

## LONG-TERM VISAS FOR STUDYING IN SPAIN

### DOCUMENTATION TO BE PRESENTED

#### General considerations

Any foreigner who is not a national of an EU/Schengen State and intends to enter and remain in Spain for the sole or main purpose of carrying out any of the educational and/or training activities mentioned below for more than 90 days must first apply for and obtain a long-term study visa, with the exceptions set out in current regulations.

If the duration of the studies, training, or activity to be carried out does not exceed 90 days and the applicant's nationality IS SUBJECT TO A VISA (Annex I, Regulation EU 2018/1806 of November 14), they must submit an application for a Schengen visa, not a student visa. This application must always be accompanied by all supporting documentation for the purpose of travel.

If the duration of the studies, training, or activity to be undertaken does not exceed 90 days and the applicant's nationality is subject to the possession of a travel authorization registered in the European Travel Information and Authorization System (ETIAS), **when in force** (Annex II, Regulation EU 2018/1806 of November 14), they do not need to apply for a student visa. However, they must be in possession of a valid ETIAS travel authorization. However, it should be noted that border authorities may require documentation justifying the purpose of the trip upon entry to Spain.

**If the intended studies are taught in Spanish, the applicant must demonstrate sufficient language skills in Spanish (especially if the intended studies are of a higher and/or technical nature). Basic knowledge of the language is not sufficient. This rule does not apply if the intended studies involve learning Spanish or any co-official language.**

This visa allows students to pursue the following full-time studies, which may be completed in person or in a blended learning environment, if at least 50% of the program is taught in person:

- higher education (university, higher vocational training, as well as higher artistic education, higher professional education in fine arts and design, and higher sports education), including, where applicable, a preparatory course prior to said studies (provided the student is previously admitted to those studies), as well as non-work curricular or extracurricular training internships after completion (provided said internships are part of studies previously completed in Spain and are mandatory), at a higher education institution or centre recognized in Spain (including international higher education centres located and authorized in Spain), within the framework of a full-time program leading to a higher education degree recognized in Spain or, in the case of international centres, recognized in other countries, provided the applicant is 18 years of age or older (exceptionally, applications for higher education may be accepted for 17-year-olds if they provide an official document from the educational authority of their country of origin stating that the student has high intellectual abilities and completed pre-university studies at a younger age than the generally established age).

- higher education studies by nationals of third countries outside the EU/Schengen area whose respective educational programs, whether or not covered by an EU program (for example, the ERASMUS Program), provide for intra-EU mobility measures, provided that the higher education studies begin in an educational institution in Spain.

- doctoral studies.

- completion of a full training program at an authorized educational centre in Spain, leading to a certificate of technical aptitude or professional qualification for the vocational training system, grade C levels 2 and 3, with the requirements and conditions established in Organic Law 3/2022 of March 31, on the organization and integration of vocational training. This includes obtaining a Certificate of Professional Aptitude (CAP), which will subsequently allow the student to work in the land transport sector in Spain.

- Completion of post-compulsory secondary education (1st and 2nd years of Baccalaureate) or intermediate vocational training, including, where applicable, mandatory supervised practical training, only at an authorized private school in Spain (or, exceptionally, at a public school if the student is included in a humanitarian program promoted and funded by public authorities), within the framework of a full-time program leading to a recognized qualification.

<sup>1</sup>A full-time study program is defined as one in which the student has enrolled in at least 90% of the credits in the case of university studies, or, where applicable, in 90% of the entire study program.

- Participation in official student mobility or exchange programs (including humanitarian programs promoted and funded by public authorities) for the purpose of pursuing compulsory secondary education (1st to 4th years of ESO) or post-compulsory secondary education (1st and 2nd years of Baccalaureate) at an officially recognized educational or scientific institution, provided the student is at least 12 years old.

- Attendance at courses to learn Spanish or any of the co-official languages in Spain as a foreign language (provided that it is not the mother tongue or the official language of the foreigner's country of nationality), taught in person at official language schools or at centres accredited in Spain by the Instituto Cervantes or by the analogous public body for the corresponding co-official language.

- Completion of preparatory courses for the selection tests for access to specialized healthcare training places at an officially recognized educational centre, provided that the interested party has obtained a Spanish degree in medicine, pharmacy, nursing, or other university qualifications that qualify for participation in the annual selection tests for access to specialized healthcare training places, or a duly recognized or approved foreign degree as provided for in this paragraph.

