



Visa & Legal

The roadmap to maintaining your legal status in Spain.

Immigration laws change constantly, and every regional consulate operates by its own set of rules. This guide outlines the universal basics of your legal status in Spain, but your specific consulate is always the ultimate authority.

► ICS DISCLAIMER

- **Our Role as Advisors:** While we are here to support you every step of the way, please keep in mind that we are not immigration attorneys. The information we provide is intended for general guidance and does not constitute legal advice.
- **Consulate Authority:** Visa regulations are fluid, and the exact paperwork requirements often vary depending on which regional consulate processes your application. The final decision is always at the sole discretion of the Consulate. To ensure a smooth process, always refer to the official website of your specific Spanish consulate as your primary source of truth.

► KNOW YOUR STATUS (THE 90-DAY LIMIT)

- **Short-Term Programs (Under 90 Days):** If you are a U.S. citizen and your entire stay in the Schengen Area (Spain and European Union) is strictly under 90 days, you generally do not need a student visa. You are legally entering on a standard tourist waiver.
- **Long-Term Programs (Over 90 Days):** If your program is longer than 90 days, you must have a valid Student Visa issued and stamped in your passport before you board your flight to Spain. You cannot enter as a tourist and try to switch to a student visa once you arrive.

► SPANISH CONSULATES IN THE U.S. (WHERE TO APPLY)

- You cannot simply apply at the consulate that is geographically closest to you. You are legally required to apply at the specific consulate that holds jurisdiction over either your permanent home address or your university's address.
- For the [full list of all U.S. Consulates and their jurisdictions](#) (Boston, Chicago, Houston, Los Angeles, Miami, New York, San Francisco, and San Juan): Official U.S. Consulates Directory – Embassy of Spain in Washington



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- For the specific jurisdiction of the Washington D.C. Consular Section: Consular Jurisdiction – Embassy of Spain in Washington D.C.

Note: Jurisdictions can occasionally shift. Always verify your state on the official Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs website before booking an appointment.

Consulate Location	General Jurisdiction (States Covered)
Boston	MA, ME, NH, RI, VT
Chicago	IL, IN, IA, KS, KY, MI, MN, MO, NE, ND, OH, SD, WI
Houston	AL, AR, LA, MS, NM, OK, TN, TX
Los Angeles	Southern CA, AZ, CO, UT
Miami	FL, GA, SC
New York	NY, CT, DE, NJ, PA
San Francisco	Northern CA, AK, HI, ID, MT, NV, OR, WA, WY
Washington D.C. (Embassy)	DC, MD, VA, WV, NC
San Juan	Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands



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► MAINTAINING YOUR LEGAL STATUS

- **The Entry Stamp Rule (Crucial):** When you land in Europe, your passport must be physically stamped to prove exactly what day you entered. If your flight connects through another European country (like France or Germany), you will go through customs there. If you do not get a stamp, Spanish authorities have no proof of when your 90-day clock started.
- **The 72-Hour Declaration:** If you enter Spain via a connecting flight from another Schengen country and did not get your passport stamped upon entering the zone, you legally have 72 hours to declare your entry at a local police station in Seville.
- **Carry ID at All Times:** Spanish law technically requires you to carry a valid government ID at all times. Do not carry your physical passport every day (keep it locked in your room). Carry a color photocopy of your passport's photo page and your Spanish Visa page, along with your U.S. driver's license.
- **Do Not Overstay:** Whether you are on a 90-day tourist waiver or a 120-day student visa, do not overstay your allowed time by even one day. Doing so can result in heavy fines and being banned from re-entering Europe in the future.

► U.S. EMBASSY & CONSULATE CONTACTS IN SPAIN

Save this information. You will only need to contact them in the event of a lost/stolen passport, a severe medical emergency, or a legal arrest.

U.S. Consular Agency in Seville:

- Best for: Emergency passport replacements, localized emergencies in Andalusia.
- Address: Pl. Nueva, 8B, Planta 2, No. 4, Casco Antiguo, 41001 Sevilla
- Phone: +34 915 87 22 00

U.S. Embassy in Madrid:

- Best for: Major legal or nationwide emergencies.
- Address: C. de Serrano, 75, Salamanca, 28006 Madrid
- Phone: +34 915 87 22 00