IMMIGRATION

Arraigo social (social roots residence)

Temporary residence authorization on exceptional grounds based on arraigo social

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 authorization is initially valid for 1 year	**November 14, 2026**

Topics: Regularization · Lifestyle · Work

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 foreign nationals who are in Spain and have lived there continuously for at least two years to regularize their status. Its purpose is to open a path to legal residence for those who can show social integration through family ties or an informe de arraigo (integration report) issued by the regional government (comunidad autónoma).

02 Advantages

- Allows you to live lawfully in Spain for one year
- Makes it possible to work as an employee or as a self-employed professional if the required conditions are met
- Offers the option of proving your own financial means instead of an employment contract

03 Who can apply? (including family members)

- ✓ Non-EU nationals who are in Spain and have lived there continuously for at least two years may apply
- ✓ The main applicant is the foreign national who proves that period of stay and their social integration
- ✓ The following may be part of the family unit from the outset: spouse or registered partner, minor children or children with disabilities, and dependent parents or other ascendants who live with the applicant

04 Requirements

To apply for the authorization:

- ✓ Continuous presence in Spain for at least 2 years
- ✓ Proof of family ties with legal residents, or an informe de arraigo issued by the regional government
- ✓ Proof of sufficient financial means through an employment contract or your own income
- ✓ No criminal record in Spain or in previous countries of residence
- ✓ Not listed as inadmissible in the Schengen Area or banned from entering Spain
- ✓ Not within the period of a non-return commitment following a voluntary return

05 Required documents

- ☐ Full, valid passport (all pages)
- ☐ Historical certificado de empadronamiento (municipal registration certificate) proving at least 2 years of continuous residence

- [ ] Criminal record certificate from the country of origin and, where applicable, from the countries where the applicant has lived during the last five years
- [ ] Informe de arraigo social issued by the relevant regional government, or documents proving family ties
- [ ] Signed employment contract or documents proving sufficient financial means
- [ ] Proof of payment of the applicable fee

06 Application process

1 **Gathering the documents**

The applicant must collect all required documents, including the registration certificates (certificados de empadronamiento), an employment contract or proof of financial means, and documents proving family ties or the informe de arraigo.

2 **Filing the application**

The application is filed in person with the Oficina de Extranjería (immigration office) in the province where the applicant lives, together with all required documents.

3 **Decision and visa issuance**

The Oficina de Extranjería has 3 months to decide. If no decision is issued within that time (silencio administrativo, or administrative silence), the application is deemed denied.

4 **Final steps**

Once the authorization is granted, the applicant must apply for the TIE (foreigner identity card) at the relevant police station.

07 Duration and renewal

The authorization is initially valid for 1 year

It can be renewed by applying for a residence and work authorization for salaried employment or self-employment, if the requirements of the Reglamento de Extranjería (Immigration Regulation) are met

08 FAQ

How long must I have lived in Spain to apply for arraigo social?

At least 2 years of continuous presence is required, proven through empadronamiento records or other official documents.

Is an employment contract mandatory?

No. Integration can also be shown through an informe de arraigo social, together with proof of your own financial means.

Which family members can join me from the start?

Your spouse or registered partner, minor children or children with disabilities, and dependent parents or other ascendants who live with you.

What counts as “social integration”?

It can be shown through family ties with legal residents or through a social integration report (informe de integración social) issued by the regional government.

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 557/2011, de 20 de abril, por el que se aprueba el Reglamento de Extranjería
- Real Decreto 1155/2024, de 20 de noviembre, por el que se modifica el Reglamento de Extranjería

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