



MINISTERIO DE  
ASUNTOS EXTERIORES  
Y COOPERACIÓN

CONSULADO GENERAL DE  
ESPAÑA EN HOUSTON

## STUDENT VISA

**Only applications IN PERSON are accepted by the Consulate General of Spain in Houston.**

You can apply for a visa at this Consulate if your permanent address is in **Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Tennessee and Texas.**

US citizens may enter Spain as students for up to 90 days without a visa.

The visa process takes around **4 weeks** from the day all documents are presented. Due to the high number of applications received by this office in June, July, November and December, we highly recommend the applicants to apply for their visas as soon as possible.

If your program lasts over 180 days, you will need a certificate of absence of police criminal records and a medical certificate. See details below.

The earliest you can apply for your visa is 90 days prior to your program starting date.

## DOCUMENTS REQUIRED

The Consular Administration has full authority to evaluate, and request more documents than those submitted by the applicant.

The latter is hereby informed that submitting the aforementioned documents **does NOT guarantee** automatic issuance of the visa.

**ORIGINAL and ONE PHOTOCOPY of each of the following items must be presented:**

1. **National visa application form:** The application forms must be signed and filled out correctly. For minors, the application form must be signed by both parents.
2. **Original Passport:** Valid passport for the whole duration of the stay, with at least one blank page to affix the visa. Your passport must remain at the Consulate.
3. **ID:** You need to provide proof of residency in one of the States under our jurisdiction with a copy of one of the following documents: US Driver's license, US State ID or current Student ID.
4. **Two recent passport-sized photos:** White Background, 2x2in, glued to the applications.
5. **Acceptance letter:** Letter from the Spanish University, School or program indicating that you are a full-time student. It also needs to include: name, address, telephone and fax number, and registration number with the Ministry of Education of Spain; duration of the program (exact date of start & date of termination); subjects of study; hours of study per week. You do not need to provide a hardcopy of the acceptance letter; a scanned copy will suffice as long as it is clearly legible.
6. **Evidence of funds:** Provide either of the following:
  - Statement from the University/School or US program assuming full financial responsibility for room and board (commonly included in the 'Letter of acceptance').
  - Proof of financial aid or scholarship of at least \$658 per month, for room and board. This document must specify that the funds will be used for your study abroad program and not for tuition.
  - Last three months' bank statements of student's personal bank account. The name of the student must figure on the bank statements. Business accounts are not accepted. The bank statements must prove that you have the following amount available: \$658 multiplied by the number of months you will spend in Spain.

<http://www.exteriores.gob.es/Consulados/HOUSTON/es/InformacionParaExtranjeros/Paginas/Visados.aspx>  
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- Notarized letter of parents/custodians assuming full financial responsibility, together with a copy of their ID, for at least \$658 per month, for room and board. Suggested wording: 'I hereby certify that I the (father, mother, other) of (...), will support her/him with a monthly allowance of \$658 while she/he is in Spain and that I am financially responsible for any emergency that may arise'. The applicant must also provide the bank statements of the last three months from parents/custodians' personal account. Business accounts are not accepted. The bank statements must prove that you have the following amount available: \$658 multiplied by the number of months you will spend in Spain.
7. **Health Insurance:** Letter from an insurance company authorized to operate in Spain. You must be covered from the day that you enter the country until your last day of studies (indicated on the acceptance letter).
  8. **Police Criminal Record clearance FOR STAYS OVER 180 DAYS** verified by **fingerprints**. It cannot be older than 3 months from the application date. The certificate must be one of the following:
    - a) **Department of State clearance** original letter form (from the States where you have lived during the past 5 years). It **must be legalized with the Apostille of the Hague Convention** from the corresponding **Secretary of the State**.
    - b) **FBI Records** for international purposes, issued by the **US Department of Justice – Federal Bureau of Investigation**. They **must be legalized with the Apostille of the Hague Convention** from the **US Department of State in Washington DC**.

You must also get a police record from the countries where you have lived during the past 5 years. It must be translated if the document is not written in English or Spanish.

