



Fuster & Associates

PRIME LAW



THE SPAIN EMIGRATION GUIDE

Are you a resident of Spain, a visitor to the country, or here to work for a specific duration?



Based upon your nationality and existing situation, government regulations may/may not insist upon the possession of an appropriate visa.

The following guide only focuses on general formalities. If you desire specific knowledge about something, you would have to seek expert advice.

- As per the Freedom Movement Act, a Swiss national requires no visa or work permit.
- The same applies to a national belonging to EEA (European Economic Area) or EU (European Union).
- However, if you are from the newly formed EU nation of Croatia, you will have to display a work permit stretching through June 30, 2020.
- In case, you are a Swiss citizen, register for a valid ID number.
- Citizens of all other nations require a valid visa.
- Additionally, if you are going to work here, do obtain a work permit.

Register yourself on the Padron.



Every town in Spain keeps a record (akin to a census) of its local populace. The locals call it Padron. It helps the community to provide access to voting, adequate healthcare, social care, schooling, income-related benefits, reduction in inheritance tax, etc.

Ensure that your name goes into the Padron of your particular town, by submitting the following documents:

- Copy of house deed/rental agreement
- ID/passport
- Residence certificate or NIE
- Recent utility bill in your name

The town will then grant you a **Certificado de Empadronamiento**.

Foreigner's Identity Number



The NIE is the Foreigner's Identity Number (Número de Identificación de Extranjero), which you may obtain yourself or via a Power of Attorney. Everyone (even if you are from the EEA/EU), who is not a native of Spain, must obtain it. In its absence, you will not be able to undertake any kind of financial activity in Spain.

This identification will aid you in opening a bank account, receiving wages, paying your taxes, gaining social services and obtaining a driver's license. Thanks to the NIE, you will be able to register your name with the tax authorities.

Foreign Identity Card (TIE)



Are you from a nation outside the EU, and do you plan to be in Spain for over six months? If yes, apply for a Foreign Identity Card (Tarjeta de Identidad de Extranjeros) within the first month of your arrival.

Request the local Foreigner's Office/police station for guidance about specific documentation.

Nonetheless, do keep the following ready.

- Application, along with three copies
- Proof of Spanish address
- Proof of payment made for administration fee (stamped receipt given by bank)
- Passport and its photocopy
- Three colored photographs (passport-sized)
- You may require other documents too, along with certified translations of all of them.
- Proof of school enrollment
- Proof of academic qualifications
- Proof of professional qualifications
- Copy of job contract
- Copy of certificate of employment
- Proof of financial resources
- Medical certificate

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- Proof of possessing medical insurance coverage in Spain
- If you are self-employed, provide evidence that you meet the professional criteria for such individuals.
- Do you have the authority to work in Spain as a self-employed individual? Provide proof.
- Consular inscriptions (letter from your home consulate)
- Prove that you have no criminal record by using Certificado de Antecedentes Penales given by the Embassy of your native country.

The authorities will provide you with a stamped copy of your application. Within three/four months, you should be in possession of a Residence Card, which is valid for a year. You are welcome to continue renewing the Card over the next five years. In case, there is a change in your personal circumstances or residential address, please inform the Foreigner's Office within a month of the change.

Residence Certificate - Swiss Nationals/EEA/EU



Regardless of whether you are from Switzerland or a nation associated with the EEA/EU, you cannot reside in Spain beyond three months without a Residence Certificate. You will need to know if you must fix a prior appointment with the Foreigner's Office ([find your nearest office here](#)) or police station, for registration. Find out the days on which you may submit your application.

Request a person fluent in Spanish to accompany you, in order to avoid confusion/misunderstandings. Alternatively, a power of attorney may take over.

Apart from [Application Form EX18](#), you will need:

- Proof of enrollment, if you are a student
- Proof of your Spanish address
- Two photographs (passport-sized)
- National ID/Passport, and photocopies of the same
- If you are working, give proof that you are capable of supporting self and dependents, by submitting a declaration/certificate of employment. Other alternatives are your assets or evidence of self-employment (Mercantile Registry registration).
- Do you have a European Health Insurance Card, which is valid for the entire length of your stay in Spain? Show it.

