

STUDENT RESIDENCY

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Table of content

- 1.** Do I always need a visa?
- 2.** What are the requirements for the student permit?
- 3.** How can I renew my student residency in Spain?
- 4.** Can I work as a student?
- 5.** Can students in the health sector work?
- 6.** Can I bring my family to live in Spain as a student?
- 7.** Can I change my student permit to a residence and work permit without leaving Spain?
- 8.** Does my time living in Spain as a student count towards obtaining long-term residence?
- 9.** Does my time in Spain as a student count towards obtaining Spanish citizenship through residence?
- 10.** International students coming to study abroad

1. DO I ALWAYS NEED A VISA?

To answer this question, we must distinguish between European Union (EU) students and students from other countries.

1.1 EU students

- Up to a 3 month stay:

If you are an EU citizen, you have the right to study in another EU country. In this case, you will only need a valid **document of identity or a passport**.

- Over 3 months stay:

In this case, you will have to sign up in the Central Registry of Foreigners (Registro Central de Extranjeros), for which you will need:

1. To have been **enrolled** in a recognized education center;
2. To have a **sufficient income** (no matter the source) in order to live without needing financial help;
3. To be fully covered by a **health insurance** in Spain.

For more information about residence in Spain as an EU citizen, you can see our [guide](#) on this topic.

1.2 Non-EU students

- Up to a 3 month stay:

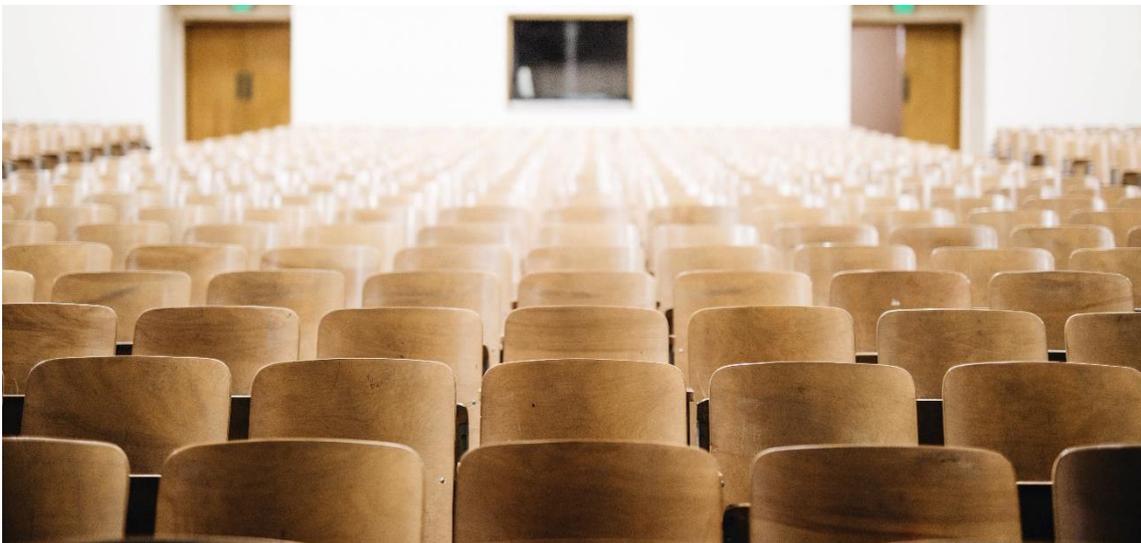
You will need a **visa** unless your country of origin has a visa **exemption agreement** for short-term stays.

- Up to a 6 month stay:

In this case, you will need a **visa**, which will be sufficient for a 6-month stay as a student.

- Over 6 months stay:

If you plan on staying in Spain for over 6 months, you will need, in addition to your visa, to ask for a **Foreigner's Identity Card** (TIE in Spanish), also called a Student Card. This card can be processed in a police station or a Foreigners' Office up to a month after your arrival. Keep in mind that you will have to make an online appointment.



2. WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE STUDENT PERMIT?

2.1 Documents you will have to provide to obtain a student visa

- If you are starting the procedure **outside of Spain:**

You will need a printed **national visa request**, filled out and signed by you.

- If you are starting the procedure **within Spain**:
You will need a **printed official request form (EX00)** filled out and signed, as well as proof that you are currently **staying** legally in Spain. The visa request will have to be submitted at least **one month before your legal stay in Spain is due to expire**.

