IMMIGRATION

European permanent residence

Long-term EU residence permit

By **Aray Asociados Editorial Team** Published July 4, 2025

The content of this page is for guidance only. Only the provisions set forth in the regulations in force at the time of submitting the application shall apply.

DURATION AND RENEWAL	UPDATED
This authorization is valid indefinitely as long as the requirements that led to its granting are maintained.	**November 14, 2026**

Topics: Work | Lifestyle | Education | Family reunification

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01 Description

This authorization allows you to live and work in Spain indefinitely under the same conditions as nationals, and also to apply for transfer to other member states of the European Union under certain conditions.
Its granting confers a special status as a long-term EU resident regulated by European Union law.

02 Advantages

- Allows you to live and work in Spain under the same conditions as Spanish citizens.
- Enables relocation and residence in other EU member states under harmonized conditions.
- Provides legal stability by not depending on the periodic renewal of residence.

03 Who can apply? (including family members)

- ✓ Any foreign person who has resided legally and continuously in Spain for at least five years may apply for this authorization.
- ✓ The main applicant is the one who proves such continuous legal residence.
- ✓ Family members who are already part of their household and have also resided legally and continuously during the same period may accompany them from the start.

04 Requirements

For the initial application for the Long-term EU residence authorization:

- ✓ Prove legal and continuous residence in Spain for at least five years.
- ✓ Have stable and sufficient financial means.
- ✓ Have public or private health insurance providing coverage equivalent to the National Health System.
- ✓ Not pose a threat to public order or public security.
- ✓ Have fulfilled tax and Social Security obligations.
- ✓ For holders of international protection, the period of residence may be counted under certain conditions under the new Real Decreto.

05 Required documents

The following documentation must be submitted in all cases:
☐ Valid and complete passport.
☐ Proof of having legally resided in Spain for five years (certificados de empadronamiento, or municipal registration certificates, previous residence permits, etc.).
☐ Documentation proving sufficient financial means (pay slips, employment contracts, income tax returns, etc.).
☐ Valid public or private health insurance in Spain.
☐ Proof of compliance with tax and Social Security obligations.
If applying for family members, you must also include:
☐ Documents proving the family relationship.
☐ Evidence of cohabitation in Spain during the required period.

06 Application process

1 **Gathering documentation**
Collect all documents proving continuous residence, financial means, health insurance, and other required conditions.

2 **Submission of the application**
The application is submitted either in person or online to the Oficina de Extranjería (immigration office) for the place of residence.

3 **Decision**
The authorities must notify the decision within a maximum of three months. If no response is given, the application is deemed approved (positive silencio administrativo).

4 **Entry into Spain and final procedures**
Once granted, the Foreigner Identity Card (TIE) is issued, valid for five years and renewable.

07 Duration and renewal

This authorization is valid indefinitely as long as the requirements that led to its granting are maintained.

The physical residence card is valid for five years and must be renewed periodically, without affecting the long-term EU residence status.

08 FAQ

Can I lose this authorization if I leave Spain?

Yes. It may be lost if you reside outside the European Union for 12 consecutive months, except for justified reasons accepted by the authorities, in accordance with Real Decreto 1155/2024.

Is it the same as the national long-term residence?

No. This authorization grants additional rights within the EU and requires meeting specific additional requirements.

Can I apply even if part of the five years was under a student residence?

No. Periods of stay for study purposes do not count as legal residence for this authorization, unless they were changed to residence status before the start of the five-year period.

09 Applicable law

- Ley Orgánica 4/2000, de 11 de enero
- Reglamento aprobado por Real Decreto 557/2011, de 20 de abril
- Real Decreto 1155/2024, de 19 de noviembre
- Directiva 2003/109/CE del Consejo, de 25 de noviembre de 2003

Do you need personalized advice?
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