

Content Brief

Page Title (H1)	Applying for a Spanish Student Visa: A Step-by-Step Guide for International Students
Subtitle / Tagline	Learn how to apply successfully, with step-by-step instructions for applying from your home country or from within Spain.
SEO Title	Applying for a Spanish Student Visa: Step-by-Step Guide
Meta Description	The single most comprehensive guide for the Spanish student visa. Learn the application process, required documents, and whether to apply from home or in Spain.
Slug	/spanish-student-visa-guide/
Target Audience	Any non-EU international student (language learner, university student, etc.) who needs to apply for a Spanish student visa for a course lasting longer than 90 days, regardless of whether they are in their home country or already in Spain as a tourist.
Content Goals	Primary: To be the single most comprehensive and authoritative guide on the internet for the Spanish student visa, covering both the standard "apply from home" process and the "apply from within Spain" process. Secondary: To clearly triage the audience and guide each user to the specific set of instructions that matches their situation, preventing confusion. Tertiary: To serve as a cornerstone piece of Shared Content that establishes Go! Go! España as the ultimate expert in student immigration.

	● User Outcome: The reader will be able to identify the correct application path for their situation, understand the step-by-step process, and have a complete checklist of the required documents, feeling confident they can apply successfully.			
Primary Keywords	Keywords	Global Volume	Difficulty	Search Intent
	Spanish student visa	3.2K	30	Informational
	student visa Spain	4.9K	39	Informational
Secondary and LSI Keywords	how to get student visa for Spain	850	NA	NA
	Spain student visa requirements	550		
	apply for student visa Spain	140		
	student visa Spain cost	300		
	Spain visa processing time	570		
Intent	Informational: The user is seeking a detailed "how-to" guide for a complex legal process. This page aims to be the single best answer for all variations of this query.			
Tone of Voice	1. Personality: a. Friendly & Approachable: Supportive language that builds trust and fosters a sense of community. b. Professional & Reliable: Demonstrates expertise, and drives trust. c. Enthusiastic & Motivational: Inspires excitement and optimism about studying and living in Spain. 2. Voice Attributes:			

	a. Warm: Inclusive and supportive. b. Informative: Simple, direct, and easy-to-follow language. c. Positive: Emphasizes benefits and opportunities. 3. Meticulous & Clear: Use precise language. The structure must be exceptionally clear to guide users down the correct path. 4. Reassuring & Authoritative: The tone should be calm and confident, like an experienced immigration advisor.
Existing Content to Leverage and Link To:	This article will be a MAJOR CONSOLIDATION of all your existing visa-related articles. The writer must review and merge the best, most current information from all of the following: • how-to-get-student-visa-for-spain/ • student-visa-in-spain/ • apply-for-a-student-visa-in-spain/ • spanish-student-visa/
Internal Linking <i>(note for SEO)</i>	• This page will serve as Shared Content. It must link down to the other relevant Shared Content pages that provide more detail on specific requirements (TIE Card, Health Insurance, Costs, etc.).
External Linking	• Link to the official Spanish government portals for both the consular network and the immigration offices (<i>Extranjería</i>).

CTA	● Primary: "The visa process, whether from home or in Spain, can be complex. Go! Go! España offers a Visa Support Service to guide you through every step. Learn more about how we can help."
Exclusions	● No scholarships or sponsorships. ● Include strong disclaimers about checking official sources.
USP for Pillar Page	● This is the single most comprehensive guide to the Spanish student visa on the internet, uniquely serving both types of applicants (those at home and those already in Spain) in one clear, easy-to-navigate resource.
Formatting <i>(notes for writers)</i>	● Use clear H2 and H3 headings for every step and document. ● Use call-out boxes (blockquotes) for important warnings or tips. ● Select photos that show both sides of the process (an embassy building, a student in a Spanish office).
Visuals <i>(notes for graphic artists)</i>	● A prominent "Choose Your Path" infographic at the top of the article that visually directs users to the correct section. ○ Caption: "Visualize the timeline and steps for how to apply for a student visa in Spain from your home country with this easy-to-follow process guide." ● Link:  Shared-Content-5-Master-Document-Checklist.png ● Metadata (SEO) ○ Alt Text: Spanish student visa application master checklist of required documents. (10 words)

	○ Description: A complete checklist of all mandatory documents required for the Spanish student visa application, including passport, acceptance letter, financial proof, and health insurance. ○ File Name: <code>spanish-student-visa-application-document-checklist.png</code> ● Optimal Location ○ Insert Point: Immediately after the H2 heading: "Your Master Checklist for Spanish Student Visa Application". It gives the user an instant, scannable summary before they dive into the detailed explanations below.
Videos	
Other Files	● Market Research / Studying Abroad in Spain ● GGE / Student Personas ● GGE / Content Gap Analysis

Applying for a Spanish Student Visa: A Step-by-Step Guide for International Students

Subtitle: Learn how to apply successfully, with step-by-step instructions for applying from your home country or from within Spain.

Introduction:

- Hook: Start by acknowledging the user's main goal and immediately introduce the two paths: "Getting your Spanish student visa is the most important step in your study abroad journey. The process you follow depends on one key question: Are you applying from your home country, or are you already in Spain?"
- "This guide covers both scenarios. Use the links below to jump directly to the section that applies to you."
- Include a disclaimer that requirements can vary by consulate and students must always check with their local Spanish embassy.
- *Internal Jump Link 1: "I am applying from my home country (outside of Spain)."*
- *Internal Jump Link 2: "I am already in Spain and want to apply."*

Main Key Takeaways

- Upon completion of the article, draft five concise key takeaways, each ideally one or two sentences in length.

