

General information

Third-country nationals require a national visa when they are going to stay in Spain for more than 90 days (in any 180-day period) for the purposes of work, study or establishing their residence. They also need a national visa when moving to Spain to work for a period of under 90 days.

Citizens of the European Union or of the States of the European Economic Area or Switzerland do not need a visa to establish their residence in Spain or for long-term studies or to work. However, once in Spain, they must be entered on the Register for Citizens of the Union. Family members accompanying them, and who benefit from the right to free movement, must apply for a residence permit in Spain. If they need a stay visa because of their nationality, they must obtain a visa for family members of a citizen of the Union (see section "Visas for family members of a citizen of the Union").

The national visa allows the holder to travel to Spain and to transit through and move around the territory of any Schengen State for a maximum of 90 days. However, it does not automatically entitle them to enter the Schengen area. The border authorities can refuse entry if not all entry requirements are met.

List of National visas:

Student visa, NALCAP visa (North American Language and Culture Assistant Program), Research visa

Internship visa, Employee visa, Self-employed work visa, Visa for highly qualified workers and for intra-company transfers, Investor visa, Entrepreneur visa, Non-working residence visa, Long-term residence or EU long-term residence recovery visa, Youth Mobility Program visas, Digital Nomad visa (telework visa)

1. Student Visa

The Student Visa allows Canadians to study in Spain for programs longer than 90 days. It is required for any academic course, training, or research program lasting more than three months.

Eligibility Requirements:

- **Proof of Enrollment:** You must provide an official acceptance letter from a recognized educational institution in Spain, detailing the course and its duration.
- **Financial Means:** Proof of sufficient financial resources to cover living expenses, tuition, and other costs. This can be demonstrated through bank statements, scholarships, or financial support from family.
- **Health Insurance:** You need private or public health insurance covering your stay in Spain.
- **Clean Criminal Record:** You must provide a police certificate from your country of residence for the last five years, indicating a clean criminal record.
- **Medical Certificate:** A document stating that you do not suffer from any diseases that could have severe public health consequences.

Additional Notes:

- **Work Authorization:** Under certain conditions, student visa holders can work part-time or in internships related to their field of study.

- **Visa Renewal:** The student visa can be renewed annually if the course or program is longer than a year.

2. NALCAP Visa (North American Language and Culture Assistant Program)

This visa is for Canadians who are accepted into the NALCAP, a program that places North Americans in Spanish schools to assist in teaching English or French.

Eligibility Requirements:

- **Acceptance into NALCAP:** You must provide an official letter of acceptance from the program.
- **Financial Means:** A stipend is usually provided by the Spanish government, but you may need to demonstrate additional financial resources.
- **Health Insurance:** The program often provides health insurance, but you may need to secure additional coverage.
- **Clean Criminal Record:** A police certificate from your country of residence is required.
- **Commitment to the Program:** Participants typically work 12-16 hours per week, with a contract ranging from 8-9 months.

Additional Notes:

- **Cultural Exchange:** This visa emphasizes cultural exchange, allowing participants to immerse themselves in Spanish culture while contributing to language education.

3. Research Visa

The Research Visa is intended for Canadians who wish to conduct scientific research or academic work in Spain, typically in collaboration with universities or research institutions.

Eligibility Requirements:

- **Research Agreement:** You must have a signed agreement or contract with a recognized Spanish research institution, university, or company.
- **Financial Means:** Proof of financial resources to support your stay in Spain.
- **Qualifications:** You must demonstrate that you have the appropriate qualifications and experience relevant to the research work.
- **Health Insurance:** You need private or public health insurance covering your stay in Spain.
- **Clean Criminal Record:** A police certificate is required.

Additional Notes:

- **Family Members:** Your spouse and dependent children may be eligible to join you under a family reunification visa.
- **Visa Duration:** The visa is usually issued for the duration of the research project and can be renewed if the project is extended.

4. Internship Visa

The Internship Visa is for Canadians who have secured an internship in Spain as part of their academic studies or as professional training.