- Volunteering services within programs that pursue objectives of general interest for a non-profit cause, in which the activities are unpaid (except in the form of reimbursement of expenses, pocket money, or both), carried out in legally constituted volunteer organizations registered for this purpose, as well as those carried out within the scope of the European Solidarity Corps.

- Unpaid internships by foreign students in Embassies, Consulates, or International Organizations accredited in Spain, provided they have been previously selected by the competent authority in their country of origin or, where applicable, by an international organization for the aforementioned purposes.

The following may apply for a student family visa, exclusively for higher education students: spouses, registered common-law partners, or stable partners (understood as those with whom the student has lived for at least one year prior to applying for the visa), as well as unmarried children under the age of 18, children who have not formed their own family unit, or elderly disabled persons (the student's ancestors are not entitled to this type of visa, not even underage students). Keep in mind that family visas will not be authorized until the student visa is approved, and that spouses, common-law partners, or stable partners cannot obtain authorization to engage in gainful activity.

**Any application for a student visa to obtain family reunification in Spain that is not permitted by law is considered fraudulent.**

Applications for student visas (including accompanying family members, where applicable) may be submitted either in person (those for minors must always be submitted by their parents or guardians) or through a duly authorized representative. Applications may not be submitted electronically under any circumstances<sup>2</sup>.

Only applications submitted by those who actually and permanently reside in this consular district will be accepted for processing; if they are third-country nationals, they must also be legally resident and/or stay with a return authorization (not tourist status).

Exceptionally, and only in the case of higher education students and students who will be taking preparatory courses for the selection tests for access to specialized healthcare training places, the application may be submitted in Spain to the corresponding Government Delegation/Sub delegation (Immigration Office), provided that the interested party is legally present in Spain at the time of submission.

The Consular Office may establish an appointment system for receiving applications for this type of visa. Granting an appointment for submitting a visa application does not automatically imply authorization for the application.

Visa applications will be rejected in the cases provided for in the Fourth Additional Provision of Organic Law 4/2000 of January 11.

In the case of incomplete applications or if any document submitted does not meet the legal requirements, the applicant will be required to rectify them.

The issuance of a student visa by the Consular Office requires prior authorization from the corresponding Immigration Office in Spain, a process that takes a minimum of 15 business days from receipt. Therefore, please be advised that the minimum deadline for submitting this visa will always be TWO MONTHS prior to the start date of the teaching activity to be carried out. Applications submitted after this deadline will not be accepted unless the interested party can prove a justified reason that prevents them from submitting it within this timeframe.

<sup>2</sup> The application and documentation must be submitted in person at this Consulate General during business hours, Monday to Friday, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Appointments are required at [cog.melbourne.visappt@maec.es](mailto:cog.melbourne.visappt@maec.es). [cog.melbourne.visappt@maec.es](mailto:cog.melbourne.visappt@maec.es)

A student visa cannot be provisionally granted as a precautionary measure, so that the interested party can begin studies already paid for or after the course has begun, until a positive resolution is received from the corresponding Government Delegation/Sub delegation (Immigration Office).

If the visa is authorized, it will be issued for a long-term stay of up to one year. The validity of the authorization will begin ONE MONTH prior to the start of the teaching activity and will extend 15 DAYS beyond the end of the activity or studies; for this reason, it is not possible to issue a visa outside these limits.

The visa must be collected in person only if the application was submitted through a duly authorized representative. Otherwise, the latter may collect it (those issued to minors must be collected by their parents or guardians). After this period has elapsed without collecting it, the Consular Office will issue a resolution to dismiss it due to waiver. It cannot be collected at any Consular Office other than the one that processed the application.

For higher education students, the residence permit obtained automatically authorizes them to work in Spain as self-employed or employed, automatically and without the need for additional processing, provided that the work activity is compatible with the completion of these studies, and in no case may it exceed 30 hours per week. In all other cases, students may only engage in self-employed or employed work if, once in Spain, they apply for and obtain a permit to engage in paid employment, in accordance with the regulations established for both cases. Alternatively, higher education students and those who have obtained specialized healthcare training places may access residency and work status as an employed or self-employed person, or residency with the exception of a work permit, if they have previously obtained the corresponding degree or certificate, apply for it within two months prior to or three months after the expiration of their student visa, and are not receiving scholarships or subsidies from public or private organizations within sustainable development cooperation or humanitarian aid programs.

