



PRACTICAL GUIDE FOR STUDENTS

How to apply for a study visa in Spain

Long-term student stay authorization. Two routes: **from your home country** (consulate) and **from Spain** (higher studies only).

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Updated under
RD 1155/2024 (in force 20-05-2025)

This guide explains, step by step, how to obtain authorization to come and study in Spain. It is updated to the new Immigration Regulation (Royal Decree 1155/2024), in force since 20 May 2025, which fully reorganized the student stay regime.

Language course or higher studies: the key difference

- **Spanish (language) courses at BCNLIP:** processed as a student stay authorization **from your home country**, at the consulate.
- **Higher studies** (higher-level vocational training / Grado Superior, master's, university degree, access courses): can be processed **from the consulate or from Spain**.

Language courses only count as "higher studies" if taught by a higher-education institution and are not the applicant's native language.

1 Types of stay

Short stay — up to 90 days

- Schengen visa or exemption for eligible nationalities.
- Not extendable and no work allowed. Suitable only for short courses.

Long stay — more than 90 days

- Requires a **long-term student stay authorization** before travelling (consulate route) or from Spain (higher studies only).
- Lets you reside legally for the whole study period. For **higher studies, the authorization covers the entire programme**.
- Studies must be **in person**. For certain higher studies, a **blended** format is allowed (at least 50 % in person).
- It may grant the right to **work up to 30 hours a week**, compatible with your studies. In practice this depends on the type of studies and the office's criteria; for language courses it is not usually granted.
- For stays longer than 6 months, the **TIE is mandatory** within the first month (see Guide 2).

2 The two application routes

Route A — From your home country (consulate)

Valid for both language courses and higher studies.

- Apply at the Spanish Consulate or Consular Section of your place of residence.
- Submit at least **2 months before** the course starts (less time may be accepted if justified: late admission, scholarships, etc.).
- The procedure is personal (minors, through their legal guardian).

Route B — From Spain (higher studies only)

- You may apply while in Spain if you are in a **regular situation** and not staying irregularly: for example, during your stay as a tourist within the 90-day period, usually filing within the **first 30 days** of entry.
- File the official form **EX-00** through the electronic platform (**Mercurio**), addressed to the Immigration Office of the province where you will study.
- You need a **NIE** and a **digital certificate** (your own or your representative's/lawyer's).
- **Resolution deadline: 2 months.** No express reply means the application is refused (negative silence).

Important

A tourist stay is **not considered residence**, and some Immigration Offices apply stricter criteria. Confirm your specific case before travelling; when in doubt, the consulate route is the safest.

3 Required documents

3.1 • Admission and enrollment

- Final admission letter from an authorized centre.
- Proof of tuition payment.
- For Spanish courses, the centre must be officially recognized.

3.2 • Personal documents

- Valid passport (minimum 1 year validity) and a copy of all its pages.
- Passport-type photos, white background.
- Official forms completed (EX-00).

3.3 • Financial means

You must prove **100 % of the IPREM** per month of stay. The IPREM remains frozen at **600 €/month** (in force in 2026).

600 €

per month • applicant (100% IPREM)

450 €

first family member (75% IPREM)

300 €

each additional member (50% IPREM)

- Example: a 12-month course requires at least **7,200 €**. We recommend a margin (around 8,200 €).
- If **accommodation is paid in advance**, its cost counts toward the 100 % IPREM.
- Accepted: own funds, family transfers, scholarships or grants, and employment income or a job contract where work is allowed.
- Provide bank documentation (statements, certificates).

3.4 • Health insurance and medical certificate

- **Private health insurance** with no co-payments or waiting periods, minimum coverage of **30,000 €**, valid for the whole study period (matching your enrollment).
- We recommend **ASSSA Seguros**, specialized in students and with multilingual support.
- Medical certificate with the wording: *"This medical certificate states that Mr./Ms. ... does not suffer from any of the diseases that may have serious public health repercussions under the International Health Regulations 2005."* In some cases it is not required; confirm with your consulate or office.

3.5 • Criminal record and legal status

- Criminal record certificate from the country (or countries) where you have lived in the last 5 years, issued within the last 3 months, **apostilled** (Hague Convention) and **translated by a sworn translator**.
- No criminal record in Spain.
- Not being in an irregular situation when you file.

Documents that must be translated and legalized

- **Criminal record certificate**: apostilled (Hague Convention) and translated by a **sworn translator**.
- **Medical certificate**, when issued abroad in a language other than Spanish: sworn translation.
- Documents issued in Spain (admission letter, enrollment) **do not require translation**.

4 Accommodation

Proof of accommodation is not on the official document list, but **we recommend including it**: it speeds up the process and, if paid in advance, its cost counts toward the 100 % IPREM.

- A rental contract or accommodation booking, or a registration of address, covering the whole study period, works as proof.

BCNLIP can help with accommodation

BCNLIP has its **own accommodation** and can arrange your **booking** and prepare the **accommodation documentation** you need for the application, so you arrive with this requirement already solved.

5 Bank account in Spain

To apply from Spain a Spanish bank account is usually needed. Many banks won't open one for non-residents, so it helps to bring the course documentation first.

- Branches we usually recommend (BBVA): **Carrer de Pau Claris 76 · Passeig de Gràcia 25 · Plaça d'Antoni Maura 6**.
- The compliance check can take up to 1 month; sometimes they ask you to return with additional documentation.

- There must be at least **600 € per month of study** (12 months → 7,200 €; we recommend 8,200 €).

6 Resolution, duration and extension

- If the decision is favourable, the visa includes the stay authorization.
- **Higher studies:** the authorization covers the whole programme.
- On arrival, if the stay exceeds 6 months, you must obtain the **TIE within 1 month** (see Guide 2).

Extension: requested from 2 months before to 3 months after expiry (late filing may carry a penalty). It is electronic, before the Immigration Office, and requires proof of academic progress, continuity of studies, financial means and insurance.

7 Step by step

Consulate route (in person)

- 1 Enroll in a long-duration course (at least 7 months, around 20 hours a week).
- 2 Book an appointment at the consulate or office in your country (website or phone).
- 3 Pay the corresponding fee (varies by country; check the consulate website).
- 4 Go and submit the documentation.
- 5 Wait for the decision (depending on destination, it can take 1 to 4 months).
- 6 If favourable, travel to Spain and process your TIE and NIE.

Spain route (electronic · higher studies only)

- 1 Have your NIE and digital certificate ready.
- 2 Download, complete and sign form EX-00.
- 3 File the application through the Mercurio platform with all the documentation.
- 4 Receive the decision within a maximum of 2 months.

8 Document checklist

- ☐ Admission letter + proof of tuition payment
- ☐ Passport (min. 1 year validity) + copy of all pages
- ☐ Passport-type photos, white background
- ☐ Form EX-00 completed and signed
- ☐ Proof of financial means (100% IPREM/month) + bank documentation
- ☐ Health insurance with no co-payments or waiting periods (min. 30,000 €, whole period)
- ☐ Medical certificate with the IHR 2005 wording
- ☐ Criminal record certificate, apostilled and sworn-translated (last 5 years)

- ☐ Proof of accommodation for the whole period (recommended, not mandatory)
- ☐ If entering via a third country: entry declaration within 72h (keep your boarding passes)

Questions about your application?

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Guidance information updated under Royal Decree 1155/2024 (Immigration Regulation, in force since 20 May 2025) and SEM 2025 instructions. Requirements and deadlines may vary depending on the consulate or Immigration Office; always confirm your case with the official sources before applying.