

Spain Digital Nomad Visa

Application & Post-Arrival Checklist

Consular (from-abroad) route • 2026 requirements

This checklist covers the digital nomad visa applied for at a Spanish consulate from outside Spain. If you are already legally in Spain, you may instead apply in-country through the UGE-CE, which grants a 3-year residence permit directly rather than the 1-year consular visa.

Key figures at a glance (2026)

Income threshold (single)	€2,849 / month (≈ €34,200/yr) – 200% of SMI
+ first dependent	≈ €1,068 / month (75% of SMI)
+ each further dependent	≈ €356 / month (25% of SMI)
Spanish-source income cap	Max 20% of total income (freelancers)
Consular visa fee	UK applicants pay a higher reciprocity rate – confirm the current figure with your consulate (≈ €80 standard for many nationalities)
TIE residence-card fee	≈ €16

1. Documents to submit to the consulate

- ☐ **Valid passport** – issued within the last 10 years, valid at least 1 year, with two blank pages
- ☐ **Completed national (type D) visa application form** – dated and signed
- ☐ **Recent passport-size photo** – colour, white background
- ☐ **Proof of the remote-work relationship** – employment contract (employee) or client contracts (freelancer), all with non-Spanish companies
- ☐ **Authorisation to work remotely from Spain** – a letter from your employer or clients permitting remote work
- ☐ **Proof the company has operated for at least 1 year** – e.g. a UK Companies House certificate
- ☐ **Proof of at least 3 months** – working with your current employer or clients before applying
- ☐ **Proof of qualification** – a relevant degree from a recognised institution or at least 3 years' experience in the field
- ☐ **Proof of sufficient income** – €2,849/month minimum – payslips, contracts, bank statements (now expected stamped by your bank)
- ☐ **Criminal-record certificate (UK: ACRO)** – covering the last 5 years – apostilled and sworn-translated, issued within 90 days
- ☐ **Signed declaration of no criminal record** – for the last 5 years in any country lived in for 6+ months
- ☐ **Private health insurance** – full coverage in Spain with no co-payments, deductibles or waiting periods (or A1/S1 where applicable)
- ☐ **Proof of Social Security coverage** – an A1 / certificate of coverage, or a commitment to register with Spanish Social Security
- ☐ **Proof of visa-fee payment** – the applicable consular fee for your nationality – see Key figures above

- ☐ **Dependants' documents (if applying together)** – marriage and birth certificates, apostilled and translated

2. After the visa is issued – next steps

- ☐ **Enter Spain within the validity of your visa** – the consular nomad visa is issued for 1 year
- ☐ **Apply for your TIE (residence card)** – within 30 days of arrival – this also assigns your NIE if you don't have one
- ☐ **Empadronamiento (padrón)** – at your local town hall – bring passport, rental contract and residence approval
- ☐ **Register with Spanish Social Security** – employees via the employer mechanism; freelancers via autónomo registration or the Convenio Especial
- ☐ **Register with the tax authority (AEAT)** – for your ongoing tax obligations
- ☐ **Beckham Law election** – file Modelo 149 within 6 months of Social Security registration (employed nomad-visa holders only; autónomos excluded)
- ☐ **Open a Spanish bank account** – most banks accept passport plus padrón certificate
- ☐ **Keep private health insurance active** – until Social Security contributions open up public healthcare access
- ☐ **Exchange your UK driving licence** – for a Spanish one within 6 months of becoming resident

Legalisation note: Foreign public documents need the Hague Apostille, and anything not in Spanish needs an official sworn (jurada) Spanish translation. Build in time – apostille and translation turnaround is the usual bottleneck.

Deadlines that catch people out

Criminal-record certificate	Must be less than 90 days old at submission
Padrón (empadronamiento)	Within the first days of arrival
TIE residence card	Within 30 days of arrival in Spain
Beckham Law (Modelo 149)	Within 6 months of Social Security registration
UK driving-licence exchange	Within 6 months of becoming resident