IMMIGRATION

Permanent residence in Spain

Long-term residence authorization

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

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
The long-term residence authorization has no time limit; it is indefinite.	**November 14, 2026**

Topics: Lifestyle | Work | Family reunification | Education

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01 Description

This authorization allows individuals to reside and work in Spain indefinitely, under the same conditions as Spanish citizens.
It grants the right to remain in the country on a stable and long-term basis after having legally resided in Spain for five continuous years.

02 Advantages

- Allows you to reside in Spain indefinitely.
- Authorizes both salaried employment and self-employment in Spain under the same conditions as Spanish nationals.
- Facilitates family reunification with certain dependent relatives.
- Guarantees access to the services and benefits provided for long-term residents under the regulations in force.

03 Who can apply? (including family members)

- ✓ Any foreign national who has legally and continuously resided in Spain for five years may apply for this authorization.
- ✓ The applicant may be accompanied by their spouse, registered domestic partner, minor or dependent children, and dependent ascendants, provided they were already linked under the previous residence status.

04 Requirements

- ✓ Have legally and continuously resided in Spain for five years (a total absence of up to 10 months, or 6 consecutive months, is permitted).
- ✓ Have no criminal record in Spain or in previous countries of residence for offenses under Spanish law.
- ✓ Not be prohibited from entering Spain or listed as inadmissible in the Schengen Area.
- ✓ If applicable, have previously resided as a holder of international protection, stateless status, subsidiary protection, or as a long-term resident in another EU Member State (in cases of special eligibility).

05 Required documents

- ☐ Complete copy of a valid and current passport or travel document
- ☐ Proof of having legally and continuously resided in Spain for five years
- ☐ Criminal record certificate from the country or countries of residence in the last five years, if applicable
- ☐ Proof of enrollment in the Social Security system, if the applicant has been employed
- ☐ Payment receipt for administrative fee form 790, code 052
- ☐ If applicable, documentation proving dependent family member status

06 Application process

1 **Document gathering**

Gather the required documents to prove continuous residence and fulfill the other necessary requirements.

2 **Submission of the application**

Submit the application to the relevant Oficina de Extranjería (immigration office), preferably online.

3 **Decision**

The Oficina de Extranjería will decide within a maximum of 3 months. If the decision is favorable, the authorization is issued.

4 **Final steps**

Once granted, the Foreigner Identity Card (TIE) must be requested at the police station within 1 month.

07 Duration and renewal

- The long-term residence authorization has no time limit; it is indefinite.
- The Foreigner Identity Card (TIE) must be renewed every five years.
- The authorization may be terminated if the holder remains outside Spain for 12 consecutive months, or if their absences exceed 6 consecutive months, with a maximum total of 18 months over five years when assessing the continuity requirement.

08 FAQ

Do I lose long-term residence if I leave Spain?

The authorization may be terminated if the holder remains outside Spain for 12 consecutive months, or if their absences exceed 6 consecutive months, with a maximum total of 18 months over five years when assessing the continuity requirement.

Can I apply for Spanish nationality with this residence?

This authorization may count toward the residency requirement for applying for Spanish nationality, provided that the other conditions established in the Civil Code are met.

Can I work as an employee or self-employed with this residence?

Yes, long-term residence allows you to work under the same conditions as Spanish citizens.

What happens if my TIE expires?

The long-term residence authorization is indefinite, but the physical document (TIE) has limited validity. It must be renewed every five years and, from the second renewal onward, if the holder is 30 or older, the card is valid for ten years. An expired TIE does not mean losing the residence authorization, but carrying an expired card can lead to administrative penalties and cause problems in any procedure that requires proof of current residence.

09 Applicable law

- Ley Orgánica 4/2000, de 11 de enero, sobre derechos y libertades de los extranjeros en España y su integración social
- Reglamento aprobado por Real Decreto 557/2011, de 20 de abril
- Real Decreto 1155/2024, de 19 de noviembre.

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