Who Needs a Spanish Student Visa?

- Clearly explain that non-EU/EEA citizens planning to study for more than 90 days need a long-stay student visa.
- *Internal Link: "If your course is less than 90 days, you may only need a Schengen Visa. Learn more here."*

The Critical Differences: Applying from Home vs. Applying from Spain

- **Document Legalization (The Biggest Challenge)**
 - "The biggest difference is preparing your official documents. When applying from home, it is much easier to get documents like your criminal record check **apostilled**, which is a required form of international legalization."
 - *Internal Linking: "If you're not sure what an Apostille is or why you need it, see our detailed guide: [Legalize and Apostille a Document in Spain](#)*
- **Application Forms & Locations**
 - "When applying from home, you will use the National Visa Application Form at your local Spanish Consulate. When applying from within Spain, you will use a different form (like the EX-00) at an Immigration Office (*Oficina de Extranjería*)."

- **Medical Certificates**

- "Consulates in your home country often have specific templates for the medical certificate they want your doctor to sign. This can be more complicated to arrange from within Spain."

The Two Types of Student Visas (91-180 Days vs. Over 180 Days)

- A universal explanation of the two visa categories based on duration and the TIE card requirement.
- **Short-Term Student Visa (91-180 Days):** Explain that this visa covers the specified period and often does not require the student to apply for a TIE residency card upon arrival.
- **Long-Term Student Visa (Over 180 days):** Explain that this visa requires the student to apply for a TIE residency card within 30 days of arriving in Spain.
- Reassure the reader that the initial application process is very similar for both.

Path A - Applying for Your Student Visa from Your Home Country

- Clearly state that this is the standard, most common path for students.
- **The Consular Application Process:** A universal, numbered list of the process, focused on consular steps (booking the appointment, submitting documents, etc.). Name the steps as "Step 1", "Step 2", "Step 3", etc.

- **Note to writer:** add or remove any steps that you think are necessary.

Path B - Applying for Your Student Visa from Within Spain

- Explain that this is an option for those already in Spain as a legal tourist.
- The Golden Rules: A clear checklist for eligibility (e.g., must apply 30 days before your legal stay expires, etc.).
- **The Extranjería Application Process:** A numbered, step-by-step guide for applying at an Immigration Office in Spain.
- **Note to writer:** add or remove any steps that you think are necessary.

Your Master Checklist: Documents You Will Need

- A universal checklist of all required documents.
- Provide a clear, bulleted or checklist-style summary of all required documents.

This gives the reader an immediate overview. There's no need to explain what each document is at this point.
- Documents to list:
 - Valid Passport,
 - School Acceptance Letter (for Spanish language students and university students),
 - Proof of enrollment (for college entrance exam takers)
 - Proof of Financial Means,
 - Health Insurance,
 - Medical Certificate,

- Criminal Record Check with Apostille,
- Visa Application Form,
- Photographs
- **Note to writer:** *Feel free to add documents that this section is missing.*

The Document Deep Dive: Getting Each Requirement Right

- **Instruction for the writer:** *This section will provide a detailed explanation for each document required for the visa. You will start by covering the universal documents, then use a special "modular" section for the "Proof of Admission".*
- **Introduction:** "Regardless of where you apply, the documents you need are largely the same. Here is a detailed breakdown of each requirement."
- **Universal Documents:**
 - **Valid Passport**
 - Explain the requirements: validity period, blank pages, etc.
 - **Medical Certificate**
 - Explain this requirement.
 - **Criminal Record Check**
 - Explain the requirements and mention the need for an Apostille on the criminal record check.
 - **Proof of Financial Means**
 - Explain this requirement.

- *Internal Linking: "For a detailed breakdown of how much money you'll need, see our guide about The Real Cost of Studying in Spain." (Shared Content 4)*

- **Health Insurance**

- Explain this requirement.
- *Internal Linking: "The health insurance policy has very strict rules. Make sure yours is compliant by reading our Student's Guide to Health Insurance for the Spanish Visa." (Shared Content 7)*

- **Visa Application Form**

- Explain this requirement. Where to download?
- *For the application form: "Download the form and see our tips in our [Guide to the National Visa Form](#)."*

- **Photographs**

- Explain this requirement such as dimensions, background color, etc.

- **Proof of Admission**

- **Introduction to this sub-section:** "This is the one document that is different for every student. It must clearly prove that you have been accepted into a full-time, accredited educational program in Spain. Find your student type below for the specific proof you will need to provide."
- **For Spanish Language Students:**
 - **Requirement:** An official acceptance letter (*carta de aceptación*) from an accredited Spanish language school.

- **Details to Include:** The letter must specify the course name, start and end dates, and the number of study hours per week (typically 20 or more). You will also usually need to show a separate receipt proving the course has been paid for in full.
- **For University Degree Students:**
 - **Requirement:** The official acceptance letter (*carta de admisión*) from a recognized Spanish university.
 - **Details to Include:** The letter must be for a full-time Bachelor's, Master's, or PhD program. You will also likely need to provide proof of your first tuition payment.
 - *(Writer's Note: This section will be expanded with more detail when we create the content for the University Student persona.)*
- **For College Entrance Exam Takers:**
 - **Requirement:** Proof of enrollment in a recognized university preparation course.
 - **Details to Include:** This must be an official enrollment certificate for a full-time course designed to prepare students for the PCE or EBAU exams.
 - *(Writer's Note: This section will be expanded with more detail when we create the content for this specific persona.)*
- **Note for SEO: Internal Links within this section (if necessary):**

- *For the apostille: "Need to get your documents legalized? See our guides on [How to legalize and apostille a document in Spain](#)." Or read our country-specific guide:*
 - [How to Apostille a Document in the US](#).
 - [How to Apostille a Document in Australia](#).
 - [How to Apostille a Document in Canada](#).
 - [How to Apostille a Document in the UK](#).

