



Emigration

Service to support those who have decided to leave Spain, or are considering the possibility to do so. We provide information and advice.

This service is not intended to promote emigration as a solution of the problems in the labour market in Catalonia and Spain, but only to support those who are considering the possibility of leaving. We offer the basic information that is important to take into account before you travel and give advice about the best way to deal with this challenge.

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NOTE: The following information does not replace the advice personalized in the SAIER offices. This is a general orientation on frequent questions, but always it is advisable to request personal advice in SAIER.

If I have Spanish nationality, what should I consider before leaving the country?

1. Check the "travel recommendations" on [Ministerio de Asuntos Exteriores website](#). There you can find practical information and classified by country. You will also find the contact details of the different consulates in Spain.
2. Check [Moncat portal of the Generalitat de Catalunya](#). You will find practical information and advice on residence and work abroad.
3. Confirm the possibilities of work in the country to which you are interested in traveling and investigate the requirements that you must fulfill to obtain a residence and work permit.
4. If you want to study abroad, consult the access requirements for foreign applicants and the possibilities of working with student's permit.
5. It is time to pack: prepare your important personal documents (civil birth registration, university or high school diploma, family book, criminal record, etc.). Legalize these documents with Apostille or with diplomatic stamps (if the country to which you go does not have Apostille Treaty).
6. The immigration authorities of the arrival country are those who decide the entry of foreigners into their territory. Do not travel if you are unsure of meeting all the required requirements.

It is advisable to consult the SAIER on legal requirements and procedures to prepare the trip.

If I have a residence and work permit in Spain can I work in any country in the European Union?

No. You must file a local work permit. Each country has its own legislation but, mainly, you must have a job offer.

What is an EU Long Term Card?

It is a residence permit and long-term work, which allows you to move and work in other Member States of the European Union.

This card does not grant a work permit automatically, but allows us to prove that we have a long-term residence permit in Europe and, therefore, when presenting it in an EU country where we would like to work, it will be much easier to access the local permit.



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What do I need to obtain a long-term EU residence permit?

You must prove a legal and continuous residence in Spain for at least five years, demonstrate a regular and fixed income and health care covered.

What is the European Health Insurance Card?

The European health card allows medical care to be provided in any European Economic Area (EEA) country if we are temporarily staying for tourism, work or study. It is not valid if the trip is made to receive medical treatment since in this case, the National Institute of Social Security (INSS) issues a specific form. Neither is it valid if the transfer to another EU country is permanent.

How is the European Health Insurance Card processed?

You can apply to the National Institute of Social Security (INSS).

What is the EU Blue Card?

It is the residence permit and work of highly qualified professionals. It is granted by the Member State in which the extra-community will work, which is required for a highly-qualified job or an advanced research program. Once 18 months have elapsed since its issuance, this card allows the professional to travel to other EU member states to be hired by another employer.

Can I leave the country for a short time if I am charging for unemployment?

Yes, but it is advisable to first consult with the State Public Employment Service (SEPE), since there is a stipulated time according to the type of benefit.

The payment of the unemployment benefit is suspended for as long as the person is outside Spain. This time cannot exceed twelve months, because the right to unemployment is lost.

Once you return to Spain, it is essential that you personally introduce yourself to the SEPE office to reactivate the service.

If I travel to another EU country looking for work can I continue to claim unemployment in Spain?

Yes, the unemployment benefit can be exported to another EU country or the European Economic Space for three months and can be extended for another three months.

How long can I stay abroad if I have a residence permit in Spain and want to renew it?

Being more than six months outside Spain (within a one-year period) is considered a cause for loss of residence permit. For long-term cards the maximum period that can be outside the EU is 12 consecutive months. It is advisable to consult the SAIER before leaving the country.





How can I validate my studies abroad?

You must consult the specific requirements for homologation or validation of studies in the Ministry of Education of the country in which you will install. It is essential to translate the academic documents into the official language of the country and bring them legalized from Spain (with the Apostille or diplomatic stamps).

How can I prove my professional experience abroad?

You can request a working life report from the National Institute of Social Security (INSS). Ask letters of recommendation to your employers and create a resume according to the style and regulations of the country to which you will travel. Be sure to translate the documentation into the official language of the country where you will be working.

Is it possible to accumulate the time worked in different countries for my retirement pension?

You can do this whenever there are bilateral agreements (country by country) in matters of Social Security. In order to analyze your case, we recommend you consult with the SAIER.

Should I continue to pay taxes in Spain if I live in another country?

No. You must communicate your change of residence to the Tax Agency and request a Certificate of Displacement Abroad to avoid paying double taxation.

Where can I look for work abroad?

There are different web portals to introduce the curriculum and look for employment outside Spain. We highlight here two public platforms:

- [Eures](#): resources for mobility within Europe.
- [Moncat](#): resources from Catalonia for labour mobility in Europe and other continents

We also recommend asking SOC (Servei d'Ocupació de Catalunya) for current international agreements.