Eligibility Requirements:

- **Internship Agreement:** You need a formal internship agreement between you, the Spanish company, and your educational institution or professional organization.
- **Enrollment in Education:** If the internship is part of your studies, you must provide proof of enrollment in a relevant educational program.
- **Financial Means:** Proof of sufficient financial resources to support yourself during the internship.
- **Health Insurance:** You must have health insurance that covers your stay in Spain.
- **Clean Criminal Record:** A police certificate from your country of residence is required.

Additional Notes:

- **Work Authorization:** The internship must be related to your field of study or professional training, and the visa does not typically allow for additional employment.
- **Visa Duration:** The visa is usually valid for the duration of the internship and can be extended if necessary.

5. Employee Visa

The Employee Visa allows Canadians to work in Spain after securing a job offer from a Spanish company. The employer typically initiates the visa process by applying for a work permit.

Eligibility Requirements:

- **Employment Contract:** You must have a signed employment contract with a Spanish company.
- **Work Permit Approval:** The employer must obtain a work permit from Spanish authorities, which is tied to the specific job and company.
- **Qualifications:** Proof of qualifications and experience relevant to the job.
- **Financial Means:** Although the employment contract usually suffices, you may need to demonstrate financial resources for initial support.
- **Health Insurance:** Proof of health insurance covering your stay in Spain.
- **Clean Criminal Record:** A police certificate from your country of residence is required.

Additional Notes:

- **Visa Duration:** Typically issued for one year, renewable annually.
- **Family Reunification:** Your spouse and dependent children can apply for visas to join you in Spain.

6. Self-employed Work Visa

This visa is for Canadians who want to establish a business or work as freelancers in Spain.

Eligibility Requirements:

- **Business Plan:** You must submit a detailed business plan demonstrating the viability of your business, its potential economic benefit to Spain, and its job creation potential.
- **Qualifications:** Proof of relevant qualifications, skills, and experience in your field of work.
- **Financial Means:** Evidence of sufficient financial resources to start and sustain the business until it becomes profitable.
- **Licenses and Permits:** Depending on your business type, you may need to obtain specific licenses or permits.
- **Health Insurance:** You must have health insurance covering your stay in Spain.
- **Clean Criminal Record:** A police certificate is required.

Additional Notes:

- **Visa Duration:** Initially issued for one year, with the possibility of renewal.
- **Taxes and Social Security:** You will need to register with Spanish tax authorities and the social security system.

7. Visa for Highly Qualified Workers and for Intra-Company Transfers

This visa is for Canadians employed as highly skilled professionals or for those being transferred within a multinational company to a branch in Spain. The **Highly Qualified Visa** or **Highly Skilled Professional Visa** is a [work permit](#) that enables citizens from **outside the European Union** to live and work in Spain legally, as long as they **find a job offer in a Spanish company under a qualified or technical position, or as a manager directing people**.

Thus, in this case, there is no single rule that applies in all cases. Depending on how the requirements are fulfilled (which we will explore below), your professional profile may fit in the application for this work residence.

Which are, then, the **labor profiles that would be eligible to apply for this work permit as a highly skilled professional?**

- **Managers and chief officers** who manage a relatively large group of people inside a company
- Individuals who work in really **technical and specialized job positions** (which require prior knowledge and training)
- Non-EU citizens who finished their superior studies in a prestigious business school or university

We are talking about a **two-year residency authorization** that can be renewed successively until finally achieving permanent or long-term residency.

It is also worth mentioning that **this visa is not aimed at freelancers, entrepreneurs or “autónomos”**.

Eligibility Requirements:

- **Employment Contract or Transfer Letter:** You must provide a contract with a Spanish company or a transfer letter from your current employer detailing the purpose and duration of the transfer.

- **Qualifications:** Proof of being a highly qualified professional, often demonstrated by holding an advanced degree or significant work experience.
- **Work Permit Approval:** The employer must obtain approval from Spanish authorities.
- **Health Insurance:** Proof of health insurance covering your stay in Spain.
- **Clean Criminal Record:** A police certificate is required.

