IMMIGRATION

Residence permit for internships in Spain

Residence authorization for internships

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

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

UPDATED

November 14, 2026

Topics 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 authorization allows non-EU nationals to reside legally in Spain while completing an internship with a public or private company or organization, under a signed internship agreement (convenio de prácticas) or internship employment contract (contrato en prácticas). The internship must be linked to a university degree, vocational training qualification or equivalent obtained recently, or to studies in progress at the time of the application.

02 Advantages

- Lets you reside legally in Spain while completing your internship.
- The internship may be paid, if the agreement or contract so provides.
- No prior visa is required if the applicant is already in Spain legally.
- Makes it easier to move later to other residence and work authorizations, if you meet the requirements.

03 Who can apply? (including family members)

- ✓ This authorization is available to any national of a non-EU country who has obtained a university degree, vocational training qualification or equivalent within the two years before the application, or who is currently enrolled in such studies.
- ✓ The main applicant is the foreign national who will complete the internship.
- ✓ The applicant may be accompanied by their spouse or registered partner and by minor children, or adult children with a disability, who are financially dependent on them.

04 Requirements

- ✓ Show that you have an internship agreement or internship contract with a company or organization in Spain.
- ✓ Have obtained a university degree, vocational training qualification or equivalent within the previous two years, or be currently enrolled in studies.
- ✓ Have public health insurance, or private health insurance authorized to operate in Spain.
- ✓ Have no criminal record in the countries where you have lived in the last five years.
- ✓ Have sufficient financial means for your stay, unless the internship is paid and the pay meets this requirement.

05 Required documents

- [ ] Valid passport.
- [ ] Internship agreement or internship contract signed by the host company or organization.
- [ ] Academic degree obtained or certificate of current enrollment.
- [ ] Health insurance authorized to operate in Spain.
- [ ] Criminal record certificate from your country of origin and from the countries where you have lived in the last five years.
- [ ] Proof of financial means (only if the internship is unpaid or the pay is insufficient).

06 Application process

1 **Gathering the documents**

The applicant gathers all the required documents, including the internship agreement or contract and the academic degree.

2 **Filing the application**

The application is filed only with the competent immigration office (Oficina de Extranjería) in Spain, either online or in person.

3 **Decision on the application**

The Oficina de Extranjería decides the application within a maximum of 30 days. If there is no response, the application is deemed denied by administrative silence (silencio administrativo).

4 **Issuance of the TIE**

Once the application is approved, the applicant must apply for the foreigner identity card (Tarjeta de Identidad de Extranjero, TIE) within 30 days of the notice of approval.

07 Duration and renewal

The initial authorization is granted for the term of the internship agreement or contract, up to a maximum of 12 months.

It may be renewed for up to 6 additional months, provided the initial conditions are still met and the overall maximum of 18 months has not been exceeded.

08 FAQ

Can I work with this authorization?

You may only carry out the activity set out in the internship agreement or internship contract. Other, unrelated work is not permitted.

Do I need a visa beforehand?

No, if the applicant is already in Spain legally. A visa will be required if the person is outside Spain and wants to apply from their home country; in that case the application must also be processed with the Oficina de Extranjería, not with the consulate.

Can I change this authorization to a work permit?

Yes, you may apply to change to a residence and work authorization, provided you meet the requirements set by the regulations.

Can I bring my family from the start?

Yes. Your spouse or registered partner and your dependent minor children, or dependent adult children with a disability, may accompany you.

09 Applicable law

- Ley Orgánica 4/2000, de 11 de enero, sobre derechos y libertades de los extranjeros en España y su integración social
- Ley 14/2013, de 27 de septiembre, de apoyo a los emprendedores y su internacionalización
- Real Decreto 1155/2024, de 25 de junio, por el que se modifica el Reglamento de extranjería

Do you need personalized advice?
Book a consulting hour with our team

Send us a message