



Spain Digital Nomad Visa

DOCUMENT CHECKLIST FOR U.S. APPLICANTS

A practical planning guide for remote employees and self-employed professionals working primarily for companies outside Spain.

Choose your application route before ordering documents. You may apply through the Spanish consulate serving your legal U.S. residence, or apply electronically through Spain's Large Companies and Strategic Groups Unit (UGE) while you are legally present in Spain. The route changes the initial validity period, filing method and insurance timing.

OPTION 1 | APPLY AT THE CONSULATE

Up to 1 year

Apply before moving through the Spanish consulate with jurisdiction over your U.S. residence. The visa itself authorizes residence and remote work during its validity. If you want to remain longer, you may apply for the residence authorization during the final 60 calendar days while the visa is still valid.

OPTION 2 | APPLY FROM SPAIN

Up to 3 years

Enter Spain lawfully and file electronically with the UGE before your authorized stay expires. You must be in regular immigration status on the filing date. After approval, obtain the TIE because the authorization exceeds six months.

1 ELIGIBILITY AND WORK ARRANGEMENT

- ☐ **Qualifying remote activity**
You must work remotely using computer or telecommunications systems for a company or clients located outside Spain.
- ☐ **Employee or independent professional**
Employees may work only for companies outside Spain. Independent professionals may perform up to 20% of their total professional activity for clients located in Spain.
- ☐ **Foreign company active for at least one year**
Provide official corporate or registry evidence showing that the foreign company or group has carried on a real and continuous activity for at least one year.
- ☐ **Existing relationship for at least three months**
Show that your employment or professional relationship with the foreign company or clients existed for at least the three months immediately preceding the application.
- ☐ **Permission to work remotely from Spain**
Obtain a detailed employer or client letter authorizing work from Spain and describing the position, duties, remote-working arrangement, compensation in euros and other working conditions.
- ☐ **Qualifications or professional experience**
Provide a degree or professional qualification from a recognized institution, or evidence of at least three years of relevant professional experience. Regulated professions may require additional recognition or declarations.

2026 income reference: the principal applicant must demonstrate gross resources equal to 200% of Spain's SMI. With the 2026 SMI of EUR 1,221 per month in 14 payments, this is approximately **EUR 2,849 per month** when annualized over 12 months. Add approximately **EUR 1,068 per month** for the first accompanying family member and **EUR 356 per month** for each additional family member. Reconfirm the figures before filing.

2 CORE DOCUMENTS FOR BOTH APPLICATION ROUTES

☐ **Official application form**

Use the current national visa form for the consular route or the current Ley 14/2013 teleworker application form for the UGE route. Complete a separate application for each accompanying family member where required.

☐ **Valid passport**

Provide the full passport copy requested by the authority. For an in-Spain filing, also retain evidence of lawful entry and the remaining period of authorized stay.

☐ **Passport photograph**

For a consular application, provide a recent passport-size color photograph that meets the assigned consulate's specifications.

☐ **Proof of consular jurisdiction**

For the consular route, provide a valid driver's license, state ID or other evidence showing legal residence within the consular district.

☐ **Employment or professional contracts**

Include the employment contract or professional agreements supporting the remote activity, together with evidence that the relationship has existed for at least three months.

☐ **Company documentation**

Provide official evidence of the foreign company's legal existence and at least one year of real and continuous activity. Foreign public documents may require an apostille and sworn Spanish translation.

☐ **Income evidence**

Provide recent payslips or invoices and matching bank evidence. UGE guidance requests evidence for the three months preceding the application. If work income is below the required threshold, additional liquid savings may be used to cover the difference for the requested authorization period.

☐ **Employer or client authorization letter**

The letter should confirm that the work may be performed remotely from Spain and state the role, duties, salary or fees in euros and the conditions of the remote arrangement.

☐ **Curriculum vitae and qualifications**

Provide a CV and the degree, professional qualification or evidence of at least three years of relevant experience. Translation requirements depend on the document and filing authority.

☐ **FBI criminal-record certificate**

Provide an FBI Identity History Summary covering the applicable background requirement, obtain the U.S. Department of State federal apostille and arrange an official Spanish sworn translation. Current rules require certificates from countries of residence during the previous two years plus a declaration covering the previous five years.

☐ **Other countries of residence**

Obtain criminal-record certificates from other applicable countries of residence, legalized or apostilled as required and accompanied by an official Spanish translation.