Common Mistakes That Lead to Visa Rejection

- A universal list of common errors to avoid.
- Create a problem-solving section based on common issues.
- Examples: Insufficient funds, incorrect insurance policy, missing apostille, submitting documents too late.

Visa Approved! What Happens Next?

- **For All Students:** Explain that they will receive a visa sticker in their passport.
- **For Long-Term Students (Over 180 Days):** Emphasize that their next mandatory step upon arrival is to apply for the TIE card.
- *Internal Link to Shared Content 2: "If you are staying for more than 180 days, your next major step is getting your residency card. Follow our Guide to Getting Your TIE Card in Spain."*

FAQ About Applying for a Spanish Student Visa

- Include 5-7 high-level, commonly asked questions. Use a numbered list.

Conclusion:

- Recap the main steps in a simplified list.
- Offer a final word of encouragement and reassurance.
- **Call to Action:**
 - **Primary:** "The visa process can feel complex, but you don't have to do it alone. Go! Go! España offers a Visa Support Service to guide you through every step. Learn more about how we can help."
 - **Secondary:** "Once your visa is sorted, the next step is finding a place to live. See our Shared Content 1: A Comprehensive Guide to Finding Student Accommodation in Spain."

Draft

Applying for a Spanish Student Visa: A Step-by-Step Guide for International Students

Our guide covers the complete process for the Spanish student visa, with instructions for applying from your home country or from within Spain.

Getting your **Spanish student visa** is the most important step in your study abroad journey. While the process requires careful preparation, it is a well-established procedure that thousands of students successfully complete every year.

This guide provides a deep dive into the student visa application. For a complete overview of all the practical steps in your journey, from choosing a path to budgeting, see our main **Practical Guide to Your Spanish Language Study in Spain**.

(Last Updated: August 2025)

Key Takeaways:

- The most important first step is to determine your application path. You will either apply from your **home country** at a Spanish Consulate, or from **within Spain** if you are already there as a legal tourist.

- Any non-EU citizen planning to study in Spain for longer than 90 days must obtain a student visa.
- Both application paths require the same key documents, including a school acceptance letter, proof of financial means, and comprehensive health insurance.
- Official documents from your home country, such as a criminal record check, will need to be officially legalized with an Apostille to be valid in Spain. This is often much easier to do from your home country.
- If you are studying for more than 180 days, you must apply for a physical residency card (TIE) after you arrive in Spain.

What are the Critical Differences Between Applying from Home vs. from Spain?

The main difference between the two application paths is the location (a Consulate vs. an Immigration Office in Spain) and the logistical challenge of preparing official documents.

- **Document Legalization (The Biggest Challenge):** The biggest difference is preparing your official documents. When applying from home, it is much easier to get documents like your criminal record check **apostilled**, which is a required form of international legalization. Trying to get this done while already in Spain can be very difficult. If you're not sure what an Apostille is, see our detailed guide on [how to legalize and apostille a document for use in Spain](#).

- **Application Forms & Locations:** When applying from home, you will use the **National Visa Application Form** at your local **Spanish Consulate**. When applying from within Spain, you will use a different form (like the EX-00) at an **Immigration Office (*Oficina de Extranjería*)**.
- **Medical Certificates:** Consulates in your home country often have specific templates for the medical certificate they want your doctor to sign. This can be a bit more complicated to arrange from within Spain.

What are the Two Types of Spanish Student Visas?

There are two categories of the Spanish student visas, and the one you get depends on the length of your course.

- **Short-Term Student Visa (91-180 days):** If your course lasts between three and six months, you will receive a visa that is valid for your entire stay. You often do not need to apply for a TIE residency card with this visa.
- **Long-Term Student Visa (Over 180 days):** If your course is longer than six months, you will receive an initial 90-day visa. After you arrive in Spain, you **must** apply for a TIE residency card within your first 30 days to validate your stay for the full duration.

Path A: How to Apply for a Student Visa from Your Home Country?

This is the standard, most common, and often most recommended path for all international students.

1. **Get Accepted:** First, you must be accepted into an accredited school in Spain and receive your official acceptance letter.
2. **Gather Your Documents:** Use the detailed checklist in the next section to gather all required documents.
3. **Book Your Consulate Appointment:** Schedule an appointment at the Spanish Embassy or Consulate that has jurisdiction over your place of residence.
4. **Submit Your Application:** Attend your appointment, submit all your documents, and pay the visa application fee.
5. **Wait for the Decision:** The **Spain visa processing time** is typically around one month, but it can be longer.
6. **Receive Your Visa:** Once approved, you will receive your passport back with the visa sticker inside.

Path B: How to Apply for a Student Visa from Within Spain?

This path is an option for students who are already in Spain as a legal tourist and decide to enroll in a long-term course.