In addition, you will need to submit (regardless of being in, or outside, of Spain):

- A **valid passport** or a **recognized travel document**, with a validity of at least **four months** from the moment of your visa request.
- **Request form (EX00)**, duly completed and signed.
- **Proof of admission to an educational institution** (letter of admission, certificate of enrollment, etc.).
- **Criminal record certificate** from your country of origin or the country where you are legally residing (only for stays superior to six months and if the applicant is an adult).
- **Proof that you have sufficient means of livelihood** to sustain you during your approved stay and return to your country of origin. You will have to prove that you have sufficient financial funds at your disposal (through a scholarship acknowledgment letter, bank documents, etc.) and that you have accommodation in Spain (family home, student housing, etc.).
- **An official medical certificate** proving that you do not suffer from any of the diseases subject to quarantine according to the International Health Regulations (only for stays superior to 6 months).
- **A private health insurance** to cover medical and assistance expenses during your stay.

- If you are a minor who is not coming with their parents or legal guardians, you will need to show an authorization from your parents or legal guardians **to move to, and reside in, Spain.**

DON'T FORGET: That, if you request the permit via a Spanish Consulate, outside of Spain, they could request additional documentation from you.

2.2 What do I have to do once I have arrived in Spain?

As previously said, if your stay is over 6 months (180 days) long you will have to request a **Foreigner's Identity Card** in the Foreigners' Office or police station closest to your address. If your stay in Spain is less than 6 months, you will not need said card.



3. HOW CAN I RENEW MY STUDENT RESIDENCY IN SPAIN?

Student residency can be extended if you have successfully passed the courses, subjects or credits required by your educational institution to continue the studies.

Where: In the **Foreigners' Offices, Government Sub-delegations** of your place of residence, or in any **public registry** (you will find the web page that helps you find these places at the end of the guide).

When: During the **60 days prior to the expiry of your current student residency**. If you submit the extension request in the aforementioned period of time, your initial student residency will be valid until said request is resolved.

The extension request can also be submitted in the 90 days following the expiry of your student residency. However, a sanctioning process could be opened due to your late submission, and you might be **finned** for it. Therefore, it is recommended to present your request during the accepted period of time.

Required documents:

- **Request form (EX00)**, duly completed and signed.
- For underage applicants, an authorization from a **parent or legal guardian**.
- **A valid passport or legal travel document** with a minimum validity of four months.
- Documentation proving that you **have passed the required tests** and will continue with your initial studies, investigation, training, internship or volunteering.
- **Documents proving that you have sufficient means of support** to sustain you during your residency and for your return to your country of origin. You will have to prove that you have sufficient financial funds at your disposal (through a scholarship acknowledgment letter, bank documents, etc.) and that you have accommodation in Spain (family home, student housing, etc.).

- **Private health insurance** to cover medical and assistance expenses during your stay.



4. CAN I WORK AS A STUDENT?

The authorization of stay for studies allows you to work as long as your studies are:

- Higher education;
- A formal training for employment;
- Certificates of professionalism; or
- Technical aptitude or professional qualification for an occupation.

The job, whether self-employed or through an employer, must:

- Be compatible with the completion of the studies;
- Not exceed **30 hours** per week.

4.1 Documents needed for the work authorization as an employee

- **Request form (EX12)** duly completed and signed.
- **A valid passport or legal travel document** with a minimum validity of four months.
- Documents proving that you possess the **training or qualification legally required** for the exercise of the profession you will undertake.
- Documents proving that **the job is compatible with the completion of your education**.
- Documents proving that you have the **financial means** to meet the contractual obligations.
- **A work contract** signed by the employer and employee.
- Documents identifying the company employing you:
 1. If you the employer is an individual entrepreneur: NIF or NIE, or consent to check identity data through the Data Verification System of Identity and Residence.
 2. If the employer is a legal entity (S.A., S.L., Cooperative, etc.):
 - The company's NIF and a copy of the constitution registered in the corresponding registry.
 - Public document proving that the signatory of the work authorization is a legal representative of the company.
 - NIF or NIE of the signatory of the request for a work authorization (mentioned above) in order to check his identity through the Data Verification System of Identity and Residence.

Who applies: The **employer** or **entrepreneur**, personally or through a legal representative.

Where: In the **Foreigners' Office** of the province where the services will be provided (please refer to the relevant web page address at the end of this guide for further details).