\* You can find information on how to obtain Background Checks and Apostilles [here](#).
  9. Original **Medical Certificate FOR STAYS OVER 180 DAYS**: A doctor's recent statement (not older than 3 months) with doctor's or medical center's letterhead that must indicate the following: *'the student has been examined and found free of any contagious or infectious diseases according to the International Health Regulation 2005'*. It must be signed by a M.D.
  10. **Minors** (under 18 years of age):
    - Recent birth certificate (no older than 3 months) legalized with the Apostille of The Hague.
    - Notarized, written authorization of both parents/custodians to travel to Spain indicating the activity that will be carried out by the minor, as well as the information of the center, organization, entity or organism responsible for such activity and the period of time that the minor is authorized to stay in Spain.
    - Express authorization of the person who represents/coexists with the minor during their stay in Spain to carry out the necessary consultation in the Registry of Crimes of Sexual Nature, together with a copy of the representative's identification (DNI or passport).
  11. The passport can be sent to the applicant under his/her responsibility. The applicant must provide a pre-paid self-addressed envelope with a tracking number. Only **USPS Priority or Express Mail** will be accepted. If you reside in Houston, you must pick up your passport in person.
  12. For applicants that are non-US nationals:
    - **Evidence of legal status in the US:** Permanent Resident Card or valid US visa (exclusions may apply). Applicants holding F1 student visas must also submit the original and a copy of their I-20.
- **BE ADVISED THAT ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS MIGHT BE REQUESTED.**
  - We highly recommend you not to purchase your travel tickets until your visa has been approved.

SPOUSE

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1. **National visa application form:** The application forms must be signed and filled out correctly.
2. **Original Passport:** Valid passport for the whole duration of the stay, with at least one blank page to affix the visa. Your passport must remain at the Consulate.

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3. **ID:** You need to provide proof of residency in one of the States under our jurisdiction with a copy of one of the following documents: US Driver's license, US State ID or current Student ID.
4. **Two recent passport-sized photos:** White Background, 2x2in, glued to the applications.
5. **Recent Marriage Certificate** (no older than 3 months) legalized with the **Apostille of the Hague Convention** from the corresponding **Secretary of the State**.
6. **Health Insurance:** Letter from an insurance company authorized to operate in Spain. You must be covered for the full intended period of stay in Spain.
7. **Evidence of funds:** Last three months' bank statements of applicant's personal bank account. It must be a checking or savings account and the name of the applicant must appear on the bank statements. Business accounts are not accepted. The minimum amount required is \$494/month. The bank statements must prove that you have the following amount available: \$494 multiplied by the number of months you will be in Spain.
8. **Police Criminal Record clearance FOR STAYS OVER 180 DAYS** verified by **fingerprints**. It cannot be older than 3 months from the application date. The certificate must be one of the following:
  - a) **Department of State clearance** original letter form (from the States where you have lived during the past 5 years). It **must be legalized with the Apostille of the Hague Convention** from the corresponding **Secretary of the State**.
  - b) **FBI Records** for international purposes, issued by the **US Department of Justice – Federal Bureau of Investigation**. They **must be legalized with the Apostille of the Hague Convention** from the **US Department of State in Washington DC**.You must also get a police record from the countries where you have lived during the past 5 years. It must be translated if the document is not written in English or Spanish.

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9. Original **Medical Certificate FOR STAYS OVER 180 DAYS**: A doctor's recent statement (not older than 3 months) with doctor's or medical center's letterhead that must indicate the following: *'the patient has been examined and found free of any contagious or infectious diseases according to the International Health Regulation 2005'*. It must be signed by a M.D.
10. The passport can be sent to the applicant under his/her responsibility. The applicant must provide a pre-paid self-addressed envelope with a tracking number. Only **USPS Priority or Express Mail** will be accepted. If you reside in Houston, you must pick up your passport in person.
11. For applicants that are non-US nationals:
  - **Evidence of legal status in the US:** Permanent Resident Card or valid US visa (exclusions may apply). Applicants holding F1 student visas must also submit the original and a copy of their I-20.

#### VISA FEES

- You can find this information in the document [Visa fees](#).
- We only accept cash (exact change) or money order. **No personal check or credit cards will be accepted.**
- The processing fee will not be returned even if the visa is not granted or cancelled.

#### VERY IMPORTANT

- **For programs over 180 days:** Within a month upon arrival in Spain, you must request from the Spanish Police (Policía Nacional) a Student Resident Card ID valid for the completion of your studies.
- In order to apply for the Student Resident Card ID, you must provide the original Medical Certificate and the original Police Criminal Record. These documents will be returned to you after your visa has been approved.
- Please make sure that you get your passport stamped by the Immigration Authorities upon arrival into Spain.

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