

Our guide to

SPANISH VISA APPLICATIONS



According to 2020 figures, there are more than 250,000 British expats living in Spain. Applying for a Spanish visa can be a lengthy process with strict rules and regulations for those wishing to move there.

This guide aims to make the process of applying for Spanish visas seem much less intimidating.

First, we will look at two of the most popular Spanish visa routes; the [Golden Visa](#), and the [Non-working Residence Visa](#) (formerly the Non-lucrative Residence Visa).

Then, we will go through the various documentation you might be asked to provide in support of your visa application, and how those documents need to be prepared in order to be deemed valid by Spanish authorities.

Register for a **FREE 10-minute consultation**

Register now for a FREE 10-minute consultation with one of our Spanish visa experts. We will be happy to talk you through the process and set you on your way to a new life in the sun.

Register

Call us

SPANISH VISA ROUTES

The **Golden Visa** and the **Non-working Residence Visa** are two of the most popular routes for individuals wishing to move to Spain.

Spanish Golden Visa

[Find out more](#)

The Golden Visa allow individuals to gain full residency in Spain by committing to financial investment there.

Holders of Golden Visas have the right to work, live and study in the country. A further benefit is, due to Spain's membership in the EU, the visa allows holders to move freely throughout the Schengen Zone.

It is also important to note that Golden Visa holders are only required to spend one day per year in Spain - which has significant tax implications. Other visas, such as the Non-working Residence Visa, require visa holders to spend a minimum of 183 days per year in Spain, meaning that they are liable to pay Spanish taxes. Those with Golden Visas have the freedom to manage their time and, in turn, their finances.

In order to qualify for a Golden Visa, applicants most often invest in Spanish real estate. There are other investment methods available to applicants though.

Investment options include:

- Purchasing real estate (minimum value of €500k for one or more properties)
- Issue a bank deposit (minimum €1m)
- Invest in Spanish business (minimum €1m)
- Buy Spanish government bonds (minimum €2m)
- Start a business in Spain that generates employment or contributes to innovation

For more information about the [Golden Visa](#), please visit our [website](#).



Non-working Residence Visa

Find out more

The Non-working Residence Visa – formerly the Non-lucrative Residence visa – allows you to live in Spain without carrying out any paid work and is particularly popular with retirees.

The visa does not give unfettered access to the Schengen Zone to visa holders - unlike those with the Golden Visa. They are permitted to spend 90 days in 180 days in the zone, although days spent in Spain do not count towards this allowance.

It is important to note that Non-working Residence Visa holders are required to spend 183 days per year in Spain - which has significant tax implications. This requirement pushes holders into the Spanish tax system, meaning that they are liable to pay Spanish tax on their overseas income.

For more information about the [Non-working Residence Visa](#), please visit our [website](#).



REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION

The documentation you will be required to supply to Spanish authorities will depend on the visa route and your own personal circumstances. Here is a list of some of the supporting documents you may be asked to prepare, before your consular meeting.



Criminal Background Check (ACRO Certificate)

You may be asked to provide Spanish authorities with a criminal background check in support of your application - known as ACRO, CRB, or DBS checks. A successful check will satisfy Spanish government officials that you are of 'good character'.

The UK Criminal Records Office is the governmental agency tasked with checking up on the police records of individuals who want to live or work abroad, or apply for a job that involves working with children.

The process of applying for and using an ACRO check, begins with an application to the Criminal Records Office, either online or by post. You will be required to provide proof of identity, home address, as well as photographs. Once processed, your certificate will be sent to the address supplied in the application.

For an ACRO check to be deemed valid by Spanish authorities, in support of your visa application, it must be legalised by the UK Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO), and translated into Spanish by a sworn translator.

For more information about Criminal Background Checks, read our [blog](#).

Medical Certificate of Good Health

A Medical Certificate provides assurances to Spanish authorities that you are of 'good health'. The certificate confirms that you are free of any diseases that could cause serious repercussions to public health.

Only a doctor can declare you to be in good health. Good health is determined according to the International Health Regulation (2005).

It is acceptable for your doctor to write their own Medical Certificate of Good Health for you, provided that it specifically references the International Health Regulation (2005) – otherwise it will not be valid.

University Degree Certificate

You may be asked to have your qualifications authenticated, especially if you plan to work while in Spain. Authentication of qualifications ensures that they will be recognised by officials outside the UK, providing Spanish officials with assurances that they are genuine.

The process of authentication requires the signature and seal of a Notary Public (or other authorised official) and legalisation by the UK Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO).

Find out more about [degree authentication](#) on our website.

Evidence of Private Medical Insurance

For some visa routes, particularly those that do not allow you to access the Spanish healthcare system, you may be required to provide proof of private medical insurance.

At Woodcock Law & Notary Public, we partner with medical insurance providers that specialise in cover for foreign visa applications. Contact us for a no-obligation quote.



SERVICES YOU MAY NEED

Notarisation

Notarisation requires the assistance of a Notary Public - an official, authorised to certify documents for use in foreign jurisdictions. To have a document notarised, you need to meet with a Notary, who will check the document before signing and sealing it, certifying it as genuine. Find out [more](#).

Legalisation

Legalisation is the process whereby the signature and seal of an authorised official is checked by the UK Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO). The FCDO confirms that the individual who signed and sealed the document is registered to do so. Find out [more](#).

Apostille

Once a document is legalised, the FCDO will provide a certificate known as an apostille. This is recognised by all countries party to the Hague Convention - including 83 members (82 separate states and the European Union). Find out [more](#).

Sworn Translation

Many documents need to be translated by a sworn translator in order to be deemed valid by Spanish authorities - among others.

Sworn translators are qualified linguists, appointed by the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs for the translation of official and legal documents.

Woodcock Law & Notary Public has the expertise on-hand to translate Spanish documents, ensuring that the visa application process is as smooth as possible.



Call us to find out more

If you are interested in applying for a Spanish visa, our experts are available to guide you through the process.

We provide various services relating to Spanish visa applications, from the preparation of specific documents, to our comprehensive Premium Service.

Call us to explore the options or to arrange a FREE 10-minute consultation.

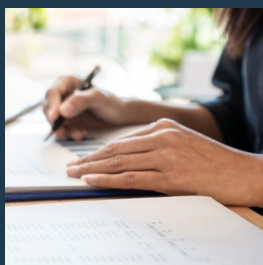
Call us

Our Premium Service



Dedicated case manager & legal support team

Your case manager will be your dedicated contact through the application process. They will begin the relationship with a 60-minute consultation to assess your needs, answer your questions, and develop an application plan.



We take care of all the paperwork

We'll help you collect the certificates you need (police checks, medical certificate, marriage certificate, etc.). All documents will be legalised through the FCDO and translated by an authorised official.



Assistance with all of your application documents

Our team will be on-hand to assist you with your application documents, ensuring that they are filled out correctly. In doing so, your application has the best possible chance of being accepted by Spanish authorities.



Receive your submission bundle before your interview

Our team will conduct final checks of your application and supporting documents before compiling them into a submission bundle. Hand this over to officials at your consular interview.