



Student visa

How to stay in Barcelona
to work or start a
business

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Giambrone & Partners SLP

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- **Experience:**
 - Researched **blockchain and smart contracts** in international commodity contracts for her thesis.
 - Interned in the **Forex & Crypto** department.
 - Completed Master's internship in **Immigration** and now works in the same department, handling:
 - **Spanish nationality applications.**
 - **Visas:** Non-Lucrative, Audiovisual Sector, Student, etc.
- **Languages:** Catalan, Spanish and English.

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- As a self-employed
- As a high qualified employee
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- Residence permit for internship

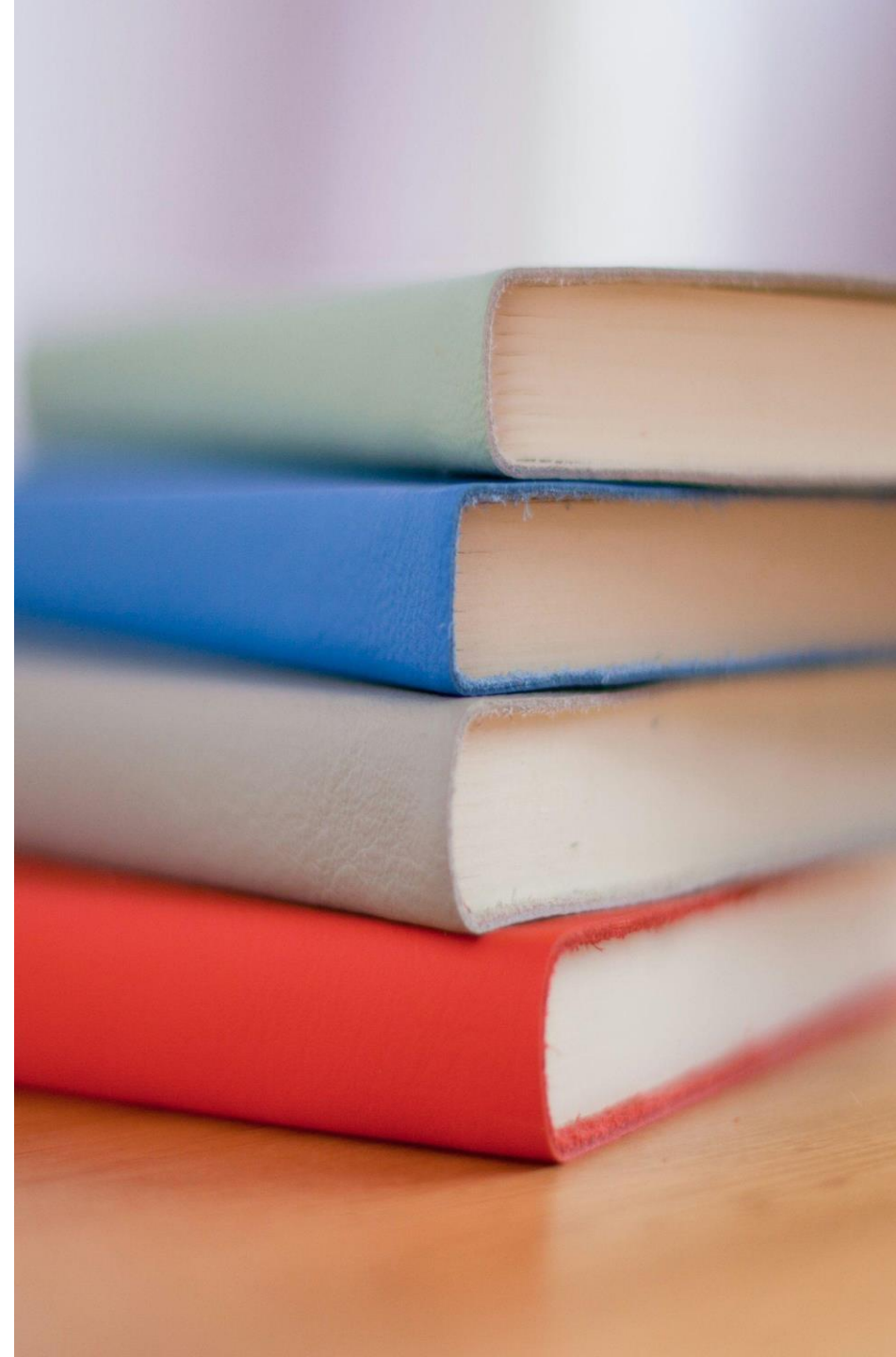
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1. Student visa/authorization: Key Points

