- Internships directly related to your field of study are generally permitted and may not require additional authorization if part of your academic program.

Income Limitations

- Income from part-time work should not be your primary source of financial support. You must still meet the financial requirements outlined in your visa application.

Additional Permits

- Some positions may require you to obtain extra permits. Check with the local immigration office (Oficina de Extranjería) for specific details.

Official Reference

For the most up-to-date and detailed information, consult the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs or the Spanish consulate in your jurisdiction:
[Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs – Student Visa Information](#)

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Q: Can I bring my family to Spain while I study?

A: You may be able to bring your spouse or common-law partner and minor or disabled children. This requires a separate visa application for each family member and the fulfillment of specific requirements. Note that these visas do not grant work authorization in Spain.

Check the Spanish consulate website for details:

[Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs – Visa for Family Reunification](#)

Q: Can I switch to a work visa after graduation?

A: Yes, international students in Spain can apply to switch to a work visa after graduation under specific conditions. Recent reforms to Spanish immigration laws aim to encourage skilled graduates to stay and contribute to the workforce.

1. Stay for Job Search or Start a Business:

- After completing your studies, you can apply for an Authorization to Stay for Job Search or Entrepreneurship (Estancia por Búsqueda de Empleo o Emprendimiento) for up to 12 months.
- This authorization allows you to remain in Spain legally while you seek employment or establish a business related to your field of study.

2. Switching to a Work Visa:

- Once you secure a job offer, you can apply for a work visa (Residencia y Trabajo).
- The job must be related to your field of study, and the employer must comply with requirements for hiring non-EU nationals.

3. Eligibility Requirements:

- Completion of higher education in Spain (bachelor's, master's, or doctoral degree).
- Proof of sufficient financial means and health insurance during your job search or business establishment period.

4. Application Process:

- Apply for the job search permit through the local Oficina de Extranjería or online.
- To transition to a work visa, your employer will need to initiate the process for your work authorization.

Check the Spanish consulate website for details:

[Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs – Visa for Family Reunification](#)

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Q: What if I lose my passport or TIE card?

A: If you lose your passport or Tarjeta de Identidad de Extranjero (TIE) card while in Spain, it's essential to take immediate action to prevent potential misuse and to facilitate the replacement process. Here's what you should do:



1. Report the Loss to the Police

- **File a Report:** Visit the nearest police station to report the loss or theft. This step is crucial for both your security and the official record.
- **Obtain a Copy:** Ensure you receive a copy of the police report, as you'll need it for subsequent procedures.

2. Replace Your Passport

- **Contact Your Embassy or Consulate:** Reach out to your country's embassy or consulate in Spain to apply for a replacement passport.
- **Required Documents:** Typically, you'll need to provide the police report, identification details, and any forms or fees required by your embassy.

3. Replace Your TIE Card

- **Schedule an Appointment:** Arrange a meeting at the local Oficina de Extranjería (Foreigners' Office) or designated police station to apply for a duplicate TIE.
- **Prepare Necessary Documents:** You'll generally need:
 - A completed application form.
 - Your passport and a photocopy.
 - A copy of the police report.
 - A recent passport-sized photograph.
 - Proof of payment for the applicable fee.
- **Process Details:** The specific procedures and requirements can vary, so it's advisable to consult the official website of the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs or contact the local authorities for precise information.

Official References:

Lost or Stolen Passports: For detailed information on handling lost or stolen passports in Spain, visit the official Spanish government page:

[Lost or Stolen Passports - Travel Documents](#)

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The list of [Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Embassies and Consulates.](#)



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