

Working in Spain

**Want to pursue a career in Spain
after graduation and don't know
where to begin?**

Discover the different legal permits available to non-EU IE students to start their own company, work for an employer, or remain in Spain whilst looking for a job.

Disclaimer

Kindly note this is an overview of the general requirements for each permit and that eligibility will depend on each student's specific situation. Information provided in this document reflects regulation established by the Spanish Government as of November 2019 and is subject to amendments as per those in the Law.

Working Permits

Job Market Immersion

Validity

6 months. Available only immediately after graduation.

- Internships linked to your program at IE.
- Must comply with academic teams' deadlines to secure internships.
- Students must apply themselves for student permit renewal afterwards (via Student Services).
- If you attend an internship/JMI program, you will no longer be eligible for a Residence Permit for Job Seekers. These are mutually exclusive options.

Highly Qualified Professionals Permit

Validity

Applying from Spain: 3 years, renewable for 2 additional years. After 5 years, you may apply for long-term (permanent) residence.

- Employment contract with a Spanish company for a **highly qualified** position.
- Application is processed by the employer.
- Minimum salary requirement.
- Seniority and managerial positions need to be proved.

Entrepreneur's Residence Permit

Validity

Applying from Spain: 3 years, renewable for 2 additional years. After 5 years, you may apply for long-term (permanent) residence.

- Online application made by the student or a representative.
- **Requires presenting a solid business plan with a focus on innovation and job creation.**

Residence Permit to work for a company or self employment

Validity

1 year, renewable for 4 additional years. After 5 years, you may apply for long-term (permanent) residence.

- Mandatory presentation of diploma.
- Requires an open-ended contract from a company or self employment business plan.
- Application is processed by employer, or student in case of self-employment
- Cannot work until permit is approved (4-6 months)

Residence Permit for Job Seekers

Validity

2 years, non-renewable. Apply after graduation and within 90 days of the expiration of the student permit.

Note: This option is only valid for official programs.

- Mandatory presentation of an official diploma (kindly note that private diplomas are not eligible for the Job Search visa).
- **Requires application for an additional job permit once a job is secured.**
- If you apply for a Residence Permit for Job Seekers, you can no longer attend an internship/PDP program. These are mutually exclusive options.

Internships not linked to IE programs

Validity

6 months - 1 year. Apply within 2 years following graduation.

Note: This option is only valid for official programs.

- Students in Spain must apply before the expiration of their student permit. Students who have left Spain must first apply for a tourist visa.
- Mandatory presentation of an official diploma (kindly note that private diplomas are not eligible for this Internship Permit)
- Application is processed online by the employer.
- No minimum salary requirement.

IE will provide initial guidance through Student Services and Talent & Careers, but students interested in staying in Spain after graduating from IE should consult with a qualified lawyer. It is the responsibility of each student to keep their legal status in Spain by complying with the updated regulations.

Law of Entrepreneurs 14/2013 of September 27th in Support of Entrepreneurs and their Internationalization - Section 2 (articles 61 and following) <https://www.boe.es/buscar/act.php?id=BOE-A-2013-10074>

Royal Decree 11/2018 of August 31st. Includes modifications of articles of Law 4/2000, RD 557/2011 and Law 14/2013 <https://www.boe.es/buscar/doc.php?id=BOE-A-2018-12131>
Disposiciones adicionales XVII & XVIII