- **Purpose:** For Non-EU students. Allows stays over 90 days for full-time higher education in a recognised institution.
- **Includes:**
 - University degrees,
 - Master's programmes, preparatory courses, and mobility/volunteering programmes.
- **Modes:** Face-to-face or hybrid.
- **Key Requirement:** The institution must be listed in the **Registry of Universities, Centres, and Degrees** to avoid visa denial.





1. Student visa/authorization: Documents

- **Admission letter** from a recognised institution.
- **Application form.**
- **Valid passport** & proof of entry into Spain.
- **Financial proof:** Minimum €8,000/year (100% SMI).
- **Proof of accommodation.**
- **Health insurance:** Full coverage, no copayments, auto-renewable, not travel-based.
- **Medical certificate:** Apostilled & translated (if issued outside Spain).
- **Criminal record certificate:** Apostilled & translated (if over 18).



1. Student visa/authorization: Procedure

At the **Spanish Consulate**: If it's submitted at the Consulate, the applicant needs to submit it with a minimum of 2 months before the start of the programme. Process takes 1-3 months.

Applying in Spain: Apply within the first 60 Schengen days. (means that as soon as you enter any country within the Schengen area, your 90-day clock starts)

Take into consideration that processing takes around 2 months (may take longer).



1.2 TIE (Tarjeta de identidad de extranjero) ID card for foreigners:

The TIE is the identity card to credit the legal stay of the foreigner in Spain

- It's only necessary if the visa or authorization to stay in Spain is for over 6 months

Documentation:

- EX-17 form completed and signed
- Passport
- Proof of payment of the tax 790-012
- Passport style picture in color

**They sometimes ask for the “empadronamiento” or registration to a Spanish address*

It will need to be submitted by the foreigner in one month after entering Spain or after the authorization is approved, at the Police Station of the province they are staying in Spain.



2. Stay in Spain: Visa Renewal & Extensions

- Valid for the duration of studies, **max 1 year per renewal.**
- **Renewal window:** Apply 2 months before expiry via electronic submission.
- **Renewal limits:**
 - **Volunteering/conversation assistant:** 1 renewal.
 - **Higher education:** Up to 2 renewals.
 - **Spanish language courses:** Must pass previous course.
 - **Preparatory courses for selective exams:** Must prove exam attendance.





2.1. Work while you have your authorisation

- Students can work as employees in public or private entities if the employer applies for the corresponding permit.
- Self-employment is allowed if the student submits an application according to the relevant regulations.
- Work must be **compatible with studies** and **cannot exceed 30 hours per week**.
- The authorization is geographically limited to the autonomous community where it was granted, but may extend to bordering areas.



