

# Spain

## Immigration country brief



The purpose of this Immigration Country Brief is to serve as a resource and provide a general overview of the immigration requirements related to business visitors and employment authorization in Spain. The information contained in this document is provided as a resource only and should not be construed as legal advice. Processing times are estimated only and are subject to change regularly. If you have any further inquiries regarding the applicability of this information, please contact the Crown World Mobility Regional Immigration Manager, EMEA.

### Overview: Business visas

Entry visa requirements for visits to Spain are dependent upon the applicant's citizenship. Citizens of many countries do not need a visa to visit Spain for purposes of business for stays of up to 90 days.

#### Visa types

##### Schengen Visa (Type "C" Visa)

**Summary:** Spain is a member of the Schengen Area and allows short-stay visitors to apply for a Schengen Visa, which allows entry for purposes of tourism, business or family visit.

**Maximum stay:** A Schengen visa allows a duration of stay up to 90 days within a six-month period.

**Typical processing time:** Varies by applicant citizenship and consulate. Activities permitted as a business visitor include:

- Business meetings/discussions
- Negotiations with clients/prospects
- Meet customers/prospects to make presentations

- Submit a proposal or quotation to a client/prospect
- Attend seminars and exhibitions organized by, for example, companies, trade organizations and universities

#### Limitation or special requirements:

Some nationalities do not require a visa to enter Spain for purposes of tourism, business or family visit for a duration of stay up to 90 days.

### Overview: Employment authorization

Foreign nationals who wish to work or undertake gainful employment in Spain are required to obtain a work authorization. Several categories are available depending on purpose and length of stay.

#### Work permit types

##### Highly Qualified Employees

**Summary:** This is the process for temporary residence authorization for highly qualified employees (local hires and self-employed applicants) according to the Entrepreneurs' Law. This particular process to obtain this residence authorization from within Spain is applicable to individuals holding a visitor status within the country. This process is also applicable to those individuals holding any other legal immigration status (resident/student) within Spain.

**Maximum stay:** Grants the holder the right to work and reside in Spain for up to two years, with the possibility to extend.

**Processing time:** Approximately one week to one month before entry to Spain. An additional two to four months post-arrival before the entire process is completed.

**Dependents:** Dependents (spouse, children up to 18 years of age) can accompany the principal applicant in dependent immigration status. Children can study and the spouse can work under this dependent immigration status, provided the principal applicant is residing in Spain under the work permit for at least six months of the year.

### Intra-Company Transfer Permit

**Summary:** This process is the newly implemented temporary residence authorization for intra-company transfers (ICT). It is only applicable to assignees sent to Spain for assignments of more than 90 days from outside the EU, with a maximum duration of stay of three years.

**Maximum Stay:** Three years.

**Processing time:** Approximately one to five months before entry to Spain. An additional month post-arrival before the entire process is completed.

**Dependents:** Dependents (spouse, children up to 18 years of age) can accompany the principal applicant in dependent immigration status. Children can study and the spouse can work under this dependent immigration status.

#### EEA/ EFTA Nationals

EEA and Swiss nationals on assignment to or employed in Spain do not require work permits. However, if the stay is longer than 90 days, an EU Residence Certificate should be applied for. If sent to Spain on secondment, a declaration should be submitted to the labour inspectorate prior to the commencement of the assignment.

This list is not all-inclusive; other visa classifications may exist. The above are the most common employment-related work permits.

### Additional information and resources

- Spanish Immigration Portal: [www.exteriores.gob.es/Portal/en/ServiciosAlCiudadano/InformacionParaExtranjeros/Paginas/Inicio.aspx](http://www.exteriores.gob.es/Portal/en/ServiciosAlCiudadano/InformacionParaExtranjeros/Paginas/Inicio.aspx)
- Consulates/ Embassies Worldwide: [www.embassy.goabroad.com](http://www.embassy.goabroad.com)