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INMIGRATION, RESIDENCE & WORK PERMITS

The right advice is vital to get your residence permit

Spanish Authorities have adopted a restrictive policy regarding the issuance of work and residence permits for foreign nationals and strictly enforce work permit requirements to encourage the hiring of Spaniards rather than foreign nationals.

The authorities endeavour to issue work permits only to foreign nationals who have special characteristics or who fall into one of the preference categories established by Law (national of a Latin American country, descended from Spanish parents, etc.). This is most important if the applicant is not a citizen of the European Union (EU).



Residence Permit (Permiso de residencia).

A foreign national who wishes to reside but does not wish to work in Spain must apply for and obtain a valid residence permit

There are 3 types of residence permits: Initial (one year), Ordinary (3 years) and Permanent. The application for a residence card must be presented to the Police authorities and the total procedure can be completed in two months.

Resident & Work permit (Permiso de trabajo).

For a person who also wishes to work in Spain, the Work and Residence permits are issued on approval of the application by both the Spanish labour and police authorities. Therefore, the denial of one permit means the denial of the other.

A work permit is not required for European Union (EU) nationals and, therefore, EU nationals can work in Spain without a work permit and while their residence cards are

being processed.

Nationals of countries that do not belong to the European Union (EU) who wish to work and reside in Spain must apply for work permits and they cannot work while their working permits are being processed.

Applying for a work permit in Spain is a lengthy process. In total, the procedure may take up to ten months. The applicant's employer must file an Application for Work and Residence Permit with the Dirección General de Trabajo y Seguridad Social (Labour authorities).



If the applicant does not have a legal residence in Spain, the initial application for a work permit must be made at the Spanish consulate in the country where the applicant lives. If the applicant is already in Spain as a non-working legal resident, the initial application may be made directly to the Spanish labour Authorities.

The same regulations apply to self-employed foreign nationals as for those applying to work for a specific Spanish company.


For further information, or if you require any assistance with this, please do not hesitate to contact us at mail@marbellasolicitors.com. We will be pleased to study your particular case and help you to obtain your Spanish residence and work permit.





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