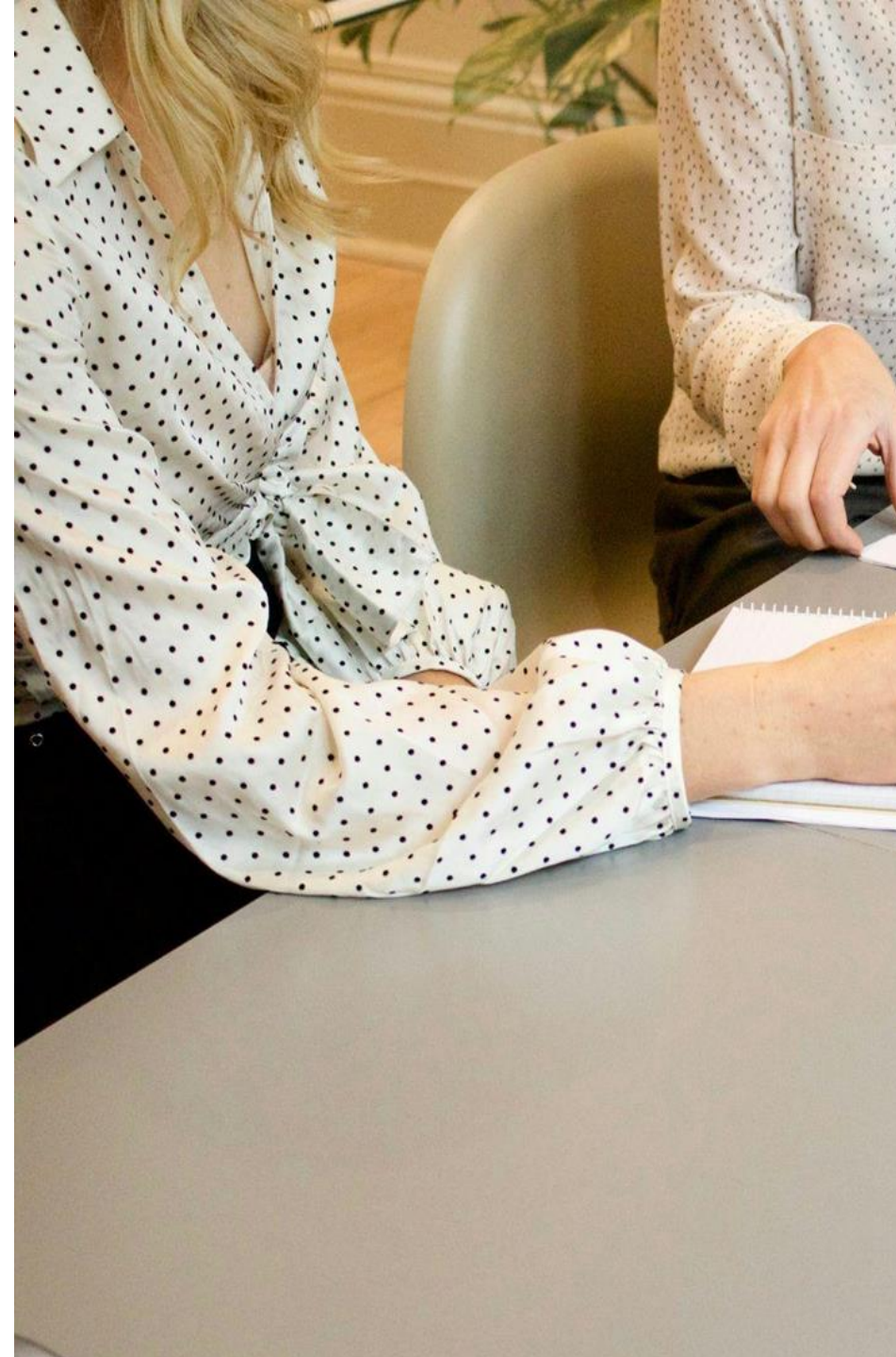


2.2. Work once you have finished your studies

Thanks to new immigration regulations, **students can now switch their student visa to a work permit after only one year of residence** (previously, three years were required).

There are several options such as:

- As an employee
- As a self-employed
- As high qualified employee
- Residence for job-seeking
- Internship residence



AS AN EMPLOYEE

Requirements:

- Completion of studies.
- No criminal record or entry ban in Spain.
- Signed employment contract with a salary meeting legal requirements.
- Employer must be financially solvent and up to date with Social Security.

Procedure: Apply at the Immigration Office 60 days before or up to 90 days after the authorization expires.

- The administration has three months to decide. If no response, it is considered denied by administrative silence.
- Once approved, the worker must apply for a Foreigner Identity Card (TIE) within one month after registering with Social Security.