☐ **Fee payment**

For a consular filing, confirm the current visa fee and accepted payment method with the assigned consulate. For a UGE application, pay the current authorization fee online and include the proof of payment; fees can change.

☐ **Family-member documents**

A spouse or qualifying partner, dependent children and dependent ascendants may apply with or after the principal applicant. Include passports, relationship certificates, background documents when age-appropriate, insurance or Social Security evidence and proof of the additional required resources.

Social Security is a separate and critical part of the application. Employees may need the foreign company to register in Spain and commit to enrolling the worker in the Spanish General Scheme after approval. Self-employed professionals generally provide a commitment to register with RETA. If relying on a bilateral or international coordination agreement instead, obtain the exact certificate of applicable legislation accepted by Spain; a mere application for that certificate is not sufficient.

3 HEALTH INSURANCE AND WHEN TO PURCHASE IT

☐ **If you are using private health insurance**

Choose a comprehensive policy issued by an insurer authorized to operate in Spain. Travel insurance, reimbursement-only policies, policies with copayments and policies with waiting periods are not accepted.

☐ **Consular application - purchase before the appointment**

Your insurance certificate must be ready for submission with the visa application. Arrange the policy before your consular appointment, with coverage beginning no later than the intended start of residence or entry date specified for the application. The policy must remain active throughout the visa's validity, up to one year.

☐ **Application from Spain - purchase before electronic filing**

If private insurance is required for your case, the policy and certificate should already be active when the UGE application is submitted because the evidence forms part of the application. Coverage must be maintained throughout the residence authorization, which may be granted for up to three years.

☐ **You do not normally prepay three years of premiums**

A Spanish annual renewable policy is commonly used for a three-year authorization. Keep it continuously in force and renew it on time for the entire authorization period unless the authority or your legal adviser instructs otherwise.

☐ **If you will join Spanish Social Security**

UGE guidance states that separate insurance evidence is not necessary when the applicant will affiliate with Spanish Social Security after approval. The correct approach depends on whether you are an employee or self-employed and on the Social Security documentation submitted with the application.

☐ **U.S. Social Security Payments**

Contributing to U.S. Social Security and having a U.S. certificate of coverage does not entitle you to Spanish public health care. Purchasing qualifying Spanish private health insurance is still required.

Practical timing: contact GuiriGuru several months before your planned filing or arrival so the insurer's permitted future start date can be coordinated with your consular appointment or UGE submission. Do not wait until after filing if your application will rely on private insurance.

4 FILING, DECISION AND AFTER APPROVAL

☐ **Consular route**

File with the Spanish consulate assigned to your U.S. legal residence. The statutory decision period is generally 10 working days, although document requests or consultations can extend processing. The visa is valid for up to one year and is sufficient proof of residence and remote-work authorization during its validity.

☐ **In-Spain route**

File electronically with the UGE while legally present in Spain, personally through an accepted electronic method or through an authorized representative. The statutory decision period is 20 days; silence is treated as approval under the applicable law.

☐ **TIE after an in-Spain approval**

Because the residence authorization is longer than six months, apply for the Foreigner Identity Card (TIE) after approval. Follow the fingerprint appointment instructions for your province.

☐ **Continuing after a one-year consular visa**

If you wish to remain in Spain, apply for the residence authorization during the 60 calendar days before the visa expires while it remains valid.

☐ **Renewal**

A residence authorization may be renewed for two-year periods if the qualifying conditions continue to be met.

OFFICIAL SPANISH SWORN TRANSLATIONS

Foreign public documents that must be filed in Spanish generally require legalization or an apostille and an official Spanish sworn translation. Obtain the apostille before translation and do not detach it from the underlying document. Contact GuiriGuru for official sworn translation services.

Need a route-specific document review?

Ask GuiriGuru for a complimentary 30-minute introductory consultation with a licensed Spanish immigration lawyer.

Important: This checklist is provided for general informational purposes only and is not legal advice. Requirements can change and may differ by consular district, employment structure, Social Security position and personal circumstances. Confirm the current requirements with your assigned Spanish consulate or the UGE and obtain individualized legal advice before filing.

Official sources used: Spain's Law 14/2013 (Articles 74 bis to 74 quinquies and 76); Spanish Ministry of Inclusion, UGE guidance for international teleworkers and Digital Nomad FAQs; joint administrative instructions on international teleworkers; Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs consular guidance; Royal Decree 126/2026 establishing the 2026 SMI.