

Further information:

Large Business and Strategic Groups Unit
(General Secretariat for Immigration and
Emigration of the Ministry of Employment and
Social Security)

<http://extranjeros.empleo.gob.es/es/UnidadGrandesEmpresas/>

Diplomatic Missions and Consular Offices of
Spain.

<http://www.exteriores.gob.es/Portal/es/ServiciosAlCiudadano/Paginas/EmbajadasConsulados.aspx>

Spanish Economic and Commercial Offices
abroad:

www.oficinascomerciales.es

Directorate-General for Trade and Investment.
State Secretariat for Trade. Ministry of
Economy and Competitiveness.

www.comercio.gob.es

ICEX-Invest in Spain.

www.investinspain.org

(These leaflets are for information only
and are not legally binding)

ENTREPRENEURIAL SUPPORT ACT OF 27 SEPTEMBER 2013 (*Ley 14/2013*).

International Mobility Section



HIGHLY SKILLED PROFESSIONAL RESIDENCE



What is the aim?

To eliminate red tape in order to attract talent to the Spanish business sector, foster the internationalisation of Spanish enterprise and enhance the competitiveness of the Spanish economy.

How do we reach this goal?

Through a residence permit for the duration of the contract or document evidencing the existence of a professional relationship between the two parties.

Who can apply?

Permits for highly qualified staff must be applied for by the companies intending to incorporate foreign professionals in any of the following positions:

- **Management or highly qualified staff of large businesses or corporate groups, or SMEs in strategic sectors.**
- **Management or highly qualified staff of business projects in the general interest.**
- **Graduates, postgraduates from universities and prestigious business schools.**

*At the time of application, foreign nationals may be outside Spain or residing legally in the country. If they are outside the country, they must apply for the relevant visa at the Spanish Consulate in their country of origin or residence.

What are the requirements for large businesses, corporate groups and SMEs?

The company must meet **any** of the following conditions:

- Have a workforce of more than 250 employees (at least 3 months prior to submitting the application).
- An annual net turnover in Spain in excess of EUR 50 million or equity in excess of EUR 43 million.
- An average gross annual investment in the 3 years prior to the application of no less than EUR 1 million from foreign sources.
- The value of the investment stock must be over EUR 3 million.
- SMEs must be in a sector regarded as strategic.

Which projects are regarded as being in the general interest?

Business projects meeting any of these conditions:

- Creation of direct jobs.
- Maintenance of employment.
- Investment with social and economic impact.
- Reasons in the general interest for trade policy and investment.
- Significant contribution to scientific and/or technological innovation.

What are the requirements and what documents are needed?

General documents:

- Identity document or passport. Applicants must be over 18 years old.
- Certificate of health insurance taken out with a company operating in Spain.
- Background check.

- Proof of sufficient funds to support the applicant and members of his/her family during residence in Spain.

Specific documents:

- Documents certifying that the applicable requirement is met:
 - Workforce of more than 250 employees.
 - Business turnover.
 - Foreign investment: Investments Register Certificate.
 - Strategic Sector: Report of the Directorate-General for Trade and Investment.
 - Projects considered being in the general interest: Report of the Directorate-General for Trade and Investment.
 - Graduates and postgraduates of universities: university degree or qualification from a prestigious business school.
- Certificates of the applicant company.
- Copy of the contract or professional relationship between the two parties.
- Job description.

What other benefits are there?

- The residence permit allows its holder to live and work anywhere in Spain.
- If the foreign national is not in Spain, he/she may obtain a residence visa after being awarded the permit.
- Joint processing for married couples and their children.
- Streamlined processing (20 days) and centralised at a single contact point: the Large Business and Strategic Groups Unit [Unidad de Grandes Empresas y Colectivos Estratégicos (UGE-CE)].
- No Economic Needs Test is applied.