4.2 Documents needed for the work authorization as an entrepreneur

- **Request form (EX12)** duly completed and signed.
- **A valid passport** or **legal travel document** with a minimum validity of four months.
- Documents proving that you possess the **training or qualification legally required** for the exercise of the profession you will undertake.
- Documents proving that **the job is compatible with the completion of your education.**
- Certificate of membership, if required for the exercise of the occupation.
- Copy of the documents proving that you have **enough funds** for the investment to implement the project.
- For retail commercial activities and provision of services (listed in the Annex to Law 12/2012) carried out in permanent establishments with a surface area equal to or less than 750m², a responsible declaration of prior communication must be submitted, as defined in art. 71 bis of Law 30/1992.
- For other activities: provide the authorizations or licenses required for the good operation of the projected activity or exercise of the occupation.

Who applies: The international **student** personally.

Where: At the **Foreigners' Office** of the province where the services will be provided (please refer to the relevant web page address at the end of this guide for further details)

Remember: The work authorization will have the same validity period as the student permit.

The work authorization will not have a geographical limitation, unless it coincides with academic terms, in which case it will have to be reconcilable with the educational center's location.



5. CAN STUDENTS IN THE HEALTH SECTOR WORK?

Foreigners who hold a Spanish degree in medicine, pharmacy, nursing or other university degrees that enable them to participate in the annual calls for selective examinations for access to specialized health training positions known as the **MIR** (Médico Interno Residente), **may**, if they obtain a place, **perform the work activities** derived from the provisions of Royal Decree 1146/2006, of October 6, which regulate the special employment of the training of specialists in Health Sciences, **without having to have the corresponding work authorization.**

It is mandatory to inform the **Foreigners' Office** about such training before they start.

TAKE NOTE: In order to validate your foreign degree you have to contact the Spanish Ministry of Education: [Homologación y convalidación de títulos y estudios extranjeros no](#)



6. CAN I BRING MY FAMILY TO LIVE IN SPAIN AS A STUDENT?

Yes, but in this case, you will only be allowed to reunite the following family members:

- **Spouse** or **registered partner**;
- **Children** under 18 years-old
- Children over 18 years old if they have a disability and are objectively not able to provide for their own needs due to their health condition.

Who applies: The **family member residing in Spain** must apply for the person they want to reunite.

Where: At the **Foreigners' Office** of the province of residence, or online through the Mercurio platform if you have an electronic certificate (please refer to the relevant web page address at the end of this guide for further details).

When: It may be requested at the same time the student is applying for the student visa or at a later date, once the student is in Spain and while their student residency is valid.

In order to obtain said visa for relatives, the applicant must provide proof of **sufficient economic means, family or kinship ties** and, in the case of children over eighteen years of age, documentation proving that they are objectively unable to care for themselves.

TAKE NOTE: The relatives of students will reside in Spain under the same administrative situation as the foreign student, as their stay is conditioned by the student's stay in the country.

In no case will the relatives of the student having regrouped them be allowed to work.

7. CAN I CHANGE MY STUDENT RESIDENCY FOR A RESIDENCE AND WORK PERMIT WITHOUT LEAVING SPAIN?

Yes, it is possible to transition from a student permit to a residence and work permit from Spain, without having to leave the country.

Required documents:

- **Printed application form (EX03)** duly completed and signed.
- **A valid passport or legal travel document** with a minimum validity of four months.
- Copy of documentation **proving that you possess the professional training or qualification legally required** for the exercise of the profession you will undertake.
- Document identifying the company applying for the residence and work permit:
 1. If the employer is an individual entrepreneur: NIF or NIE, or consent to check identity data through the Data Verification System of Identity and Residence.
 2. If the employer is a legal entity (S.A., S.L., Cooperative, etc.):
 - The company's NIF and a copy of the constitution registered in the corresponding registry.
 - Public document proving that the signatory of the work approval is a legal representative of the company.
 - NIF or NIE of the signatory of the request for a work approval (mentioned above) in order to check his identity through the Data Verification System of Identity and Residence.
- **Signed work contract.**
- Certification or diploma proving that you have successfully finished your studies or concluded the investigation, training or internship you undertook in Spain.

- Finally, if it was not presented before, a criminal record from your country or countries of residence of the past 5 years prior to your arrival in Spain.

Who applies: **The employer** personally or through a legal representative.

Where: In the **Foreigners' Office** of the province where the services will be provided. If the company has work centers in several provinces and over 500 workers, in the **Large Company Unit** of the **General Directorate of Migrations**.

