IMMIGRATION

Arraigo por segunda oportunidad (second-chance roots residence)

Residence authorization on second-chance arraigo grounds

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

This page is for general guidance only. Only the regulations in force when the application is filed will apply.

DURATION AND RENEWAL	UPDATED
The initial authorization is valid for five years	**November 14, 2026**

Topics: Regularization | Education | Internships

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

This is a residence authorization on exceptional grounds (circunstancias excepcionales) that allows third-country nationals to regularize their status in Spain if they can prove at least five years of continuous presence in the country and, due to circumstances that arose later, find themselves in a situation of particular personal or family vulnerability.
It was introduced by Real Decreto 1155/2024 (Spain's new Immigration Regulation) as a measure to promote integration and safeguard fundamental rights, within the framework of the new model of migration governance.

02 Advantages

- Grants an initial residence authorization for five years
- Allows certain family members to be included from the time of application
- No job offer or prior financial means required
- Authorizes both salaried employment and self-employment for its entire validity

03 Who can apply? (including family members)

- ✓ Non-EU nationals who can prove continuous residence in Spain for at least five years before applying
- ✓ The main applicant must be the person in the situation of supervening vulnerability who meets the length-of-stay requirement
- ✓ From the outset, the applicant may be joined by a spouse or registered partner, dependent parents or other ascendants over 65, and minor children or children with disabilities, provided they live with the applicant in Spain

04 Requirements

- ✓ For the authorization (no prior visa required)
- ✓ Prove continuous presence in Spain for the five years immediately preceding the application
- ✓ Be in a situation of particular personal or family vulnerability that arose after arrival (for example, loss of livelihood, separation from or death of a family member you lived with, gender-based violence or other grounds set out in the regulations)
- ✓ Have no criminal record in Spain or in the countries where the applicant has lived during the last five years

- ✓ Not be banned from entering Spain or listed as inadmissible in the Schengen Area
- ✓ Commit to taking part in a social integration program if the decision so requires

05 Required documents

- ☐ Applicant's full, valid passport (all pages)
- ☐ Historical certificados de empadronamiento (municipal registration certificates) proving at least five years of continuous presence
- ☐ Documents proving the supervening vulnerability (for example, social services, medical or court reports)
- ☐ Criminal record certificate from the country or countries where the applicant has lived during the last five years
- ☐ Where applicable, documents proving the relationship with, and cohabitation of, any family members to be included as dependents

06 Application process

1 Gathering the documents

The applicant must gather documents proving five years of continuous presence in Spain and the supervening vulnerability.

2 Filing the application with the Oficina de Extranjería

The application is filed in person, or through a legal representative, at the Oficina de Extranjería (immigration office) for the applicant's place of residence.

3 Review by the authorities

The competent authority reviews the documents submitted and may request additional reports if it considers them necessary.

4 Decision and issuance of the authorization

If granted, a five-year residence authorization that includes permission to work is issued. The applicant must then apply for the TIE (foreigner identity card).

07 Duration and renewal

The initial authorization is valid for five years

After that period, it may be renewed or changed to another status under the general immigration rules or the long-term residence regime, provided the legal requirements are met

08 FAQ

How long must I have lived in Spain to apply for this authorization?

You must have lived in Spain continuously for the five years immediately before the application.

Can I include my minor children from the start?

Yes, as long as they live with you in Spain and you can prove both the relationship and the cohabitation.

Do I need a job or an employment contract to apply for this authorization?

No. This authorization does not require financial means or an employment contract at the time of application.

Can I renew this authorization?

Yes. Once the five-year validity period ends, you can renew it or apply for a long-term residence authorization if you meet the requirements.

What counts as a “supervening vulnerability”?

It refers to situations that arise after you arrive in Spain and seriously affect your well-being or that of your family, such as loss of income, serious illness, separation or widowhood, among other recognized grounds.

09 Applicable law

- Ley Orgánica 4/2000, de 11 de enero, sobre derechos y libertades de los extranjeros en España y su integración social
- Real Decreto 1155/2024, de 19 de noviembre, por el que se aprueba el Reglamento de Extranjería (deroga el RD 557/2011)

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