- **The Golden Rules:** To be eligible, you must meet two critical conditions:
 1. You must be in Spain legally (ex: within your 90-day tourist stay).
 2. You must submit your application at least **30 days before** your legal stay expires.
- **The Application Process:**
 1. Get accepted into a school and gather all your documents.
 2. Submit your application and all required documents to the provincial Immigration Office (*Oficina de Extranjería*).
 3. Wait for the official decision (*resolución*).
 4. If approved, you will then proceed directly to the TIE card application process.

Your Master Checklist for Student Visa Application

- Valid Passport
- School Acceptance Letter
- Proof of Financial Means
- Health Insurance
- Medical Certificate
- Criminal Record Check with Apostille

- Visa Application Form
- Photographs
- Proof of having paid the corresponding fee for processing the procedure.

Detailed Explanation of the Documents You Need for Your Spanish Student Visa Application?

Regardless of where you apply, the core **Spanish student visa requirements** are the same. You will need proof of your identity, your studies, your financial stability, and your health.

Proof of Admission:

This is the one document that is different for every student. It must clearly prove that you have been accepted into a full-time, accredited program in Spain. Find your student type below for the specific proof you will need to provide.

A. For Spanish Language Students:

You will need an official acceptance letter (*carta de aceptación*) from an accredited Spanish language school that details your full-time course and confirms payment.

To meet this requirement, the letter must be from a school that is officially recognized (ex: accredited by the Instituto Cervantes). The letter must

- specify the name of your course,

- the official start and end dates, and
- the number of study hours per week, which is typically required to be 20 or more.

In addition to the letter, you will almost always need to provide a separate receipt proving that the course fees have been paid in full.

B. For University Degree Students:

You will need the official acceptance letter (*carta de admisión*) from a recognized Spanish university for a full-time degree program.

This letter must confirm your enrollment in a full-time Bachelor's (*Grado*), Master's (*Máster*), or PhD (*Doctorado*) program. Alongside the acceptance letter, it is common to be asked for proof of your first tuition payment to the university.

C. For College Entrance Exam Takers:

You will need an official enrollment certificate for a full-time university preparation course designed for the PCE or EBAU exams.

To meet this requirement, you must provide proof of enrollment from a recognized academic center. The certificate must confirm that you are enrolled in a full-time program specifically designed to prepare students for the Spanish university entrance examinations.

Other Universal Documents:

1. A valid Passport:

You must have a valid, unexpired passport with at least two blank pages, and its validity must cover your entire intended stay in Spain.

Your passport is the most important piece of identification you have. Ensure that it has a minimum validity period that lasts for the entire duration of your planned studies. It must also contain at least two completely blank pages for the visa sticker. Note that passports issued more than 10 years ago will not be accepted, even if they are still technically valid.

2. A completed Student Visa application form:

This is the official government form that you must complete to formally request your student visa.

You can download the correct **National Visa Application Form** directly from the website of the specific Spanish Embassy or Consulate where you will be submitting your application. It is crucial to use the form provided by your local consulate, as requirements can sometimes vary slightly.

Download the form and see our tips on [how to fill out the National Visa Application Form](#).

3. Passport-sized photos:

You will need recent, passport-sized color photographs with a white background.

You will need to provide one or two recent photographs. They must be passport-sized, in color, taken against a plain white or light-colored background. You should be facing forward, with a neutral expression, and without glasses or anything that obscures your face.

4. Proof of Financial Means:

This is the requirement to show the consulate that you have enough money to support yourself during your stay without needing to work. For a one-year stay, this is typically equivalent to at least €7,200.

You must prove you have access to 100% of Spain's monthly IPREM (a government financial indicator), which is roughly €600 per month. This can be shown with recent bank statements, a scholarship letter, or a notarized letter of support from your parents.

For a detailed breakdown of all the costs you'll need to cover, see our guide on **the real cost of studying in Spain**.

5. A compliant private health insurance policy:

You must have a comprehensive private health insurance policy from a company authorized to operate in Spain. The policy must have no co-payments (*sin copagos*) and must cover your entire stay.

This is one of the most common reasons for visa rejection, so it's essential to get it right. Standard travel insurance is not sufficient. Your policy must provide full coverage for all medical risks, similar to Spain's public health system.

The health insurance policy has very strict rules. Make sure yours is compliant by reading our **student's guide to health insurance for the Spanish visa**.

6. A Medical Certificate (for stays over 180 days):

This is a certificate signed by a doctor confirming that you do not have any diseases that could pose a public health risk in Spain.

For any study stay longer than 180 days, you will need a medical certificate. This document must be issued by a registered doctor, often on official letterhead. The Spanish Consulate in your country will typically provide a specific required text, often in both English and Spanish, that must be included. A common example is a statement certifying that you do not suffer from any disease that could cause serious repercussions for public health, in accordance with the [2005 International Health Regulations](#).

7. A Criminal Record Check with an Apostille (for stays over 180 days):

This is an official document from your home country's police authority (ex: the FBI in the United States) that proves you do not have a criminal record. It must be legalized with an Apostille to be valid in Spain.

For any stay longer than 180 days, all applicants of legal age must submit this certificate. It must typically be issued within the last 3-6 months. The most crucial step for this document is getting it legalized with an Apostille, which is an internationally recognized certification that authenticates the document for use in another country.

How to Legalize and Apostille a Document in Spain?

Need to get your documents legalized? See our country-specific guides on how to legalize and apostille a document:

- [How to Apostille a Document in the US.](#)
- [How to Apostille a Document in Australia.](#)
- [How to Apostille a Document in Canada.](#)
- [How to Apostille a Document in the UK.](#)

What are the Most Common Mistakes to Avoid When Applying for a Student Visa?