Additional Notes:

- **Family Reunification:** Family members can apply to join you under a family reunification visa.
- **Visa Duration:** Typically issued for the duration of the employment or transfer, with the possibility of renewal.

8. Investor Visa (Golden Visa)

The Investor Visa, also known as the Golden Visa, is designed for Canadians who make a significant financial investment in Spain, such as purchasing real estate, investing in Spanish companies, or government bonds.

Eligibility Requirements:

- **Real Estate Investment:** Purchase real estate in Spain worth at least €500,000.
- **Company or Financial Investment:** Invest at least €1 million in Spanish companies or financial products, or €2 million in government bonds.
- **Financial Means:** Proof of sufficient financial resources to support yourself without relying on Spanish public services.
- **Health Insurance:** Private health insurance is required.
- **Clean Criminal Record:** A police certificate from your country of residence is required.

Additional Notes:

- **Visa Duration:** Initially valid for one year, with the possibility of renewal and eventually leading to permanent residency.
- **Family Reunification:** Family members can be included in the application.

9. Entrepreneur Visa

The Entrepreneur Visa is intended for Canadians who wish to start an innovative business in Spain that contributes to the country's economy, particularly in sectors like technology, biotechnology, or renewable energy.

Eligibility Requirements:

- **Business Plan:** A detailed business plan demonstrating innovation, economic viability, and the potential for job creation.
- **Approval by Spanish Authorities:** The business plan must be approved by the Spanish Economic and Commercial Office.
- **Financial Means:** Proof of sufficient financial resources to start and sustain the business.

- **Health Insurance:** Private health insurance is required.
- **Clean Criminal Record:** A police certificate from your country of residence is required.

Additional Notes:

- **Visa Duration:** Typically issued for one year, with the possibility of renewal.
- **Support Programs:** Spain offers various support programs and incentives for entrepreneurs.

10. Non-Working Residence Visa

This visa allows Canadians to reside in Spain without engaging in any work or professional activities. It is ideal for retirees or those who have sufficient income from outside Spain.

Eligibility Requirements:

- **Financial Means:** Proof of sufficient financial resources to support yourself during your stay in Spain, such as income from pensions, investments, or savings.
- **Health Insurance:** Private health insurance covering your stay in Spain is required.
- **Clean Criminal Record:** A police certificate from your country of residence is required.
- **Medical Certificate:** A certificate indicating that you do not have any diseases that could endanger public health.

Additional Notes:

- **Visa Duration:** Initially valid for one year, with the possibility of renewal. After five years of continuous residence, you can apply for permanent residency.
- **Work Restrictions:** You are not allowed to work or engage in professional activities while holding this visa.

11. Long-Term Residence or EU Long-Term Residence Recovery Visa

This visa is for Canadians who previously held long-term residence status in Spain or another EU country and wish to recover it after a period of absence.

Eligibility Requirements:

- **Previous Long-Term Residence:** Proof of having previously held long-term residence in Spain or another EU country.
- **Financial Means:** Proof of stable and sufficient financial resources.
- **Health Insurance:** Private health insurance covering your stay in Spain is required.
- **Clean Criminal Record:** A police certificate from your country of residence is required.

Additional Notes:

- **Visa Duration:** The visa grants long-term residence status, which is typically valid indefinitely as long as you meet the conditions for renewal.

- **EU Rights:** This visa allows for residence in Spain with the right to move and reside in other EU countries under certain conditions.

12. Youth Mobility Program Visas

The Youth Mobility Program allows young Canadians (usually aged 18-35) to live and work in Spain for up to one year. It is part of a bilateral agreement between Canada and Spain.

Eligibility Requirements:

- **Age Requirement:** You must be between 18 and 35 years old.
- **Financial Means:** Proof of sufficient financial resources to support yourself during your stay in Spain.
- **Health Insurance:** Private health insurance covering your stay in Spain is required.
- **Clean Criminal Record:** A police certificate from your country of residence is required.
- **Previous Participation:** You must not have participated in the Youth Mobility Program in Spain before.

