BEFORE ARRIVING

Visa

If you do not have a European passport, you must obtain a student visa before leaving your country from the Spanish embassy or consulate nearest your place of residence. Every Spanish embassy or consulate has its own requirements and procedures. In the case of most embassies and consulates it takes a minimum of three months to complete this procedure, therefore we advise you to apply for your visa as soon as possible.

Important:

- A tourist visa is not enough to study in Spain.

- There are two types of student visa which vary in terms of the duration of the study programme and the number of entries into Spain. You are advised to apply for a 90-DAY MULTIPLE ENTRY VISA.

- If your stay in Spain will be over 6 months, make sure you apply for a 90-day student visa, which will allow you to apply for a student residence permit when you arrive in Spain.

- If you are registered on a programme which lasts for a period of under 6 months, the Spanish embassy or consulate may issue you with a 180-day study visa. Please bear in mind that if you obtain a 180-day visa, you will not be able to apply for the student residence permit and under no circumstances will you be able to extend the period. You will have to return to your country of origin after the 180 days.

- The single entry visa allows you to travel freely within Spain but not to other countries, and those who do so you run the risk of not being allowed back into Spain upon their return.

- The multiple entry visa allows you to move freely within the Schengen area.

- For more information about the Schengen area, go to: http://europa.eu/travel/index_es.htm.
Health cover

If you are a citizen of a country outside the European Community or Switzerland, you should take out private health insurance before leaving home. You can check if there is any bilateral agreement between the health service in your country and Spain which may give you access to medical attention (countries which currently have agreements with Spain are: Andorra, Brazil, Chile, Ecuador and Morocco). Nevertheless, even in the case of existing agreements, you should bear in mind that these refer only to urgent attention and not to the possibility of being seen by GPs or specialists.

WHEN YOU ARRIVE

Stamp/Declaration of entry

**Important:**

When you arrive in Spain, make sure that your passport is stamped. If you do not get your passport stamped upon entry, it is highly advisable to go to a police station on the first day of your residence in Spain and declare that you have entered the country. We also recommend that you keep your boarding card from your incoming flight to Spain.

THE NIE (IDENTITY CARD FOR FOREIGNERS)

This is a study residence permit which substitutes the study visa when it has expired.

Come to the IDEC Participants Service and find out how to apply for the NIE.

**Important:**

It is essential to start the application process within the first month of your residence in Spain.