The most common reasons for visa rejection are incomplete applications, providing incorrect documentation (especially for health insurance), and missing strict deadlines.

The Spanish student visa process is very meticulous, and even small mistakes can lead to delays or a rejection. By being aware of the most common pitfalls, you can ensure your application is as strong as possible.

- **Incorrect Health Insurance:** This is a very frequent error. Submitting a standard travel insurance policy or a policy with co-payments (*copagos*) will result in an

automatic rejection. Your policy must meet the specific, strict requirements set by the consulate.

- **Insufficient Financial Proof:** You must clearly prove you meet the minimum financial requirement (100% of Spain's monthly IPREM). Simply having the exact amount in your account might not be enough; consulates want to see stable, consistent funds.
- **Missing an Apostille:** Forgetting to get your official documents, like your criminal record check, legalized with an Apostille is a critical mistake that will invalidate them.
- **Applying Too Late:** The entire process, from gathering documents to the consulate's processing time, can take several months. Starting only one or two months before your course begins is a major risk.

What Happens After Your Visa is Approved?

After your visa is approved, you will receive a visa sticker in your passport. If you are staying for more than 180 days, your next and most important task is to apply for your TIE residency card upon arrival in Spain.

Congratulations, your application was successful! Here is what to expect next.

You will receive your passport back with a visa sticker affixed to one of the pages. This is your official permission to travel to Spain for your studies. When you arrive, this visa will be stamped by immigration, which officially starts your legal stay.

- **For Students Staying 91-180 Days:** Your visa sticker is typically valid for your entire stay. You do not need to do any further administrative processes.
- **For Students Staying More Than 180 Days:** Your visa sticker is only valid for the first 90 days. Within your first 30 days of arriving in Spain, you have a mandatory next step: applying for your physical Foreigner Identity Card (*Tarjeta de Identidad de Extranjero* or TIE). This card will be your official residency permit for the duration of your studies.

For a complete walkthrough of this essential post-arrival task, see our **Guide to Getting Your TIE Card in Spain**.

FAQ About Applying for a Spanish Student Visa

1. Can I apply for a student visa if I am already in Spain as a tourist?

Yes, this is possible, but you must meet strict requirements. You must be in Spain legally and you must submit your application at least 30 days before your legal tourist stay expires. The process of getting your documents, like an apostilled background check from your home country, can be very difficult while in Spain.

2. What is the most common reason for a visa rejection?

One of the most frequent reasons for rejection is submitting an incorrect health insurance policy. The policy must be from a company authorized in Spain and have no co-payments (*sin copagos*). Incorrect or insufficient proof of financial means is another common reason.

3. How much money do I need to show for my student visa?

You must prove you have access to 100% of Spain's monthly IPREM, which is roughly €600 per month. For a one-year stay, this totals at least €7,200.

4. How long does the visa application process take?

If you apply from your home country, the **Spain visa processing time** is typically around one month, but it can be longer, so you should start the process 3-4 months before you plan to travel. If you apply from within Spain, the process can also take several months.

5. Do I need a visa if my language course is only two months long?

No. For courses lasting 90 days or less, you do not need a student visa.

However, depending on your nationality, you may need a Schengen Visa to enter Spain.

Conclusion: Ready to Start Your Student Visa Application?

The visa process can feel complex, but with careful preparation and the right documents, it is a very manageable process.

You don't have to do it alone. Go! Go! España offers a Visa Support Service to guide you through every step. Learn more about how we can help!

V2

Applying for a Spanish Student Visa: A Step-by-Step Guide for International Students

Our guide covers the complete process for the Spanish student visa, with instructions for applying from your home country or from within Spain.

Getting your **Spanish student visa** is the most important step in your study abroad journey. While the process requires careful preparation, it is a well-established procedure that hundreds of Go! Go! España students successfully complete every year.

This guide provides a deep dive into the student visa application. If you are just starting your research and want a broad overview of the entire journey, read our [complete guide to learning Spanish in Spain](#).

(Last Updated: September 2025)

Key Takeaways:

- The most important first step is to determine your application path. You will either apply from your **home country** at a Spanish Consulate, or from **within Spain** if you are already there legally through a different kind of visa (such as tourist/schengen visa or digital nomad visa)

- Any non-EU citizen planning to study in Spain for longer than 90 days must obtain a student visa.
- Both application paths require the same key documents, including a school acceptance letter, proof of financial means, and comprehensive health insurance.
- Official documents from your home country, such as a criminal record check, will need to be **officially legalized with an Apostille** to be valid in Spain. This is often much easier to do from your home country.
- Official documents from your home country also must be **translated to Spanish** or the co-official language of the territory in which you are submitting the documents (for example, Catalan or Galician) by a certified translator.
- If you are studying for more than 180 days, you must [apply for a residency card \(TIE\)](#) after you arrive in Spain.

What Determines Where and How to Apply for Your Spanish Student Visa?

When it comes to applying for your Spanish student visa, your path depends on two things: **where you are located when you apply** and **what type of studies you will pursue**.

Each comes with its own steps and considerations and taking a little time to understand them now will help you feel more confident and prepared.

Applying from Your Home Country

If you apply from home, you will fill out the [National Visa Application Form](#) and submit it through your [local Spanish Consulate or Embassy](#). This route can often feel a bit more straightforward since you will have easier access to documents and familiar systems.