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- If you have other healthcare insurance, which is valid in Spain, give proof of it.
- If you are not a citizen of Spain, you will receive an identification number. This is the NIE or Número de Identificación de Extranjero. You have to submit the NIE Certificate. If you do not have it, submit proof of the payment you have made for it, with the aid of Form 790.

Your Residence Certificate will exhibit your name, address, NIE and nationality. Unless there is a change in your circumstances, this Certificate retains its validity. Always carry it, along with your passport.

If you cannot submit everything immediately, the authorities will grant you a 10-day grace period. Do not allow the ten days to slip by, or you will have to re-apply.

Do you still want more information? Do visit [Spanish Ministry of Interior's website](#) or [read an English pamphlet about residency requirements](#).

EU Nationals Working in Spain



The social security authorities will expect you to register with them as an employee. This is for paying into the General Social Security Fund. Allow your employer to handle everything. If you are self-employed, then you will have to undertake the registration yourself.

If you are from Croatia, you will have to wait until June 30, 2020, in order to receive the same treatment as the rest of the EU nationals do. Until then, carry a work permit.

[You can get more information about registering here.](#)

Residence Card – Family Members of an EU Citizen



Sometimes, your family from an EU nation follows you to Spain.

This family may comprise of spouses, dependent grown children, dependent children under the age of 21, parents, or partners.

In case, you have registered them legally, they will need to go through the same process as outlined above.

However, the authorities will grant them a Residency Card for EU Citizen Family Members, instead of a Residence Certificate, after submitting the following documents.

- [Application Form EX19](#)
- Proof of relationship between EU citizen and family member in the form of a child birth certificate, marriage certificate, or partnership registration
- The EU family member's passport or DNI (Documento nacional de identidad or carne de identidad – National Identity Card)
- Three colored photographs (passport-sized)
- Passport of EU citizen

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Then again, register the names of school going children at the town hall by submitting these documents.

- Birth certificate of each child
- Passport
- Recent utility bill in your name
- Copy of title deed or tenancy agreement
- A temporary Residence Certificate should suffice to admit your children into the local school.

Brexit



The United Kingdom's exit from the European Union has left British expats relocating to Spain, or currently living there, in a quandary!

If the ones already residing in the country opt for Spanish citizenship, they will have to forfeit their British citizenship.

A possible solution is to apply for a Blue Card as a non-EU citizen. This will allow them to live and work in Spain.

Blue Card or Permanent Residency



If you have resided in Spain for five consecutive years, you are eligible for Permanent Residency or a Blue Card.

In case, you are an EU citizen, who has been residing in another EU State for a similar five-year period, you may apply for a Blue Card too.

The main advantage is that you may work, and retire in Spain! You may live just as a Spanish citizen for as long as you want.

After 10 consecutive years of residence in Spain, you are eligible to become a Spanish national.

Then again, if you are the progeny of Spanish parents (regardless of being born outside Spain) or marry a local, you will gain citizenship too.

Permanent Residency – Non-EU Nationals



You are eligible for an EU long-term Residence Permit, if you are a non-EU national, who has been residing in Spain for five consecutive years.

You will just have to provide proof of possessing health insurance, as well as the capability of providing for family and self.

To live like a Spanish citizen, you will need to submit –

- Passport
- Proof of marital status (marriage license/divorce certificate)
- Proof of your legal Spanish residence
- Proof of medical insurance
- Medical certificate (if you had not provided it earlier, during temporary residence)
- Certificate showing that you have no criminal record

The authorities may desire Spanish translations of all the documents. They will also advise you to terminate your EU long-term Residence Permit associated with another EU State, if you have one, since you are going to reside in Spain.

True, immigrating to Spain is not an easy-to-handle process.

However, you may [Contact us today](#) at Fuster & Associates, to help you with everything, including obtaining a visa for purchasing property in Spain.


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How to proceed?



If you want any further information on the purchase process or any of our services then please give us a call or email, or visit us at one of our offices.

La Zenia Office



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