Possession of a valid long-stay visa does not guarantee its holder automatic entry into Spain; the holder must prove to the border authorities that they meet the requirements that led to its issuance. Nor does it, on its own, allow the holder to leave their country of origin, nationality, or residence, which may impose regulations in this regard.

Entry into Spanish territory will be denied, even if the visa holder holds a valid visa and can prove to the border authorities that the visa holder meets the requirements that led to its issuance, if an entry ban exists.

Once entry into Spain has been authorized by the border authorities, the visa holder must ensure that their passport is stamped by them. If entering Spain from a Schengen State and therefore without crossing external borders, they must, within a maximum period of three working days, go to a Police Station or Immigration Office to sign an entry declaration. Once the Entry-Exit System comes into operation, the information contained therein will replace the information for the purposes of applying the provisions of this paragraph.

For stays of more than six months, the interested party (or their representative in the case of minors) will have a maximum period of one month, starting from the day following the date of the entry stamp into Spain or from the date of signing the entry declaration, to apply for their Foreigner Identity Card (TIE) from the corresponding Immigration Office.

Foreigners holding a student visa in Spain cannot benefit from the Spanish public health and healthcare system, without prejudice to the rights derived in cases where an employment contract is signed.

Possession of a student visa only grants the holder the right to stay in Spain during its validity, but does not generate any right of residence. Consequently, holders cannot count the time spent in Spain as students toward any other legal consideration for purposes of Spanish nationality, roots, etc.

If the visa is denied, the consular office will issue a decision rejecting the request, which will be communicated in writing to the interested party, including information on the legal basis for the denial, the available appeals, and the bodies to which they must be filed.

#### Documentation to be presented

The same documentation must be submitted for all student visas, regardless of their duration (except for visa number 13), provided that the visa is for a period of more than 3 months.

1. Original passport or travel document.
2. National visa application form (1 copy).
3. 1 photograph.
4. Admission document (a simple reservation of a place is not valid). Depending on the activity to be undertaken:

-In the case of higher education, doctorate, intermediate or higher vocational training, post-compulsory secondary education, learning Spanish or any co-official language of Spain, or completing preparatory courses for the selection tests for access to specialized healthcare training places, the document presented must prove the student's definitive admission.

-In the case of students participating in official mobility or student exchange programs, a document issued in this regard by the program's managing organization.

-In the case of volunteer programs, a copy of the agreement with the organization in charge of the program, which must include a description of the program, the planned activities, the program schedule and duration, as well as the accommodation and living arrangements.

5. Documentary evidence that the studies or activity to be undertaken will be full-time, indicating the start and end dates of the course, the program or content of the studies, the schedule that requires in-person attendance, the language in which the teaching activity will be conducted (or a similar document in the case of an internship), as well as the total cost of the course, including registration fees, reservation fees, and similar fees.

6. Documentary evidence of payment of the registration, enrolment, or reservation fees, indicating the outstanding amounts due. Exceptions:

-In the case of students participating in programs or agreements between institutions or centres, it must be proven that the home institution or centre has paid these amounts to the host institution or centre.

-In the case of students who, for any reason, are exempt from paying these amounts, supporting documentation.

7. Certificate or diploma of previously completed studies (unless the studies to be undertaken in Spain are part of an official exchange program or complementary to those completed in the country of origin) - validation is not required, but may be requested later by the educational institution; as an exception, in the case of requesting a visa to complete preparatory courses for the selective examinations for access to specialized healthcare training places, if the bachelor's or graduate degree was obtained abroad, its recognition or homologation in Spain must be carried out before submitting the application. If non-regulated courses (photography, acting, etc.) are to be taken in Spain, prior knowledge of the subject must be accredited (dossier, courses completed, diplomas, etc.).

8. For students aged 17 and over who are pursuing higher education, an official document from the educational authority of their country of origin confirming that the student has high intellectual abilities and completed pre-university studies at a younger age than the generally established age.

9. Alternatively:

- If the teaching or similar activity will be conducted in Spanish, proof of sufficient knowledge of Spanish to allow them to follow the instruction (only for students who are not from Spanish-speaking countries).

- If the teaching or similar activity will be conducted in a language other than Spanish, proof of sufficient knowledge of the language in question to allow them to follow the instruction (only for students who are not from countries whose official and/or commonly used language is not the same as the language in which the instruction will be given).

