IMMIGRATION

Digital nomad visa

Residence authorization for international remote workers

By **Aray Asociados Editorial Team** Published September 26, 2023

The content of this page is for general guidance only. Only the regulations in force at the time the application is filed apply.

DURATION AND RENEWAL	UPDATED
Initial term: The initial authorization is granted for up to 3 years, unless a shorter period is requested.	**November 14, 2026**

Topics: Digital nomad | Work | Lifestyle

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01 Description

The residence authorization for international remote workers allows non-EU foreign nationals to reside in Spain while providing professional services remotely, using exclusively computer, online and telecommunication tools. It is designed for people who work, as employees or as independent professionals, for companies located outside Spain on a remote basis.

02 Advantages

- Lets you reside legally in Spain while working for foreign companies
- Family members can apply jointly with you
- Fast processing by the Large Companies Unit (Unidad de Grandes Empresas), with positive administrative silence
- Access to public healthcare once you hold the municipal registration certificate (empadronamiento) and meet the requirements
- Facilitates mobility and stays within the Schengen Area of up to 90 days per six-month period

03 Who can apply? (including family members)

✓ Main applicant profile

- Non-EU foreign nationals who work as employees or as self-employed professionals for companies located outside Spain, using technology to do so.

✓ Who must be the main applicant

- The international remote worker who meets the conditions set by the regulations in force.

✓ Family members who may be included in the same application

› **The following family members may be included in a joint application:**

  - Spouse or unmarried partner (pareja de hecho)
  - Minor children, or adult children financially dependent on the applicant
  - Dependent ascendants who live with the applicant

04 Requirements

For the visa (when applying from outside Spain):

- ✓ Not be in Spain unlawfully
- ✓ Have worked for at least 3 months for the foreign employer or client
- ✓ Show experience or training in your professional field (at least 3 years of experience, or a university degree or equivalent qualification)
- ✓ Provide an employment contract or documents proving the professional relationship
- ✓ The foreign company must have been operating for at least one year
- ✓ Have public health insurance, or private health insurance with a company authorized to operate in Spain
- ✓ Have no criminal record over the last 5 years in the countries where you have lived
- ✓ Have sufficient financial means (at least 200% of the monthly SMI, the Spanish minimum wage, for the main applicant)

For the residence authorization (when you are already in Spain legally):

- ✓ Be in lawful status in Spain (for example, with a valid visa or another type of stay)
- ✓ Meet the same requirements listed above for the visa

05 Required documents

For employees:
☐ Employment contract with a foreign company
☐ Certificate from the company confirming that the employee may work remotely
For self-employed professionals:
☐ Documents proving professional activity with one or more foreign companies
☐ Terms and duration of the professional relationship
Documents for all applicants:
☐ Valid passport
☐ Criminal record certificate (legalized and translated, where applicable)

- [ ] Proof of financial means
- [ ] Health insurance valid in Spain
- [ ] Academic degree or proof of work experience

06 Application process

1 Gathering the documents

Gather all the documents required for your type of application (visa or residence).

2 Filing the application

From abroad: at the competent Spanish consulate.
From Spain: with the Large Companies and Strategic Groups Unit (Unidad de Grandes Empresas y Colectivos Estratégicos, UGE-CE), if you are in lawful status

3 Decision and visa issuance

The authorities have 20 business days to decide. If they do not respond, the application is deemed granted by positive administrative silence (silencio administrativo positivo).

4 Entry into Spain and final steps

Once the visa or authorization is granted, the applicant may enter Spain and must apply for the foreigner identity card (TIE) within 30 days of entry or of the favorable decision.

07 Duration and renewal

Initial term:

The initial authorization is granted for up to 3 years, unless a shorter period is requested.

Renewal:

It may be renewed for 2-year periods, provided the conditions on which it was originally granted continue to be met.

08 FAQ

How long is the digital nomad visa valid?

It depends on where you apply. If you apply for the visa from your home country, through the Spanish embassy or consulate, you will be granted a visa for up to 1 year. Once you are in Spain and the first year has passed, you can renew it from Spain without returning to your home country.

If you apply while already in Spain, it will be valid for 3 years, and you can then renew it for 2 more years.

Can my family members apply for the same visa as dependents?

Yes, your family can come with you and apply for the visa as your dependent family members. You will need to prove the family relationship and show that you also have financial means for them (at least €7,000 for each additional family member).

Do my years of residence as a digital nomad count toward Spanish citizenship later on?

Yes, they do. However, you should avoid long or frequent absences from Spain, as they could hurt your application for Spanish citizenship. Depending on your nationality, you may apply for a Spanish passport after 2 or 10 years of residence.

What if you already have a work permit for Spain?

If you have lived in Spain for at least one year, you can change your residence permit to a work permit to become self-employed (autónomo).

The documents required for this change include proof of financial means, a completed application form (EX-01), an approved business plan, and a certificate confirming that your business plans are viable.

09 Applicable law

- Ley 14/2013, de 27 de septiembre, de apoyo a los emprendedores y su internacionalización
- Reglamento (UE) 2016/679 del Parlamento Europeo y del Consejo, de 27 de abril de 2016 (en materia de protección de datos personales, para tratamiento de la información del solicitante)

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