Spanish Consular Update

09/09/2021: The Spanish consulate have provided some additional updates to help students understand the requirements for their visa applications. This update is intended to augment the visa information and instructions on their webpages, which should be read in the first instance.

22/09/2021: The Spanish consulate have provided additional updates, these have been marked with an asterisk.

**Tourism**

Many tourists are now travelling from the UK to Spain. However, the consulate would like to strongly remind travellers that they should travel with the correct documentation and visas required for the activity they intend to undertake. E.g. if the purpose of the trip is to work, then you are expected to have the required documentation for work. If you travel to Spain on a tourist route but when questioned by border/police official say that you are coming to work or study, you may be denied entry and returned to the UK.

**Sworn Translation and Legalisation**

Certain documents are specified as requiring translation. Translations must be undertaken by a Sworn Translator-Interpreter duly registered in Spain. A list of approved Sworn Translators-Interpreters registered in Spain is available on the consular website. Translators not on this list will not be accepted since it is legal documents that are being translated.

**What is an apostille?**

The UK is not part of the EU, therefore UK laws and documents are different to Spanish law. Treaties allow for certain government documents to be sent between different legal systems. In order for this to happen, UK government documents have to be ‘legalised’ by a UK public official to confirm that the signature, stamp or seal is from a UK official. The Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office - Legalisation Office ([Get your document legalised - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)](https://www.gov.uk/get-document-legalised)) will check the document, including whether the signature, stamp or seal is genuine. They will legalise the document (for a fee) by attaching a stamped official certificate (an ‘apostille’) to it. Even documents originally issued by the government may require legalising – the visa application specifies which documents require an apostille.

Note: A notary stamp is not an apostille. E.g. you may require an apostille to confirm that a notary stamp is genuine.

**Appointments**

Some delays have been attributed to missed appointments and applicants not having the required documentations. The consulate request students:

* only make one appointment request;
* ensure they have all the required documents (before making an appointment);
* take all the documents to your appointment.

The consulate is currently not acknowledging applications for appointments. This is because they are all working on processing applications. Applications are being handled in chronological order, so when you apply, you will be added to the back of the queue.

**Invitation letter from a Spanish university**

These must state the duration of the exchange.

**\*Internship Visa**

The Consulate have also confirmed that students need an Internship Visa to engage a work placement in Spain, even if the period of placement is less than 90 days. The Internship Visa checklist can be downloaded from the following link: [http://www.exteriores.gob.es/Consulados/LONDRES/en/Consulado/Pages/Visas.aspx](https://eur02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.exteriores.gob.es%2FConsulados%2FLONDRES%2Fen%2FConsulado%2FPages%2FVisas.aspx&data=04%7C01%7CEmily.Sinclair%40international.ac.uk%7C1e264c84a91346a05d6d08d978efe7ee%7Cb66c9f751b5f4d6280ff8ac626f15ced%7C0%7C0%7C637673794071096803%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=9Tg6ja7TGE0j%2F58k0P%2BZB%2FgT5%2B4Rp055yC3Ej0k7ONI%3D&reserved=0)

**Financial Means**

Students may submit multiple documents to demonstrate how they in sum meet the requirements. This may include:

* Student loan documentation
* Fully signed Erasmus+ grant agree
* Bank statements
* Parental sponsorship (this would need notary stamp).

**Certificate of Criminal Record**

The only certificate that they will accept is: ACRO Certificate (this is Government certificate for those who want to work abroad). The ACRO certificate requires an apostille.

* [ACRO Criminal Records Office - Police Certificates](https://www.acro.police.uk/police_certificates.aspx)

**Medical Certificate**

The content is specified on the consular website. This document requires an apostille.

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| **Update on Apostille Service from the FCDO**  The FCDO have provided further clarification about the legalisation process of medical certificates needed for long-stay Spanish visa.  “The FCDO Legalisation Department requires that a medical document is signed by a medical practitioner who holds a valid registration with the necessary regulatory body. With GPs, this would mean a GMC registration which our officers check prior to issuing any apostille for a medical practitioner. Medical practitioners must also follow the more general requirements such as signing with their personal signature in wet-ink, and dating the document, but this applies to any signatory capacity.  For the majority of medical documents we receive, it is often the case that it is the first time we have been presented with a signature from the named official. Before we can legalise these documents, we first must verify with the signatory that it is their authentic, wet-ink signature, and confirm that they authorise us to store a sample on our database. Unfortunately, when confirming signatures, we are reliant upon the signatory responding promptly to our enquiries, whilst also providing their consent for a sample to be stored.  We do not hold a list of approved doctors as this would be impractical and also does not guarantee that applications would be processed any faster. **Students should make sure the doctor who signs their document is aware that it will be presented to the FCDO**, who may need to contact them in order to verify the signature before it can be presented overseas. **If they could also provide an email address for the surgery, it would greatly reduce the time taken to verify previously unseen signatures.”** |

**Medical Insurance**

They consider there to be a difference between travel insurance (for travellers) and medical insurance (for people who reside). If you are a UK student with only travel cover they are currently being flexible if you have a GHIC card too. Without a GHIC they will require students to have medical insurance.

**GHIC**

For UK students a GHIC is required as it gives Spanish authorities UK government assurances about medical cover. Please, however, note:

* Proof of just an application for GHIC is not sufficient.
* Currently they are accepting UK Govt messages that the GHIC application has been successful (even if the card has not yet been issued).

**Residency Cards**

This happens after the visa process and when you are in Spain. This is not part of the visa process (thus the embassy and consulate have no power over it). The consulate reminds students that working and studying abroad is not tourism, therefore, you should follow the in-country rules.