Applying from Within Spain

If you are already legally in Spain, perhaps on a tourist or digital nomad visa, you may be able to apply without leaving the country. In this case, you will complete a different form ([EX-00](#)) and submit your application at an [Immigration Office](#) (*Oficina de Extranjería*).

There is also an online option for students already in Spain. Because this process can be tricky, it is recommended to [work with a lawyer](#) to make sure everything is done correctly.

Is Your Program Eligible for Application in Spain?

Even if you are legally in Spain, not every program qualifies for the in-country application process. It also depends on the type of studies you are pursuing.

- **Eligible:** Enrolling in a bachelor's or master's program, or taking Spanish courses at an [accredited Spanish university](#).
- **Not eligible:** Spanish courses at a language institute, even if the school is accredited by the Instituto Cervantes.

Things to Keep in Mind if Applying from Spain

If your program qualifies and you decide to apply from within Spain, just be prepared for a few extra challenges when gathering documents.

- **Apostille requirements:** Certain documents, like your criminal background check, must be apostilled (a form of international legalization). This is often much easier to take care of before leaving home. You can read our detailed guide on [how to legalize and apostille a document for Spain](#).
- **Medical certificates:** Consulates usually provide specific templates for medical certificates. Tracking these down and getting the right form completed can sometimes be more complicated once you are already abroad.

We share these potential challenges not to discourage you, but to help you plan ahead.

With the right preparation, you will have no troubles attaining a student study visa.

What are the Two Types of Spanish Student Visas?

There are two categories of Spanish student visas, **determined by the length of your course**. Both use the same application form, but the main differences are the **documents required and whether you need to apply for a residency card** (*Tarjeta de Identidad de Extranjero* or TIE) upon arrival.

Short-Term Student Visa (91–180 days)

If your course lasts 3 to 6 months, you'll receive a visa that covers your entire stay. You do *not* need to apply for a residency card (TIE).

Long-Term Student Visa (Over 180 days)

If your course lasts more than 6 months, you'll receive an initial 90-day visa. After arriving in Spain, you *must* apply for a residency card (TIE) within 30 days to validate your stay for the full duration.

Important: The 180-day countdown starts when you enter Spain, not when your course begins. Arriving early could push your stay over 180 days, meaning you'd need a long-term visa, even if your course is under 6 months.

How Do You Apply for a Spanish Student Visa from Your Home Country?

Applying for a student visa from your home country is the standard, most common, and often most recommended path for all international students.

Below you will find the steps on how to apply.

Application Steps to Follow When Applying From Your Home Country

1. **Get Accepted:** First, you must be accepted into an accredited school in Spain and receive your official acceptance letter.
2. **Gather Your Documents:** Use the detailed checklist in the next section to gather all required documents.

3. **Book Your Consulate Appointment:** Schedule an appointment at the Spanish Embassy or Consulate that has jurisdiction over your place of residence. You can [find the location closest to you here.](#)
4. **Submit Your Application:** Attend your appointment, submit all your documents, and pay the visa application fee. The deadline to submit your application is *at least two months* before the start date of your studies.
5. **Wait for the Decision:** The **Spain visa processing time** is typically around one month, but it can be longer.
6. **Receive Your Visa:** Once approved, you will receive your passport back with the visa sticker inside.

How Do You Apply for a Spanish Student Visa from Within Spain?

This path is an option for students who are already in Spain legally, and decide to enroll in a long-term course.

How to Know You Are Eligible to Apply from Within Spain

1. **You must already be in Spain legally.** This could be on a 90-day tourist stay, a digital nomad visa, or another form of valid status.
2. **You must be enrolled** in a degree seeking program, such as a bachelors or masters program, or Spanish language course **at an accredited university.** Language schools, even when accredited by the Instituto Cervantes, are *not*

eligible. Explore your options in our comprehensive guide to [Spanish courses in Spain](#).

3. **You must apply in time.** Your application needs to be submitted **at least 60 days before your current legal stay ends**, as outlined by the Spanish Ministry of Immigration.

Application Steps to Follow When Applying From Within Spain

1. **Get accepted into a school and prepare your paperwork.** Secure your place at a university program and start gathering your documents. Many of them take over 30 days to be issued back home, so it's a good idea to prepare as much as you can before traveling to Spain. *(See the note below about online applications).*
2. **Submit your application.** You'll present everything either at your local Immigration Office (Oficina de Extranjería) or through the online system.
3. **Consider getting legal support.** The online process can be especially useful if you don't yet have all the required documents ready. [Our partner lawyers can file your application](#) online with the documents you already have and then add the missing ones later. This flexibility can save you from running out of time on your legal stay.
4. **Wait for your decision.** Once submitted, you'll receive an official resolution (*resolución*) from the Immigration Office.
5. **Apply for your TIE.** If your visa is approved, your final step will be applying for your *Tarjeta de Identidad de Extranjero* (TIE), the ID card that makes your stay in Spain official.

Your Master Checklist for Spanish Student Visa Application

Master Checklist for Spanish Student Visa Application

- ☒ Valid Passport
- ☒ School Acceptance Letter (carta de aceptación)
- ☒ Proof of Financial Means
- ☐ Health Insurance
- ☐ Medical Certificate
- ☐ Criminal Record Check with Apostille (for stays longer than 180 days)
- ☐ Visa Application Form
- ☐ Photographs
- ☐ Proof of having paid the corresponding fee for processing the procedure.

