



NÚMERO DE IDENTIDAD DE EXTRANJEROS (NIE)

Visit the Spanish Police website to find the latest information regarding the NIE:
http://www.policia.es/documentacion/no_comunitarios/nie.html

General information about the NIE published by the Spanish Foreign Affairs Ministry:
<http://www.exteriores.gob.es/Portal/es/ServiciosAlCiudadano/InformacionParaExtranjeros/Paginas/NIE.aspx>

The *Número de Identidad de Extranjero* (NIE) –or Foreigner’s Identification Number– serves to identify foreign citizens acting in Spain due to economic, professional or social reasons, such as buying/selling a property, inheriting, setting up a company, etc. The NIE identifies the person in several domains, although it is particularly necessary to pay the Spanish Treasury (*Agencia Tributaria*) the taxes arising from certain operations before a notary (Art. 206 RD 557/2011 <https://www.boe.es/buscar/act.php?id=BOE-A-2011-7703>)

Whether in person or through a power of attorney, all foreign citizens residing the cantons of Geneva, Vaud or Valais are entitled to apply for their NIE at:

- a) The Spanish Consulate General in Geneva, or
- b) A Foreigner’s Police station (*Comisaría de Policía de Extranjeros*) in Spain authorised to issue NIEs: http://www.policia.es/depen_intermedia.html

However, if you plan to reside in Spain, then you should apply for a residence authorization before the Police in Spain (if you are CH/EU citizen) or a residence visa (if you are national of a 3rd country) which will contain your NIE. Yet, if for any reason you need your NIE previously, you may apply for it through this Consulate as long as you provide sufficient reason (renting an apartment, opening a bank account, etc).

Spanish citizens who hold another nationality should never apply for a NIE, but for a *Número de Identificación Fiscal* (NIF), since they are never considered foreigners in Spain. Please, visit the [“Número de Identificación Fiscal \(N.I.F.\)” section of our website](#).

NIE application at the Spanish Consulate General in Geneva – Necessary documents

- Original and photocopy of your valid passport (and/or ID if Swiss or EU State citizen).
- A document proving your residence in the cantons of GE, VD or VS.
- If you apply on behalf of a 3rd person, a power of attorney signed before a notary

Application: from Monday to Friday during [our opening hours](#) (without appointment).

Cost: ca. 12 CHF to pay only by card (Visa, Mastercard, Maestro).

After 2 – 3 weeks of your application you should receive your NIE certificate in your e-mail account (or postal address). Applicants in Spain may receive it in a maximum of 5 working days.

In case of urgent matters, it is possible to apply for a [Número de Identificación Fiscal para Extranjeros \(NIF-M\)](#) which solely identifies the holder for tax matters before the Spanish fiscal authority.

Validity: the NIE remains the same number during the entire life of its holder.

NIE certificate renewal at the Spanish General Consulate in Geneva

In case you have lost your NIE or the certificate states a validity deadline, it is possible to renew it in this Consulate. You should provide the very same documents as for first application, including your NIE nr. in the top left field of the EX-15 form (and a copy of the old NIE certificate if you have it. The cost will be ca. 9 CHF and delivery slightly quicker.