Additional Notes:

- **Visa Duration:** Valid for up to one year, with no extensions or renewals.
- **Work Authorization:** You are allowed to work, but this visa does not provide a pathway to permanent residence.

13. Digital Nomad Visa (Telework Visa)

The Digital Nomad Visa is designed for Canadians who work remotely for a non-Spanish company and wish to live in Spain while continuing their work.

Eligibility Requirements:

- **Remote Work Arrangement:** Proof that you are employed by or provide services to a company outside of Spain, or that you have multiple clients outside of Spain.
- **Financial Means:** Proof of sufficient financial resources to support yourself while living in Spain.
- **Health Insurance:** Private health insurance covering your stay in Spain is required.
- **Clean Criminal Record:** A police certificate from your country of residence is required.
- **Proof of Qualifications:** You may need to demonstrate relevant qualifications or experience for your work.

Additional Notes:

- **Visa Duration:** Typically issued for one year, with the possibility of renewal.
- **Tax Implications:** As a digital nomad, you may be eligible for favorable tax treatment under certain conditions.

Each of these visas offers different pathways to living and working in Spain, depending on your situation and goals. It's essential to check the specific requirements and procedures with the Spanish consulate or embassy in Canada to ensure you meet all the necessary criteria.

1. Student Visa

Application Process:

1. **Gather Documents:** Collect your acceptance letter, proof of financial means, health insurance, police certificate, and medical certificate.
2. **Complete Application Form:** Fill out the National Visa Application form.
3. **Submit Application:** Submit your application at the Spanish consulate or embassy in Canada.
4. **Pay Fees:** Pay the visa application fee.
5. **Attend Interview:** You may be required to attend an interview.
6. **Wait for Approval:** Processing can take several weeks, so apply well in advance.

2. NALCAP Visa

Application Process:

1. **Acceptance Letter:** Obtain an official acceptance letter from NALCAP.
2. **Prepare Documents:** Collect your acceptance letter, proof of financial means, health insurance, and police certificate.
3. **Complete Application Form:** Fill out the National Visa Application form.
4. **Submit Application:** Submit your application at the Spanish consulate or embassy in Canada.
5. **Pay Fees:** Pay the visa application fee.
6. **Wait for Approval:** Processing times vary, so apply early.

3. Research Visa

Application Process:

1. **Research Agreement:** Secure a signed agreement with a Spanish research institution.
2. **Prepare Documents:** Gather your research agreement, proof of qualifications, financial means, health insurance, and police certificate.
3. **Complete Application Form:** Fill out the National Visa Application form.
4. **Submit Application:** Submit your application at the Spanish consulate or embassy in Canada.
5. **Pay Fees:** Pay the visa application fee.
6. **Wait for Approval:** Processing times can vary, so apply well in advance.

4. Internship Visa

Application Process:

1. **Internship Agreement:** Secure a formal internship agreement with a Spanish company and your educational institution.

2. **Prepare Documents:** Collect the internship agreement, proof of enrollment (if applicable), financial means, health insurance, and police certificate.
3. **Complete Application Form:** Fill out the National Visa Application form.
4. **Submit Application:** Submit your application at the Spanish consulate or embassy in Canada.
5. **Pay Fees:** Pay the visa application fee.
6. **Wait for Approval:** Processing times can vary, so apply early.

5. Employee Visa

Application Process:

1. **Work Permit Application:** Your employer in Spain must apply for a work permit on your behalf.
2. **Gather Documents:** Collect your employment contract, work permit approval, proof of qualifications, financial means, health insurance, and police certificate.
3. **Complete Application Form:** Fill out the National Visa Application form.
4. **Submit Application:** Submit your application at the Spanish consulate or embassy in Canada.
5. **Pay Fees:** Pay the visa application fee.
6. **Wait for Approval:** Processing times can vary, so ensure your employer starts the process early.