Caption: *A complete checklist of all mandatory documents required for the Spanish student visa application, including passport, acceptance letter, financial proof, and health insurance.*

- Valid Passport
- School Acceptance Letter
- Proof of Financial Means
- Health Insurance
- Medical Certificate
- Criminal Record Check with Apostille (only if your stay is longer than 180 days)
- Visa Application Form
- Photographs
- Proof of having paid the corresponding fee for processing the procedure.

Important: Any documents issued outside of Spain must be translated into Spanish or into the co-official language of the region where you are applying (such as Catalan or Galician) by a certified sworn translator. If you require official translations of your documents, you can [request a quote here](#).

Detailed Explanation of the Documents You Need for Your Spanish Student Visa Application

Regardless of where you apply, the core **Spanish student visa requirements** are the same. You will need proof of your identity, your studies, your financial stability, and your health.

Proof of Admission Into an Accredited Program

This is the one document that varies for every student. It must clearly show that you have been accepted into a **full-time, accredited program** in Spain. Find your student type below to see the specific proof you will need to provide.

A. For Spanish Language Students

You must submit an official acceptance letter (*carta de aceptación*) from an accredited Spanish language school. The letter should confirm that you are enrolled in a full-time, in-person program. Remote or hybrid courses are not eligible.

Eligible programs include:

- Language schools accredited by the Instituto Cervantes. Explore your options in our comprehensive guide to [Spanish courses in Spain](#).
- Officially recognized universities that offer intensive Spanish courses

The letter must state:

- The name of your course

- The official start and end dates
- The number of study hours per week (typically 20 hours or more)

In addition to the acceptance letter, you will almost always need to provide a separate receipt showing that the course fees have been paid in full.

B. For University Degree Students

You must provide the official acceptance letter (*carta de admisión*) from a recognized Spanish university for a full-time degree program.

This letter must confirm your enrollment in a Bachelor's (*Grado*), Master's (*Máster*), or PhD (*Doctorado*) program. These programs may be hybrid, as long as at least 50% of the classes are held in person.

It is also common to be asked for proof of your first tuition payment to the university.

C. College Entrance Exam Takers

You must provide an official enrollment certificate for a full-time university preparation course designed for the PCE or EBAU exams. This certificate must come from a recognized academic center and confirm that you are enrolled in a full-time program that is held in-person. Remote formats are not accepted.

Important: Enrollment in PCE and EBAU exam preparation courses alone is no longer sufficient to obtain a student visa. **To qualify, you must combine these preparatory courses with Spanish language classes.** This combination is currently accepted by Spanish Consulates and Embassies for student visa purposes.

It is very important that your acceptance letter clearly states that you are enrolled in Spanish courses in addition to your exam preparation courses.

Other Universal Documents for Spanish Student Visa Application

A Valid Passport

You must have a valid, unexpired passport with at least two blank pages, and it must remain valid for the entire duration of your planned stay in Spain. Your passport is your most important form of identification, so double-check its validity before applying. Note that passports issued more than 10 years ago are not accepted, even if they are still technically valid.

A Completed Student Visa Application Form

This is the official government form required to request your student visa.

You can download the National Visa Application Form directly from the website of the Spanish Embassy or Consulate where you will submit your application. Always **use the version provided by your local consulate**, as requirements can vary.

See our tips on [how to fill out the National Visa Application Form here](#).

If applying from within Spain, you will instead complete the [modelo oficial \(EX-00\)](#).

Passport-Sized Photos

You will need one or two recent, passport-sized color photographs. These must be taken against a plain white or light background, show you facing forward with a neutral expression, and be free of glasses or anything that obscures your face.

Proof of Financial Means

You must demonstrate that you have sufficient funds to support yourself throughout your stay without needing to work.

As a general rule, this means proving access to 100% of Spain's monthly IPREM (around €600 per month). For a one-year stay, this totals at least €7,200. At Go! Go! España, we recommend showing a minimum of €10,000 to strengthen your application.

Acceptable proof includes recent bank statements, a scholarship award letter, or a notarized letter of financial support from your parents.

To calculate your total expected expenses and ensure your savings meet the threshold, see our guide on the [cost of studying in Spain](#).

A Compliant Private Health Insurance Policy

You must hold comprehensive private health insurance from a company authorized to operate in Spain. The policy must:

- Have no co-payments (sin copagos)
- Cover your entire stay
- Provide coverage equivalent to Spain's public health system

This requirement is one of the most common causes of visa rejection, so pay close attention to compliance. Standard travel insurance does not qualify.

At Go! Go! España, we recommend [Universitas Mundi Asisa's policy](#) as it meets all official requirements.

To ensure your coverage meets the strict criteria for a student visa, read our specialized guide on [student health insurance in Spain](#).

To plan your budget down to the last euro and meet the 2026 IPREM requirements, read our essential guide on the real **cost of studying in Spain**.

A Medical Certificate

This certificate must be signed by a licensed doctor and confirm that you do not have any diseases that could pose a public health risk in Spain.

Many consulates provide the required wording (often in both English and Spanish), and it must appear on the document, usually on official letterhead.

A standard example is a statement verifying that you do not suffer from any disease with serious repercussions for public health, [in line with the 2005 International Health Regulations](#).

A Criminal Record Check with Apostille (for stays over 180 days)

Applicants staying longer than 180 days must submit a criminal background check issued by the police authority of their home country (for example, the FBI in the U.S.).

This certificate must be:

- Issued within the last 3–6 months
- Legalized with an Apostille (an internationally recognized certification)
- Translated into Spanish, if not already

Because this process can take significant time, both to obtain the record and to secure the Apostille, we strongly recommend starting this step as early as possible.