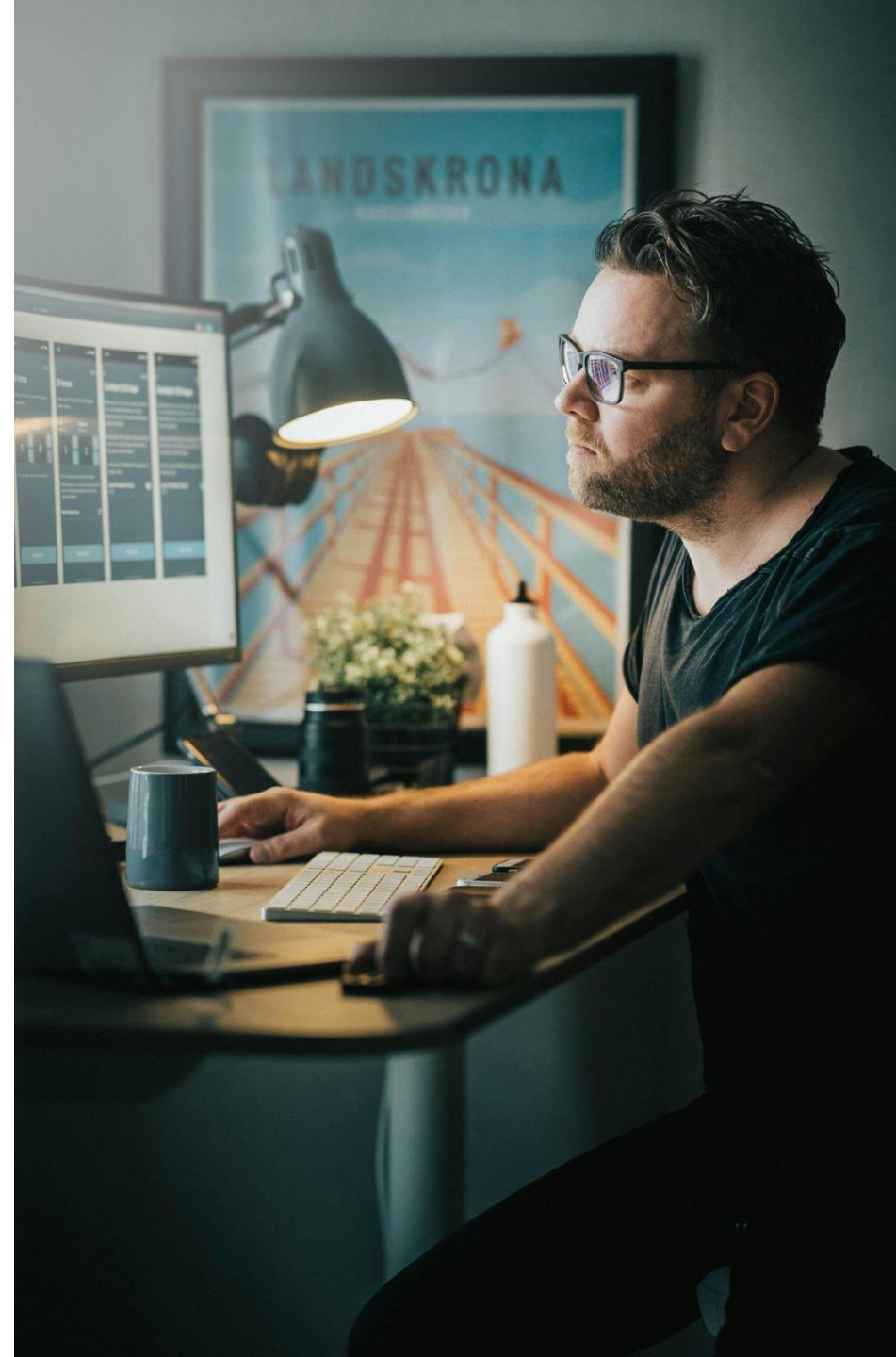




AS A SELF-EMPLOYED

Requirements:

- Proof of **successful completion of studies**.
- No **entry ban** or **criminal record** in Spain or previous countries of residence in the last 5 years.
- No pending **commitment not to return** to Spain.
- Payment of **residence permit fees**.
- Compliance with **legal requirements** for the planned activity.
- **Professional qualifications** or proven **work experience**.
- Proof of **sufficient investment** and potential **job creation**.



