IMMIGRATION

Arraigo socioformativo (socio-educational roots residence)

Temporary residence authorization on exceptional grounds based on arraigo socioformativo

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 12 months.	**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 temporary residence authorization on exceptional grounds that allows foreign nationals in an irregular situation in Spain to regularize their status by completing officially recognized training (formación reglada). It authorizes the holder to work from the moment it is granted and is designed to promote social and labor market integration.

02 Advantages

- Allows foreign nationals in an irregular situation in Spain to regularize their immigration status.
- Authorizes work from the moment it is granted.
- Opens access to accredited training programs and certificados de profesionalidad.

03 Who can apply? (including family members)

- ✓ Any adult foreign national in an irregular situation in Spain who can prove at least two years of continuous presence may apply.
- ✓ The applicant is always the person concerned, who must commit to completing specific training.
- ✓ This authorization does not allow family members to be included as dependents in the initial application.

04 Requirements

- ✓ Continuous presence in Spain for at least 2 years.
- ✓ No criminal record in Spain or in previous countries of residence during the last 5 years.
- ✓ A written commitment to complete officially recognized training.
- ✓ Not banned from entering Spain or listed as inadmissible in Schengen Area countries.
- ✓ Proof of enrollment or admission in an accepted training program.

05 Required documents

To apply for the residence authorization:

- ☐ Full, valid passport (or a complete copy of it).
- ☐ Certificado de empadronamiento (municipal registration certificate) proving at least 2 years of continuous presence.
- ☐ Criminal record certificate from the previous country or countries of residence.
- ☐ Written commitment to complete training.
- ☐ Proof of enrollment or pre-enrollment in official training (certificado de profesionalidad, an official vocational qualification; training leading to an occupation on the Catálogo de Ocupaciones de Difícil Cobertura, Spain's official list of hard-to-fill occupations; etc.).

06 Application process

1. **Gathering the documents**
   Gather the required documents showing that all requirements are met.
2. **Filing the application**
   File the application with the competent Oficina de Extranjería (immigration office) in the province of residence.
3. **Decision and notification**
   The authorities have a maximum of 3 months to decide.
4. **Card issuance**
   Once the authorization is granted, the applicant must apply for the Tarjeta de Identidad de Extranjero (TIE, foreigner identity card).

07 Duration and renewal

- The initial authorization is valid for 12 months.
- It can be extended once for a further 12 months if the training has not finished and is being actively pursued.
- When the training ends, there is no need to apply for a new work authorization: the right to work already applies from the time the arraigo socioformativo is granted.

08 FAQ

Can I work with an arraigo socioformativo authorization?

Yes. This authorization allows you to work from the moment it is granted.

What type of training qualifies for this arraigo?

It must be officially recognized training in Spain, including certificados de profesionalidad or training linked to occupations on the Catálogo de Ocupaciones de Difícil Cobertura.

What happens if I do not finish the training?

Failing to meet the training commitment may lead to termination of the authorization and denial of future renewals.

Can I renew this authorization if I need more time to finish the training?

Yes. A single 12-month extension is allowed if you show that you are still actively pursuing the training.

09 Applicable law

- Real Decreto 557/2011, de 20 de abril, en su redacción vigente tras el Real Decreto 1155/2024, de 18 de diciembre
- Ley Orgánica 4/2000, de 11 de enero, sobre derechos y libertades de los extranjeros en España

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