



# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE EMIGRATION PROCESS

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NB: The following information will not replace personalised advice from the SAIER specialised services. This is a general guideline on frequently asked questions, but it is always advisable to ask for a SAIER one-to-one guidance service by requesting an appointment through the Oficina Virtual de Trámites del Ayuntamiento de Barcelona (Barcelona City Council Virtual Procedures Office).

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## **What type of guidance can SAIER offer me if I am planning on starting an immigration process abroad?**

If you want to live outside of Spain, SAIER can offer you the information about the destination country and advice on the requisites to start the process: necessary legal papers, transfer of financial benefits, as well as studies, convalidation, legalisation, etc.



## **If I have Spanish citizenship, what shall I take into account before leaving the country?**

Before you leave the country, we advise you to check on the following information:

- “Travel advice” available on the website of the Ministerio de Asuntos Exteriores y Cooperación de España (Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Spain): Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Spain for: visas, currencies, vaccines, security and suggestions to take into account. You will also find contact information for the different consulates and embassies in Spain.

<https://www.exteriores.gob.es/ca/ServiciosAlCiudadano/Paginas/Recomendaciones-de-viaje.aspx>

<https://www.exteriores.gob.es/ca/EmbajadasConsulados/Paginas/index.aspx>

Check on the job possibilities in the country where you are intending to travel and study the requirements you should have in order to get a residency and work permit there.

If you are aiming to study, verify the requisites needed to have access to teaching centres for foreign applicants and the possibilities to work on a student permit visa.

It's time to pack up: prepare your important personal papers (birth Certificate, university degree or high school certificate, family booklet, criminal records certificate, etc.). Get all your papers legalised with the Hague Apostille or diplomatic stamps (if the country you are heading to is not part of the Hague Convention).

Bear in mind that the immigration authorities of your destination country are the ones who will decide whether a foreigner is liable or not to enter their country. Do not travel if you are unsure to meet all the required criteria.

## **What is a EU Long Term Card?**

It is a long-term residency and work permit, which allows movement and work in other member states of the European Union.

This card will not automatically grant you a work permit, rather it allows you to prove that there is a long-term permission to live in Europe. Whenever you are required to introduce it to an EU country member where you wish to work, access to a local residency and work permit will be easier to obtain.

## **What do I need to have in order to obtain a EU long-term residency permit?**

Besides having to prove a legal and continuous living residence in Spain for at least five years, you will also need to provide proof of a steady income as well as health insurance in order to obtain a Long-Term-EU Card.

You cannot be an EU citizen, from the European Economic Area or Switzerland, or a family member of a citizen of these countries to which the Union citizen regime is applied.

## **What is a European Health Card for?**

The European Health Card is used to get medical care in any country of the European Economic Area (EEA) as long as the stay in that country is temporary and for tourism, work or studies.



This health card will not be valid if the trip is for medical treatment reasons - if that is the case, you will need to have a form issued by the National Social Security Institute (INSS) specifically for that particular matter. Neither it is valid either in case the move is meant to be permanent to another EU country.

### **How to process the European Health Card?**

You can apply for it at the [National Social Security Institute \(INSS\)](#).

### **What is the EU Blue Card?**

It is a residency and work permit issued for highly qualified professionals. It is granted by the State Member Country (except Denmark and Ireland) where the non-EU person is required for the highly qualified job or advanced research program. Contracts for less than a 2 years' term are added 3 more months on top of the temporary contract. For contracts equal to or more than 2 years, the minimum time period is 2 years.

12 months after it has been issued, this card will allow its holder to travel through the other EU member states and be hired by other companies, following a simple procedure.

### **If I am getting paid unemployment benefits, am I allowed to leave the country for a short time?**

Yes, you are, however, it must obligatorily be communicated in advance to the Servicio Público de Ocupación Estatal (SEPE) (State Public Employment Service), (SEPE) so that they can pronounce in favour or against such matter - failure to do so, may result in the loss of the benefit in question as a result. If the move is for less than a year, the benefit is suspended, and if it is for more than twelve months, the right to the benefit is lost.

Once you have returned to Spain, you will have to go in person to the SEPE offices in order to reactivate, again the benefit.

### **If I travel to another EU country to look for a job, can I still continue getting paid the unemployment benefits in Spain?**

Yes, the unemployment benefits can be sent to another EU country or the European Economic Area for three months and then be extended for another three more months, if needed.

You can get additional information on: <https://www.sepe.es/HomeSepe/ca/Personas/distributiva-prestaciones/estoy-cobrando-el-paro-y/me-traslado-al-extranjero.html>

### **If I have a Spanish temporary residency permit and I want to renew it, how long can I stay outside the country?**

Currently, being outside Spain for more than 6 months within a one year period is not considered a reason for the ceasing or non-renewal of a residency permit. But, be careful! If you want to have access to a long-term card, the departures from the country within these 5 years, all together, cannot exceed 10 months stay abroad.



In the case of a long-term card, the maximum time period that one can stay outside the EU is twelve months in a row. It is advisable to ask SAIER for advice on the matter on each individual case.

### **How can I legalise my study papers abroad?**

You should check this information with the Education Ministry where you intend to establish residence for the specific legalisation or validation of your study degrees. Generally speaking, it is essential to translate the academic documents into the official language of the country, apart from having them legalised in Spanish (with a Hague Apostille or diplomatic stamps).

### **How can I prove my professional work experience abroad?**

Ask the [National Social Security Institute \(INSS\)](#) for your work life history; Ask for recommendation letters from your employers and write up a resume according to the style and regulations of the country you intend to travel to. Make sure to translate the documentation into the official language of the country where you intend to work in.

### **Is it possible to count the time worked in different countries for my retirement pension?**

There is a possibility, as long as there is a bilateral agreement (Country to country) regarding social security matters. To have a response to each individual case, we recommend that you get in touch with Social Security for the analysis and a clear answer.

### **If I go to another country, am I obliged to continue paying taxes in Spain?**

If you are going to live in another country, you must inform the Tax Authority about your change of residence and also ask for a Certificate of Moving Abroad to avoid double tax payment.

### **What resources are there for job search abroad?**

There are different websites to enter your Curriculum Vitae (CV) and search for a job outside of Spain. We list down here the following platforms:

- [Eures: recursos para la movilidad profesional](#)
- [Jovecat.cat](#)
- [SOC.Movilidad Internacional](#)