10. In the case of language courses, a certificate stating that the academy offering said courses is accredited as such by the Instituto Cervantes or by a similar public body for the corresponding co-official language.

11. Documents proving that the student has the necessary financial means to cover the costs of his/her stay and return to his/her country of origin. The minimum monthly income is 100% of the Public Income Indicator for Multiple Purposes (IPREM), unless it is duly proven that he/she has already paid in advance for accommodation for the entire period of his/her stay, in which case this amount will be reduced. Any amounts used, if applicable, to cover the cost of his/her studies will not be taken into account for ensuring support. Financial means may be his/her own means, or those from family members, grants, aid, or scholarships (On the other hand, documents proving ownership of assets, documents signed by guarantors, or mere declarations of financial support from third parties with no proven relationship with the interested party will not be taken into account.) At the request of the Consular Office, proof of the source of such income must be provided, along with proof of bank transactions made in the last year. Bank loans must be provided by submitting a contract signed by both parties indicating the total amount. In all cases, an individual analysis will be conducted.

Exceptions:

-Only in the case of students who intend to pursue higher education, the availability of an employment contract or job offer may be assessed, provided it is compatible with the completion of in-person studies.

-Only in the case of students participating in official mobility or student exchange programs for the purpose of pursuing compulsory or post-compulsory secondary education, students on an internship, or participants in volunteer programs, who may submit a declaration of acceptance by the entity responsible for the corresponding program.

12. Comprehensive health insurance, with benefits similar to those provided by the National Health System, contracted with an insurance company authorized to operate in Spain, covering 100% of medical, hospital, and out-of-hospital expenses associated with an illness or accident during the applicant's planned stay in Spain, for a minimum amount of €30,000 or its equivalent in local currency, and exempt from co-payments, reimbursements, or waiting periods. This insurance must be contracted with an insurer registered on the list of insurance and reinsurance companies of the Directorate General of Insurance and Pension Funds of the Spanish Ministry of Economy, Trade, and Enterprise. For British students, the GHIC card remains valid as medical coverage for visa processing. 13. A negative certificate proving the absence of any disease that could have serious repercussions for public health, in accordance with the provisions of the WHO International Health Regulations of 2005.

14. If the planned stay exceeds 6 months, and only for applicants of legal age, a negative certificate of criminal record for offenses established under Spanish law, issued by the country or countries in which the applicant has resided in the last 5 years. If the applicant has previously resided in Spain, the absence of a criminal record will be verified *ex officio*.

15. If the application is submitted less than 2 months before the start date of the studies or activity to be undertaken, a supporting document certifying the applicant's inability to submit it within the legally established period.

16. The amount of the corresponding consular fee; if claiming free of charge, supporting documents. Foreign students who will undertake unpaid internships at Embassies, Consulates, and International Organizations accredited in Spain are exempt from paying fees.

\*Participants in volunteer services (except for the European Voluntary Service), regardless of their duration, in addition to the above:

17. Civil liability insurance subscribed by the organization.

\*Foreign students who will undertake unpaid internships at Embassies, Consulates, and International Organizations accredited in Spain must present only documents numbers 1, 2, 3, 12, 13, and 14, in addition to:

18. *Nota Verbale* (or other equivalent official notification) from the country or international organization authorizing their internship.

\*In the case of students who are minors. All documentation mentioned in points 1 to 7, 8 where applicable, 9 to 12, 14 where applicable, 15, and 16. In addition, and in all cases:

19. Documentary evidence of kinship or, where applicable, the appointment of guardians (to verify that those authorizing the travel are indeed the minor's parents or guardians).

20. A letter from both parents or guardians authorizing the minor's travel to Spain for the purpose of carrying out the educational activity in question, indicating the centre responsible for the activity, and, where applicable, the organization, entity, or agency responsible for the activity, and the expected period of stay. This authorization must expressly include the details of the persons who will take care of the minor once they arrive in Spain, including their full names, their DNI or NIE numbers, and their address.

Alternatively:

If the student is not participating in any official student mobility or exchange, program or in a humanitarian program promoted by public authorities:

21a. If the student is to be housed with a family, a statement from the head of the household, signed before a Spanish notary, confirming that they will take care of the minor during their stay in Spain. They undertake that they will return to their country of origin or residence at the end of their studies. They also acknowledge that this temporary placement will not generate any right to family reunification or adoption.

