IMMIGRATION

Non-lucrative residence

Initial non-lucrative temporary residence authorization

By **Aray Asociados Editorial Team** Published February 8, 2023

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

DURATION AND RENEWAL	UPDATED
Initial validity: The initial non-lucrative residence authorization is valid for 1 year.	**November 14, 2026**

Topics: Lifestyle | Retirement | Education

On this page

01 Description
02 Advantages
03 Who can apply? (including family members)
04 Requirements
05 Required documents
06 Application process
07 Duration and renewal
08 FAQ
09 Applicable law

01 Description

The non-lucrative residence is an authorization that allows non-EU citizens to reside legally in Spain without engaging in any labor or professional activities. It is intended for individuals who have sufficient financial means to support themselves in the country without the need to work.

02 Advantages

- Allows legal residence in Spain without engaging in any labor activity
- Possibility to include family members from the start of the application
- Access to the healthcare system through private insurance
- Can be renewed and serve as a basis for future residence modifications
- Possibility to apply for long-term residence after the legally required period

03 Who can apply? (including family members)

✓ Profile of the main applicant

- Foreign nationals who are not citizens of a Member State of the European Union, the European Economic Area, or Switzerland, and who wish to reside in Spain without engaging in any labor or professional activity.

✓ Who must be the main applicant

- The application must be submitted by the individual concerned at the Spanish diplomatic mission or consular office in their country of residence. This applicant must demonstrate sufficient financial means and have medical insurance.

✓ Family members who may accompany the main applicant in the same application

› **The following may be included in the same application as dependents of the main applicant:**

- The spouse or proven unmarried partner (pareja de hecho)
- Minor children
- Adult sons and daughters of the applicant or of the applicant's spouse, registered partner, or stable partner who have a disability requiring support or who are objectively unable to meet their own needs due to their health condition.

04 Requirements

- Not be a citizen of a Member State of the European Union, the European Economic Area, or Switzerland, nor a family member of citizens of these countries to whom the EU citizen regime applies.
- Be of legal age (18 years or older).
- Not be unlawfully present in Spanish territory.
- Have no criminal record in Spain or in the countries where the applicant has resided during the last five years, for offenses under Spanish law.
- Not be prohibited from entering Spain and not be listed as inadmissible in the territorial space of countries with which Spain has signed a relevant agreement.
- Have sufficient financial means to cover the costs of stay and return, and, if applicable, those of accompanying family members. The applicant must demonstrate monthly income equivalent to 400% of the IPREM. For each accompanying family member, 100% of the IPREM must be demonstrated monthly.
- Have public or private health insurance contracted with an insurance company authorized to operate in Spain.
- Not suffer from any of the diseases that may have serious public health implications in accordance with the International Health Regulations of 2005.
- Not be within the period of the commitment not to return to Spain, if previously assumed under a voluntary return program.
- Have paid the processing fee.

05 Required documents

For the main applicant:
☐ Valid and complete passport
☐ Criminal record certificate
☐ Medical certificate in accordance with the requirements of the International Health Regulations
☐ Documentation proving financial means (e.g., bank statements, income, investments, etc.)
☐ Health insurance policy with coverage in Spain and proof of payment

☐	National visa application form
☐	Proof of payment of the corresponding fee
For family members (if included in the application):	
☐	Documents proving the family relationship (marriage certificates, birth certificates, etc.)
☐	Medical and criminal record certificates, as applicable

06 Application process

1 **Document gathering**

The applicant must collect all required documents and comply with the established requirements.

2 **Submission of the application**

The application must be submitted in person at the Spanish diplomatic mission or consular office in the applicant's country of residence.

3 **Decision and visa issuance**

The consulate will issue a decision within a period of up to 3 months. If approved, the visa will be issued.

4 **Entry into Spain and final procedures**

The applicant must enter Spain during the visa's validity period and apply for the Foreigner Identity Card (TIE) within one month of arrival.

07 Duration and renewal

Initial validity:

The initial non-lucrative residence authorization is valid for 1 year.

Renewal:

It can be renewed for 2 years, provided that the conditions that justified the initial authorization are still met, including:

Sufficient financial means

Health insurance

Effective residence in Spain for at least 183 days per calendar year

08 FAQ

Even though I can't work, can I invest?

Yes. Many people believe they cannot invest with this type of authorization because they associate it with professional activity. However, the Non-Lucrative Residence does allow you to invest and earn additional income, for example, through the distribution of business dividends.

Does this residence authorization allow me to study in Spain?

Yes, foreign nationals holding a non-lucrative residence authorization are free to carry out educational and/or academic activities in Spain. And although they may not work, they can indeed undertake university internships, even if paid. According to Article 2.3 of Real Decreto 592/2014 of July 11, internships carried out through agreements with professional entities are considered purely educational in nature and therefore do not constitute employment.

What happens if I decide to work after obtaining the non-lucrative residence?

You would need to apply for a modification of your residence authorization to one that allows you to work, such as the residence and work authorization.

Once I obtain the non-lucrative residence visa, can I reside in other EU countries?

No, this visa only allows the applicant to reside in Spanish territory. However, this type of permit does grant the right to travel freely within the Schengen Area without restrictions.

Can my children attend public school with this residence authorization?

Yes, the applicant's minor children may attend public schools once they are registered on the municipal register (empadronados) in the city where they will reside. Therefore, it is not advisable to apply for access to a public school at the beginning of the visa process, as the applicant and their family members would still be outside Spanish territory and not yet registered.

09 Applicable law

- Ley Orgánica 4/2000 de 11 de enero sobre Derechos y Libertades de los Extranjeros en España y su Integración Social (artículos 30 bis y 31)
- Reglamento de la Ley Orgánica 4/2000, aprobado por Real Decreto 557/2011, de 20 de abril (artículos del 45 al 49).

Do you need personalized advice?
Tell us about your case and we will advise you

Send us a message