



Spain Student Visa

DOCUMENT CHECKLIST FOR U.S. APPLICANTS

For college, university and other long-stay study programs exceeding 90 days

Before collecting documents, confirm which Spanish consulate serves your legal U.S. residence and review that office's current Student Visa page and appointment provider. Requirements, copies, fees, translations and filing procedures vary. Applications should normally be filed at least two months before the program begins.

1 APPLICATIONS IDENTITY AND JURISDICTION

- ☐ **National Visa Application Form**
Complete and sign one form per applicant. A parent or duly authorized representative signs for a minor.
- ☐ **Recent passport photograph**
Passport-size color photo on a light background. Follow your assigned consulate's exact size and quantity instructions.
- ☐ **Valid passport**
Original and color copy of the biometric page. It should generally be valid for the planned stay, have at least two blank pages, and have been issued within the last 10 years. National guidance calls for at least one year of validity.
- ☐ **Proof of consular jurisdiction**
Driver's license, state ID, lease, student record or other evidence accepted by the consulate showing legal residence in its district.
- ☐ **Appointment and filing provider**
Book through the consulate or its designated provider, such as BLS where applicable. Bring the appointment confirmation and expect to leave the passport during processing.
- ☐ **Visa and authorization fees**
Confirm current visa, residence-authorization and service fees, accepted payment method, and whether separate forms or money orders are required.

2 ADMISSION ENROLLMENT AND COLLEGE PAYMENT

- ☐ **Acceptance letter in Spanish**
From an authorized Spanish university, college or school. It should confirm unconditional admission or enrollment, the student's name, program, full-time status, start and end dates, institution details and program contact.
- ☐ **Full-time study requirement**
For the standard consular higher-education route, the program should lead to a recognized degree, diploma or certificate. Some U.S. consulates specify at least 20 study hours per week.
- ☐ **Proof of registration or enrollment payment**
Higher-education applicants must prove that registration, enrollment or equivalent rights have been paid. The institution's letter may confirm payment.

3 FINANCIAL MEANS

- ☐ **Student's minimum living funds**
Currently 100% of IPREM: €600 per month of the authorized stay, or €7,200 for 12 months. Keep a buffer for exchange-rate changes and consulate-specific evidence rules.
- ☐ **Accompanying family**
Add 75% of IPREM for the first family member: €450 per month. Add 50% for each additional family member: €300 per month each.
- ☐ **Tuition is separate**
Money used to pay tuition, registration or enrollment fees does not count toward the required living funds. Show enough resources for both education costs and living expenses.
- ☐ **Prepaid accommodation**
If accommodation for the entire stay has been paid in advance and properly documented, its value may be deducted from the required living-funds amount.
- ☐ **Proof of funds**
Common evidence includes the applicant's three most recent bank statements, scholarships, grants, loans or an institution's financial-support letter. If a parent or relative sponsors the student, expect a notarized support letter, proof of relationship, sponsor ID and bank statements.

College payment flexibility: If enrollment cannot be finalized until shortly before classes, document that restriction and include a signed commitment to enroll when permitted. Official guidance also recognizes installment plans and payment by the student's home university, provided formal enrollment is proven.

4 INSURANCE MEDICAL AND BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

- ☐ **Private health insurance in Spain**
Certificate in Spanish from an insurer authorized to operate in Spain, naming the applicant and showing the coverage dates. The policy should provide benefits comparable to Spain's public system, with no co-payments, deductibles or waiting periods. Some U.S. consulates expressly request repatriation and at least €30,000 of coverage; travel insurance and insurance cards are not accepted. **Contact GuiriGuru for help procuring Spain Visa-Compliant Private Insurance.**
- ☐ **Insurance period**
Coordinate the effective date with the program and consulate. Current rules extend the authorization around the study period; some consulates require coverage beginning before the program and continuing beyond its end.
- ☐ **FBI criminal record certificate**
Required for applicants over 18 when the study stay exceeds 180 days. Provide records covering countries of residence during the prior five years. U.S. applicants generally use an FBI fingerprint-based Identity History Summary, issued within the consulate's validity window, with U.S. Department of State apostille and official Spanish sworn translation.
- ☐ **Medical certificate**
Original and copy stating that the applicant does not suffer from diseases that could have serious public-health repercussions under the 2005 International Health Regulations. Use the consulate's bilingual template when available; otherwise obtain the required Spanish translation. Many offices require issuance within three months.
- ☐ **Apostilles and sworn translations**
Foreign public documents generally require legalization or Hague Apostille. English documents that must be presented in Spanish require an official Spanish sworn translation. Obtain the apostille before translating the complete document set. **Contact Guiriguri for official Spain sworn translations of your required documents.**

Timing matters. FBI records, apostilles, medical certificates, enrollment confirmation and insurance dates must align with the appointment and program start. Work backward from the consular appointment and recheck your assigned consulate before ordering documents.

5 CAN A STUDENT WORK IN SPAIN?

- ☐ **Higher-education students**
A long-stay authorization for recognized higher education automatically permits employed or self-employed work without a separate work-permit application, provided the work is compatible with the studies.
- ☐ **Maximum working time**
Work must remain compatible with the study authorization and normally may not exceed 30 hours per week. Exceeding the limit can cause the study authorization to be terminated.
- ☐ **Curricular internships**
No additional authorization is required for curricular internships that form part of the approved study plan.
- ☐ **Other study or training categories**
Post-compulsory secondary students receive automatic permission only for qualifying workplace training within covered vocational programs. Other students or trainees may need a separate work authorization, still subject to compatibility and hour limits.
- ☐ **Accompanying family members**
Family members holding a student-family visa are not authorized to work under that status.

6 FAMILY MEMBERS MINORS AND FINAL CHECK

- ☐ **Eligible accompanying family**
For higher-education students, qualifying family may include a spouse or proven partner, minor children, certain adult children with disability or illness, and a necessary support person. Each person needs their own forms, passport, insurance and supporting documents.
- ☐ **Relationship documents**
Provide recently issued marriage, partnership or birth certificates as applicable, with apostille/legalization and official Spanish translation when required.
- ☐ **Minors**
Provide parental authorization, custody documents and the consulate's minor-specific forms. Requirements vary depending on whether one or both parents travel and who will supervise the student in Spain.
- ☐ **Appointment-day packet**
Bring originals, required copies, proof of payment, appointment confirmation and a separate complete packet for every applicant. The consulate may request additional documents or an interview.
- ☐ **After approval**
For stays exceeding six months, apply personally for the Foreigner Identity Card (TIE) within one month after entering Spain. The NIE commonly appears on the visa or is assigned during the process.

OFFICIAL SPANISH SWORN TRANSLATIONS

English-language documents requiring Spanish must be translated by an official sworn translator appointed by Spain's Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Contact GuiriGuru for official sworn translations, visa-compliant private health insurance and assistance coordinating your application documents.

Need a consulate-specific document review?

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

Important: This checklist is general information, not legal advice. Requirements can change and differ by consular district, program type, length of stay and personal circumstances. Your assigned Spanish consulate is authoritative. Confirm its current checklist, fees, appointment provider and document-validity rules before filing.

Official sources used

Spanish Ministry of Inclusion: Long-stay authorization for higher and post-compulsory secondary studies
 Spanish Ministry of Inclusion: Student visa and long-stay study authorization guide under Royal Decree 1155/2024
 Consulate General of Spain in San Francisco: Student Visa requirements
 GuiriGuru.com