Required Documents:

- Application form EX-07.
- Copy of passport (full).
- Proof of completed studies.
- Criminal record certificate.
- Documents proving professional qualifications.
- Documents proving investment sufficiency and job creation potential.

Procedure:

- Submit the application at the **Immigration Office** where you will work.
- Application window: **60 days before or 90 days after** the authorization ends.
- If submitted on time, the residence permit remains valid until a decision is made.
- The administration has **3 months** to process it (if no response, it is considered denied).
- Once approved, the worker must apply for the **Foreigner Identity Card (TIE)** within **one month** after registering with Social Security.



AS A HIGH QUALIFIED EMPLOYEE

Requirements:

- Proof of **successful completion of studies**.
- No **entry ban** or **criminal record** in Spain or previous countries of residence in the last 5 years.
- No pending **commitment not to return** to Spain.
- Payment of **residence permit fees**.
- A **signed employment contract** guaranteeing continuous activity.
- Contract conditions must align with **legal regulations**.
- If part-time, salary must be at least **equal to the full-time minimum wage annually**.
- Employer must be **registered** and compliant with tax and Social Security obligations.
- If the employer is a **private individual**, they must prove financial solvency based on IPREM (Public Income Indicator).
- The employee must hold a **higher education degree** or, exceptionally, **five years of relevant professional experience**.



Required Documents:

- Application form EX-05.
- Copy of passport (full).
- Proof of professional qualification (degree or equivalent work experience).
- Company identification documents.
- Signed work contract.
- Proof of company's financial solvency.
- Proof of completed studies.
- Proof that the student has not received scholarships from cooperation/development programs.
- Criminal record certificate.

Procedure:

- The employer (or legal representative) submits the application at the **Immigration Office**.
- Application window: **60 days before or 90 days after** the authorization ends.
- If submitted on time, the residence permit remains valid until a decision is made.
- Processing time: **45 days**.





RESIDENCE PERMIT FOR JOB SEEKING

Students who have completed a **university degree (level 6), master's, or doctorate** can stay in Spain for up to **24 months** to search for employment. To do so, they must apply for a **job-seeking residence permit**.

Requirements:

- Application must be submitted **60 days before or 90 days after** the expiration of the current residence authorization.
- Proof of **sufficient financial means** (100% of IPREM).
- **Health insurance** coverage.
- **Payment of the processing fee**.
- Proof of **successful completion of studies**.

Procedure:

- The application is submitted at the **Government Delegation or Subdelegation** in the area where the job search will take place.
- Once approved, the applicant must obtain a **Foreigner Identity Card (TIE)**.





RESIDENCE PERMIT FOR INTERNSHIP

Aimed for foreigners who want to reside in Spain and have gotten a internship agreement or contract in order to improve knowledge, practice and experience in a professional environment.

Requirements:

- Have obtained a higher education degree in the two years prior the application or who are pursuing studies leading to a higher education degree.
- Maximum duration of 1 year.

Documents:

- Proof that you have obtained the title
- Passport
- Documentation regarding the institution or employer
- If it's an internship agreement:
 - *Description, duration, conditions, legal relationship with the parties*
- If it's an internship contract: signed by both parties

***Important:** if there is an internship agreement will need the medical insurance and enough financial means.



3. Other options

- **Entrepreneurship:**

Those foreigners who apply to enter Spain or who, being holders of a residence or stay permit or visa, intend to start, develop or manage an economic activity of entrepreneurship in Spain. There is no minimum investment or job creation requirement.

An entrepreneurial activity will be understood as one that is innovative and/or of special economic interest for Spain and for this purpose has a favourable report issued by the competent authorities.

- **Digital Nomad Visa**

Those foreigners who travel to Spain to carry out a professional activity at a distance for companies located outside the national territory, by means of the exclusive use of telecommunications.





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