MOVING TO SPAIN FROM THE UK

Your 2027 relocation checklist

A practical, printable checklist for UK citizens planning a move to Spain. Mark the steps relevant to your circumstances and use the visa-specific pages to prepare for your immigration process.

Your planned move: _____ Target date: _____

Reason for moving: [ ] Retirement [ ] Remote work [ ] Spanish employment [ ] Study [ ] Family

01 Start with the right immigration route

- ☐ Identify your intended activity in Spain: retirement, remote work, employment, studies or joining family.
- ☐ Check whether you already hold Spanish residence rights or qualify under the Brexit Withdrawal Agreement.
- ☐ Understand the general Schengen 90/180-day visitor limit; do not treat a visitor stay as permission to relocate.
- ☐ Review the eligibility, permitted activities and application location for your chosen route.
- ☐ Confirm the current requirements with the competent Spanish authority before paying for documents or travel.

02 Prepare your UK documents

- ☐ Check passport validity and available blank pages for the relevant visa process.
- ☐ Gather UK address / consular jurisdiction evidence where required.
- ☐ Identify which criminal record certificate (for example, ACRO), medical certificates and civil records your route requires.
- ☐ Plan apostilles and sworn translations for documents that require them.
- ☐ Check acceptable issue dates and validity periods before ordering certificates.
- ☐ Prepare clear and consistent financial records, employment records or school enrolment documents as applicable.
- ☐ Confirm current application fees, appointment procedures and payment methods.

03 Prepare for a successful arrival

- ☐ Create a realistic housing budget and decide whether to rent initially or secure longer-term accommodation.
- ☐ Review healthcare coverage and whether private insurance, social security coverage or an S1 is relevant.
- ☐ Plan any applicable TIE appointment, town hall registration (padrón) and other post-arrival formalities.
- ☐ Review potential UK/Spain tax residence and social security implications before relocating.
- ☐ Check driving-licence, vehicle import, schooling and pet travel requirements if relevant.

Important: This is a planning checklist, not a legal eligibility assessment. Immigration requirements may change before or during 2027.

CHOOSE YOUR VISA PATH

Visa-specific document checklist

Only complete the sections that relate to your proposed route. Exact supporting evidence is determined by the applicable Spanish immigration procedure.

A Non-lucrative visa - retirement or living without working

- ☐ Confirm you will not undertake employment or professional activity from Spain.
- ☐ Check the current financial threshold (usually linked to IPREM) for the principal applicant and any dependants.
- ☐ Prepare acceptable evidence of pensions, savings or other qualifying financial means.
- ☐ Check the health insurance / qualifying healthcare evidence required by the consulate.
- ☐ Gather relevant criminal record, medical and civil-status documents.
- ☐ Review the renewal and residence conditions before committing to a permanent move.

B Digital nomad visa - eligible international remote work

- ☐ Check whether your employment or self-employed activity qualifies as international remote work.
- ☐ Obtain employer/client contracts and documentation of business activity where required.
- ☐ Prepare proof of qualifications or qualifying professional experience.
- ☐ Confirm salary / financial resource rules applicable at the time of application.
- ☐ Resolve the applicable social security and healthcare documentation requirements.
- ☐ Check the correct route: consular visa or eligible application within Spain.

C Employment with a Spanish company

- ☐ Confirm the employer and position meet the chosen work-authorisation route.
- ☐ Coordinate employer sponsorship or prior authorisation if necessary.
- ☐ Prepare the employment contract, professional qualifications and required personal documents.
- ☐ Check whether a highly qualified professional or other specialised route applies.
- ☐ Do not start work until legally authorised to do so.

STUDIES, FAMILY & FOLLOW-THROUGH

Finish your relocation plan

Use this page to complete your personal checklist and keep track of the steps after your immigration approval.

D Student visa or study authorisation

- ☐ Confirm your course and institution qualify under the relevant study category.
- ☐ Secure the required enrolment / admission documents.
- ☐ Prepare evidence of sufficient resources and appropriate healthcare coverage.
- ☐ Check whether and to what extent work is permitted with your specific authorisation.
- ☐ Confirm any timing and application-location requirements.

E Moving with a spouse, partner or children

- ☐ Determine whether the family will apply together or through a separate family residence procedure.
- ☐ Check each family member’s nationality, status, age and eligibility.
- ☐ Collect birth, marriage or qualifying partnership evidence as applicable.
- ☐ Arrange apostilles / translations for family documents where required.
- ☐ Prepare additional evidence of financial resources, accommodation or healthcare where applicable.
- ☐ Research schools, childcare and any required local registrations.

After the decision

- ☐ Keep copies of the immigration decision, visa and supporting documentation.
- ☐ Book travel within the dates and conditions of the visa or authorisation.
- ☐ Complete residence card and registration steps, if applicable.
- ☐ Review your tax position, banking, healthcare and other recurring obligations.
- ☐ Record expiry dates and set reminders for renewals and other legal deadlines.

Questions to discuss with your lawyer

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

USEFUL REFERENCES

Official resources and next steps

Start with the official guidance and consult a qualified immigration professional for advice on your particular circumstances.

UK Government - living in Spain
https://www.gov.uk/guidance/living-in-spain

UK Government - travelling to the EU and Schengen Area
https://www.gov.uk/travel-to-eu-schengen-area

Spanish Consulate in London - consular services
https://www.exteriores.gob.es/Consulados/londres/en/ServiciosConsulares/Paginas/inicio.aspx

Spanish Consulate in London - non-working residence visa
https://www.exteriores.gob.es/Consulados/londres/en/ServiciosConsulares/Paginas/Consular/Visado-de-residencia-no-lucrativa.aspx

European Commission - Schengen short-stay calculator
https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/policies/schengen/border-crossing/short-stay-calculator_en

Need help choosing the right visa?

Díaz & Associates advises UK residents on Spanish immigration and residence options. Review the relevant service before beginning an application.

Non-lucrative visa →

Digital nomad visa →

Work visa →

Student visa →

Immigration lawyers →

Publication note: Prepared in October 2026 for people planning to relocate in 2027. This document is educational and does not guarantee a visa or residence outcome. Check the most recent official requirements before applying.