22. Negative certification from the Central Registry of Sex Offenders of the Spanish Ministry of Justice issued in favour of said individuals under the terms of Article 13.5 of Organic Law 1/1996, of January 15, on the Legal Protection of Minors.

If the student is participating in an official student mobility or exchange program or in a humanitarian program promoted by the Public Administration:

21b. Document issued by the organization responsible for the mobility program in which the student is participating, certifying that the student will be housed in a boarding school or residence affiliated with the program, or hosted by a family previously selected by the organization.

\*Students' relatives. All documentation mentioned in points 1, 2, 3, 4, 13, 14, where applicable, 15, and 16.

Additionally, and in all cases:

23. Documentation proving the relationship or relationship (in the case of registered or stable couples) and, in the case of incapacitated minors, documentation relating to the declaration of said incapacitation.

24. Regarding financial means (point 10), the minimum monthly amount will be 75% of the IPREM (Spanish Income Tax) for the first family member and 50% of the IPREM (Spanish Income Tax) for each additional family member accompanying them.

\*In all the above cases, in addition to all the previous documentation:

25. Document proving the applicant's actual and permanent residence in this consular district (rental contract for a home, utility or telephone bills, proof of enrolment in an educational institution provided that classes are compulsory in person, etc.).

26. If the applicant is a third-country national, official document proving their legal residence and/or stay with authorization to return (visa, foreign resident identity document, etc.). A driver's license issued by local authorities, certificates of registration, or rental contracts for a home, utility or telephone bills will not be accepted for this purpose.

### General Rules Regarding Documentation

The passport or travel document must be recognized by Spain, must be valid for at least 3 months after the visa expiration date (i.e., 15 months in total), have at least 2 blank pages, and must allow return to the country of issue.

The visa application form must be completed in all sections and signed by the applicant or, if the applicant is a minor, by both parents or guardians. Applications with unsigned forms will be deemed inadmissible. The address or postal address (which must always be within the consular area), telephone number, and an email address for communication purposes must be clearly stated. This form is free of charge.

The photograph must meet the technical requirements of ICAO Document 9303 (close-up of the head and shoulders, taken frontally, with eyes open, on a plain, light background, free of glare, dark glasses, hats, or clothing that obscures the face, which must be visible from the hairline to the chin, taken within the six months prior to the visa application).

Certificates and other official Spanish and foreign documents, as well as medical certificates, must not be older than six (6) months. Other documentation, such as documents proving financial means, letters of admission to educational centres or programs, etc., must be as recent as possible.

Criminal record certificates must be presented in their simplest form (without fingerprints).

In the case of official foreign documentation, this Consular Office reserves the right to request that it be apostilled or, where appropriate, legalized (except for a current bilateral or multilateral agreement<sup>4</sup>), as well as translated into Spanish (documentation in English or French is accepted<sup>5</sup>). The applicant is responsible for providing apostilled/legalized documents translated into Spanish, who must bear the cost of these procedures.

The visa fee is paid in advance and is not refunded in the event of a visa denial<sup>6</sup>.

All documents must be presented in the original or, if not possible, in a legible copy. Submitted documentation will not be returned (unless specifically and substantiated).

**This consular office reserves the right to request additional documentation or carry out any checks it deems necessary to resolve the case. Documentation provided that has not been requested will not be taken into account when resolving the case.**

**Compliance with these instructions is strongly encouraged, and interested parties are kindly requested to submit all required documentation at the same time to avoid delays in visa processing.**

**THIS CONSULAR OFFICE DOES NOT PROVIDE A PHOTOCOPY SERVICE FOR THE PUBLIC.**

<sup>3</sup>The updated list of member states of the Hague Convention of 5.10.1961, which abolishes the requirement for legalization of foreign public documents (Apostille Convention), can be consulted at the following link: <https://www.hcch.net/es/instruments/conventions/status-table/?cid=41>

<sup>4</sup>Consult the list of current Conventions at this Consular Office.

<sup>5</sup>For documents drawn up in other languages, please consult this Consular Office.

<sup>6</sup>Please check the current fee for this type of visa at this consular office at the following link: <https://exterioresedicion.maec.es/Consulados/melbourne/es/Comunicacion/Noticias/Paginas/Precios-Recaudaci%C3%B3n-Consular-a-1012024.aspx> Please note that payment will only be accepted by money order or cash.