When: In the 60 days prior or 90 days after the expiry of the student residency. If you have respected the deadline and said approval expires before your application for the residence and work permit is resolved, **your student residency will be extended until you get a response** about your application.

What happens to the family members reunited under the student permit?

The family members of the holder of the approval of stay living with said holder can obtain an authorization of residence through family reunion if they continue to meet the requirements (see our Family Reunion [guide](#))



8. DOES MY TIME IN SPAIN AS A STUDENT COUNT TOWARDS OBTAINING LONG-TERM RESIDENCE?

This residence is obtained after **5 years**, however there are 2 types of long-term residence:

1. “Ordinary” long-term residence

In this case, your time in Spain with a student permit **does not count** on the overall calculation to obtain long-term residence.

2. EU long-term residence

In this case, **50%** of your time in Spain with a student permit counts towards obtaining long-term residence. For example, if you have been a student for four years, this would be counted as two years of residence, so three more years of residence would be sufficient to obtain EU long-term residence.

To find out more about long-term residence, see our [guide](#) on this topic.

9. DOES MY TIME IN SPAIN AS A STUDENT COUNT TOWARDS OBTAINING SPANISH CITIZENSHIP THROUGH RESIDENCE?

NO. The students' situation is not counted as residence but as a temporary stay.

Therefore, the time spent in Spain with an authorization of stay for studies will not be taken into account when applying for Spanish citizenship through residence.

VALID FOR ALL PROCEDURES: Documents from other countries must be translated into Spanish or the co-official language of the territory where the application is filed, and apostilled by the competent authority of the issuing country according to the Hague Convention of October 5, 1961, or legalized by the Spanish Consular Office with jurisdiction in the issuing country, unless the document is exempt from legalization by virtue of an International Convention.

10. FOREIGN EXCHANGE STUDENTS

There are two special cases to facilitate the mobility of students wishing to partially study or extend their studies in Spain.

Student exchange

This is the approval of a right to remain in Spain for a period of more than 90 days to participate in a student exchange program, in a secondary education and/or baccalaureate program in a recognized educational or scientific center.

This is known as "exchange", in which the students generally stay with families selected by the entity that organizes these programs.

Student exchange within the European Union

Any foreign student who has been **admitted for the completion or extension of studies in another member state of the European Union** may apply to study or complete part of his or her studies in Spain.

In this case **there is no requirement to obtain a visa**, although proof of financial support and evidence that the student has been admitted by an educational center in Spain will be required.

The application shall be submitted at any time prior to entry into Spanish territory (at the Spanish Consulate) or, once in Spain, within a maximum period of one month from the date of entry.

CONSULTA EN INTERNET

In the Universia.es web, you will find information on studies in Spain and on the recognition and validation of foreigners' degrees:

[Universia España. Portal de las Universidades españolas](#)

This webpage details the requirements and procedures necessary to obtain the student residency, and explains how to process the residence and work authorization, as well as the family regrouping within the framework of this authorization of stay:

[Vivir en España: Estancia por estudios \(inclusion.gob.es\)](#)

This website provides all the application forms mentioned in the guide and required for residence permits, TIE and more (EX00, EX12, etc.):

[Modelos de solicitud generales \(inclusion.gob.es\)](#)

This link will take you to the national visa application form:

[Impreso de Solicitud de visado nacional.pdf \(exteriores.gob.es\)](#)

This web page explains which foreign documents need to be translated and/or apostilled, and what resources you can use to perform these procedures:

[Legalización y traducción de documentos para la tramitación de procedimientos en materia de extranjería e inmigración. \(inclusion.gob.es\)](#)

This web page explains in detail the process and requirements for extending your student residency:

[Prórroga de autorización de estancia por estudios, intercambio de alumnos, prácticas no laborales o servicios de voluntariado. \(inclusion.gob.es\)](https://inclusion.gob.es)

This web page explains in detail the process and requirements for modifying your student residency to a work and residency authorisation:

[Modificación de la situación de estancia por estudios, investigación, formación o prácticas a la situación de residencia y trabajo por cuenta ajena inicial. Incluye anexo de Familiares \(HI 65\) - Migraciones - Ministerio de Inclusión, Seguridad Social y Migraciones \(inclusion.gob.es\)](https://inclusion.gob.es)

On this web page you will find the Foreigners Office where you can submit your application, according to your place of residence or work:

[Extranjería en las Delegaciones del Gobierno \(mpt.gob.es\)](https://mpt.gob.es)