6. Self-employed Work Visa

Application Process:

1. **Business Plan:** Develop and prepare a detailed business plan.
2. **Prepare Documents:** Gather your business plan, proof of qualifications, financial means, health insurance, licenses/permits (if applicable), and police certificate.
3. **Complete Application Form:** Fill out the National Visa Application form.
4. **Submit Application:** Submit your application at the Spanish consulate or embassy in Canada.
5. **Pay Fees:** Pay the visa application fee.
6. **Wait for Approval:** Processing times can vary, so apply early.

7. Visa for Highly Qualified Workers and for Intra-Company Transfers

Application Process:

1. **Work Permit Application:** Your employer must apply for a work permit on your behalf.
2. **Prepare Documents:** Collect your employment contract or transfer letter, work permit approval, proof of qualifications, financial means, health insurance, and police certificate.
3. **Complete Application Form:** Fill out the National Visa Application form.
4. **Submit Application:** Submit your application at the Spanish consulate or embassy in Canada.

5. **Pay Fees:** Pay the visa application fee.
6. **Wait for Approval:** Processing times can vary, so apply well in advance.

8. Investor Visa (Golden Visa)

Application Process:

1. **Make Investment:** Complete the required investment (e.g., purchase real estate, invest in a company or government bonds).
2. **Prepare Documents:** Collect proof of investment, financial means, health insurance, and police certificate.
3. **Complete Application Form:** Fill out the National Visa Application form.
4. **Submit Application:** Submit your application at the Spanish consulate or embassy in Canada.
5. **Pay Fees:** Pay the visa application fee.
6. **Wait for Approval:** Processing typically takes a few months.

9. Entrepreneur Visa

Application Process:

1. **Business Plan:** Develop an innovative business plan and submit it to the Spanish Economic and Commercial Office for approval.
2. **Prepare Documents:** Gather the approved business plan, proof of financial means, health insurance, and police certificate.
3. **Complete Application Form:** Fill out the National Visa Application form.
4. **Submit Application:** Submit your application at the Spanish consulate or embassy in Canada.
5. **Pay Fees:** Pay the visa application fee.
6. **Wait for Approval:** Processing times can vary, so apply early.

10. Non-Working Residence Visa

Application Process:

1. **Prepare Documents:** Collect proof of financial means, health insurance, police certificate, and medical certificate.
2. **Complete Application Form:** Fill out the National Visa Application form.
3. **Submit Application:** Submit your application at the Spanish consulate or embassy in Canada.
4. **Pay Fees:** Pay the visa application fee.
5. **Attend Interview:** You may be required to attend an interview.
6. **Wait for Approval:** Processing can take several weeks.

11. Long-Term Residence or EU Long-Term Residence Recovery Visa

Application Process:

1. **Prepare Documents:** Collect proof of previous long-term residence status, financial means, health insurance, and police certificate.
2. **Complete Application Form:** Fill out the National Visa Application form.
3. **Submit Application:** Submit your application at the Spanish consulate or embassy in Canada.
4. **Pay Fees:** Pay the visa application fee.
5. **Wait for Approval:** Processing times can vary, so apply early.

12. Youth Mobility Program Visas

Application Process:

1. **Prepare Documents:** Collect proof of age (18-35), financial means, health insurance, and police certificate.
2. **Complete Application Form:** Fill out the National Visa Application form.
3. **Submit Application:** Submit your application at the Spanish consulate or embassy in Canada.
4. **Pay Fees:** Pay the visa application fee.
5. **Wait for Approval:** Processing typically takes a few weeks.

13. Digital Nomad Visa (Telework Visa)

Application Process:

1. **Prepare Documents:** Collect proof of remote work arrangement, financial means, health insurance, police certificate, and proof of qualifications.
2. **Complete Application Form:** Fill out the National Visa Application form.
3. **Submit Application:** Submit your application at the Spanish consulate or embassy in Canada.
4. **Pay Fees:** Pay the visa application fee.
5. **Wait for Approval:** Processing times can vary, so apply well in advance.

Each of these processes requires careful preparation and submission of the required documents, so it's essential to check with the Spanish consulate or embassy for any updates or specific requirements related to your application.