How to Legalize and Apostille a Document

Need to get your documents legalized? See our country-specific guides on how to legalize and apostille a document:

- [How to Apostille a Document in the US.](#)
- [How to Apostille a Document in Australia.](#)
- [How to Apostille a Document in Canada.](#)
- [How to Apostille a Document in the UK.](#)

Remember, this document must be translated into Spanish or the co-official language in the territory for which the application is being submitted by a sworn translator.

What are the Most Common Mistakes to Make When Applying for a Spanish Student Visa?

The Spanish student visa process is very meticulous, and even small mistakes can lead to delays or rejection. The most common reasons include incomplete applications, incorrect documentation (especially for health insurance), and missed deadlines.

The good news is that, unlike many other countries, Spanish immigration authorities often give applicants a second chance when the error is minor. For example, if you forget to attach a required document, you'll usually receive a rejection notice explaining the issue and be given around 10 days from the date of notification to correct it.

Still, the best approach is to avoid these issues from the start. By carefully reviewing your documents, meeting deadlines, and double-checking requirements, you can strengthen your student visa application for Spain.

The 5 Most Common Mistakes to Make When Applying for a Spanish Student Visa

1. Incorrect Health Insurance

This is one of the most frequent reasons for rejection. Submitting standard travel insurance or a policy with co-payments (*copagos*) will result in automatic denial/correction request. Your policy must meet the strict requirements set by the Spanish consulate.

2. Insufficient Financial Proof

You must clearly demonstrate that you meet the minimum financial requirement of 100% of Spain's monthly IPREM. Having the exact amount in your account may not be enough. Consulates want to see stable, consistent funds.

3. Missing an Apostille

Official documents, such as your criminal record check, must be legalized with an Apostille. Forgetting this step makes the documents invalid.

4. Forgetting to Translate Documents

All official documents must be translated into Spanish or the co-official language in the territory for which the application is being submitted by a sworn translator.

5. Applying Too Late

From gathering documents to consulate processing times, the entire process can take several months. Starting just one or two months before your program begins puts your visa approval at serious risk.

What Happens After Your Student Visa is Approved?

Congratulations, your Spanish student visa application was successful! Here is what to expect next.

Receiving Your Visa

Once approved, you will receive your passport back with a visa sticker affixed to one of its pages. This sticker is your official authorization to travel to Spain for your studies.

When you arrive, immigration officers will stamp your visa, which marks the official start of your legal stay.

If You Are Staying 91–180 Days

Your visa sticker is typically valid for the entire duration of your stay. No additional administrative steps are required.

If You Are Staying More Than 180 Days

Your visa sticker is valid only for the first 90 days. Within 30 days of your arrival in Spain, you must complete two important steps:

1. Register for your *Certificado de Empadronamiento*. This is the local registration that confirms your residence in Spain.
2. Apply for your TIE card (*Tarjeta de Identidad de Extranjero*). This is your official residency permit for the length of your studies.

Both steps are mandatory for long-term students.

If you are staying for more than 180 days, use our [walkthrough on how to get your TIE card](#) to complete your residency registration once you arrive.

FAQ About Applying for a Spanish Student Visa

1. Can I apply for a student visa if I am already in Spain as a tourist?

Yes, but you must meet strict requirements. You need to be in Spain legally, submit your application at least 60 days before your legal stay ends, and be enrolled in an accredited university (Spanish courses or degree-seeking studies are both valid).

Keep in mind that obtaining required documents, such as an apostilled background check from your home country, can be difficult while in Spain.

We recommend applying online with the help of an immigration lawyer for a smoother process and higher chances of visa approval.

2. What is the most common reason for a visa rejection?

One of the most frequent reasons for rejection is submitting an incorrect health insurance policy. The policy must be from a company authorized in Spain and have no co-payments (*sin copagos*). Incorrect or insufficient proof of financial means is another common reason.

At Go! Go! España, the most common reason for rejection among our students is the failure to clearly demonstrate a genuine intent to study in Spain.

This requirement is especially important for applicants from countries with historically higher visa rejection rates. Students from countries that do not require a visa to enter Europe do not usually get their visa rejected.

3. How much money do I need to show for my student visa?

You must prove you have access to 100% of Spain's monthly IPREM, which is roughly €600 per month. For a one-year stay, this totals at least €7,200. We recommend 10,000 € at Go! Go! España to be on the safe side.

4. How long does the visa application process take?

If you apply from your home country, the Spain visa processing time is typically around one month, but it can be longer.

If you apply for a student visa from within Spain, the process can take several months. Don't worry, once your application is submitted you can stay in Spain even if your tourist visa expires while you wait for a decision.

5. Do I need a visa if my language course is only two months long?

No. For courses lasting 90 days or less, you do not need a student visa.

However, depending on your nationality, you may need a Schengen Visa to enter Spain. For a broader look at how this fits into your overall timeline, refer to our [step-by-step planner for studying in Spain](#).

Conclusion: Ready to Start Your Student Visa Application?

The Spanish student visa process may seem complex, but with careful preparation and the right guidance it is completely achievable. This is your first step toward an exciting academic adventure and a life-changing experience abroad.

As a specialized [study abroad company in Spain](#), we provide technical reviews of your documents to maximize your chances of success.

You don't have to navigate it alone. At Go! Go! España, our Visa Support Service will guide you through every step. With our help, you can focus on what truly matters, embracing your studies and the experience of living in Spain. [Contact us today!](#)