

# WHAT IS A NIE AND WHAT DO I NEED IT FOR?





If you just landed and need to open a bank account, you'll need it. If you are here to study, work, buy or sell property, or even apply for a business permit to set up a business, or get a driver's license, you won't get anything done without it.

We're talking about the **NIE**, a Spanish tax identification number, assigned by the Spanish authorities to any foreigner, and it's unique and personal.





It always starts with an X or a Y, followed by 7 numbers and a letter, and it is required for all resident and non-resident foreigners with financial, professional, or social affairs in Spain, regardless of whether you are a European citizen or from a non-EU country.



You will need the NIE for all paperwork relating to: housing, city registration, social security, financial affairs such as opening a bank account, utilities (electricity, water, gas), and to obtain a driving licence. You'll need it to pay taxes too, both income and annual wealth tax, known in Spain as Patrimonio.

In other words, getting your NIE is something you should sort out as soon as possible. All you must do is follow these guidelines.

But keep in mind that regulations in Cataluña might differ from those in Andalusia, for example.

# How to apply for a NIE?



Before taking all documentation in person to one of the immigration offices, usually in designated police stations, you must make an appointment online. Make sure you seek assistance from a friend or lawyer, in case you have trouble reading or understanding it, because it's only in Spanish.

## **We'll guide you the process of obtaining the NIE.**

Currently, you can apply for an NIE on the grounds of financial, professional or social reasons. Applicants from the European Community **should select the EU Certificates.**

# Three types of application are permitted



- ☐ Those submitted in Spain by the person concerned.
- ☐ Those submitted in Spain through a representative.
- ☐ Those submitted in the country of origin at the official consulate.

Those submitting the application from Spain may do so via **the police or the Guardia Civil**. To do so, you should request an appointment in advance in order to get **all the necessary paperwork together**.

# For the NIE to be issued, the following documents must be provided

- ☐ **A copy of the official (EX-15) application form**, duly filled out and signed by the expatriate. The application form is available to download [here](#).
- ☐ **Original and copy of full passport, travel documents or registration card, or ID card** if the applicant is an EU citizen.
- ☐ **Communication detailing the financial, professional or social reasons justifying the application.**
- ☐ **When someone is applying on your behalf**, he/she must bring a document which expressly gives them permission to apply for you.

**Recommended: stamped receipt.** You will have to pay a small tax at the nearest bank after completing your application. In return you will be given a stamped receipt, which is proof of this payment. The small tax will be 9.64 €. If you fill out the form and pay beforehand and bring your stamped receipt with your application, it will save you being sent to the bank and having to go back to the line to complete the application. The form can be filled online and then downloaded [here](#)!



All foreign public documents must be legalized beforehand by the Spanish consular office with jurisdiction having been granted in the country of origin in which the document was issued.

In the event of applying from your country of origin, please send all relevant documentation to:

**Comisaría General de Extranjería y Documentación**

Dirección General de la Policía  
Calle General Pardiñas 90  
CP 28006 Madrid - SPAIN

**\*PLEASE NOTE:** Documents from other countries must be translated into Spanish or co-official language of the region in which the application is being submitted.



Once you present all your documents, it's time to wait. The process can take anywhere from 2 to 6 weeks so just relax and be patient. In the meantime, you will be given a resguardo (an official receipt and proof that you are waiting for your NIE) and a date after which you can collect your NIE. Remember, the time you wait depends on the region you live in and the time of year.

You can get your NIE on your own with a bit of help, patience and time.

Remember, if you can afford it, you can always hire an immigration lawyer who will help you through the entire process. For more detailed information on documents and processing, you can visit the [Government Website](#).



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