



Spain Student Visa Guide

The goal of CEA's Spain Student Visa Guide is to help students understand the Spanish student visa application process.

This guide is accurate as of January 2024; however, requirements and procedures may change without notice. It is imperative that students refer to their designated Spanish Consulates/BLS Centers as the final authorities on all immigration matters. **This guide is not a substitute for Consulate/BLS requirements.**

Table of Contents

Section A: Key Notes about the Spanish Visa	pg. 2
Section B: Steps to Complete ASAP	pg. 2
Section C: The Application Process	pg. 3
Section D: Spanish Visa FAQs	pg. 4-5
Section E: CEA's Group Visa Services	pg. 6
Section F: U.S. Spanish Consulates/BLS Centers	pg. 7-9
Section G: Canadian Spanish Consulates	pg. 10
Section H: Guide to the National Visa Application Form	pg. 11-12
Section I: CEA Program Contact Information	pg. 13
Section J: Requirements for Visas over 180 Days	pg. 14

Section A: Key Notes on the Spanish Visa

- A Spanish Visa is required for anyone staying in Spain for more than 90 days (unless you are an EU Citizen). The Visa is a sticker that will be placed inside your passport – Customs agents in the US and Spain will check to see that you have this before you are let into the country.
- This is a requirement set by the Spanish Government and the application process is determined by the Spanish Government – not CEA. **CEA cannot intervene between students and the Spanish Consulates/BLS Centers or other government authorities.**
- CEA will advise students on the application process, **but it is the responsibility of the student to complete their own application process and obtain a visa prior to their program start.**
- Visa applications **cannot be expedited**, so you **MUST** start the process as soon as possible

Section B: Steps to Complete As Soon As Possible

- Confirm you have a valid U.S. Passport (**it must be valid for at least 6 months after your program end date**) and enter your passport information in your Student Portal.
 - If you do not currently have a valid passport, or if you plan to travel on a non-U.S. passport – Contact your CEA Advisor so they can advise you on where to start your process.
- Review your name and gender listed in your Student Portal. **All information should match your passport exactly** so that CEA can provide you with visa documents that match your passport (legal name). Contact your CEA Advisor by email with any needed corrections.
- Send your Advisor the **physical mailing address** at which you would like to receive CEA's supporting visa documents. The default address we use is your permanent address, unless you have confirmed another visa mailing address. If CEA needs to re-mail documents due to an incorrect address, it may impact your ability to apply for a visa on time. Notify residents that very important CEA visa documents will be sent to that address.
 - If lost or misplaced, students will be responsible for visa document replacement and charged the fee of \$150. CEA visa documents can take several weeks to be re-sent.
- If you have international travel planned prior to your program's start date, inform your Advisor. International travel prior to your program can increase the difficulty of the visa process since you will need to surrender your passport to the Spanish Consulate/BLS Center for the entire processing period. Processing times vary and can be extensive.

Section C: Spanish Visa Application Process

- Step 1:** Determine which Consulate(s)/BLS center(s) you are eligible to apply at—based on where you go to school and your permanent address (eligibility based on your valid Driver's License or Student ID). See [Section F](#) for U.S. citizens; [Section G](#) for Canadians.
- Step 2:** Schedule an appointment with your chosen Consulate/BLS Center (if applicable, some Consulates/BLS Centers allow mail-in applications. Please verify on the Consulate/BLS website if that is an option).
 - Depending on the Consulate/BLS Center, the **earliest** your appointment can take place will be either **120 or 90 days before the start of the program**.
- Inform your Advisor which Consulate you will be working with, and, if applicable, the date of your appointment, as soon as possible. A minimum of 2 weeks' notice is required to send the corresponding visa documents, and longer for certain programs.

Tips:

- Book your appointment early, if possible! Try to leave **at least** 4-5 weeks between the time of your appointment and the start of your program. You will thank yourself when you are not stressing about your visa in the weeks and days before you get on the plane.
 - If experiencing difficulty securing an appointment, try checking the appointment calendar at different times during the day, and check for new appointment availability daily. Also, please let your Advisor know, as they may have additional advice!
 - Prepare for the appointment even if you don't yet have it scheduled—[See Step 3](#).
- Step 3:** Collect the required supporting documents listed on the Consulate/BLS website.
 - CEA will send you a Proof of Enrollment/Acceptance Letter, Proof of Medical Insurance, a Financial Guarantee Letter, and, if the Consulate/BLS requires it, Proof of Accommodation. The additional required documents are your responsibility to collect. You can start working on those documents prior to receiving the set from CEA.
 - Use reference [Section H](#) to assist with filling out the National Visa Application.
 - Step 4:** Attend your appointment with all of your collected materials, or mail in your application materials. Let your Advisor know when this set is complete.
 - Step 5:** Wait for the Consulate/BLS to process your visa application (this can take from 4-8 weeks).
 - Depending on where you apply, you will receive your passport/visa back in the mail or must go to the Consulate/BLS Center to pick it up in person. Your visa is a sticker inside your passport. If you've received your passport back, you've also received your visa.

[Back to top](#)

Section D: Frequently Asked Questions

- **Who needs a student visa?**
 - Most non-EU citizens studying in Spain for more than 90 days are required to apply for a student visa. *Note the Spanish Student Visa can be referred to as the National or Long-Stay Visa.*
 - CEA advises U.S. students and can assist Canadian students, but additional research may be required on the student's part.
 - Non-U.S. or Canadian citizens must contact their nearest Spanish consulate to verify entry requirements. We are unable to advise on these processes but will assist best we can.

- **When should I start the visa process?**
 - It is recommended that students begin the process **3-4 months prior to departure.**
 - Students generally cannot apply for their visas earlier than 90-120 days prior to departure (depending on the Consulate/BLS Center); ensure you book your appointment ASAP for between 90-45 days prior to departure.
 - After submitting the application materials for the student visa, the Spanish Consulate/BLS Center will take approx. 4-8 weeks to process the visa and return your passport with the visa affixed inside. Processing times can change at any time and CEA cannot expedite the process.

- **Where do I apply?**
 - Students must apply at the Consulate/BLS Center that governs the region of their permanent or school address; in some cases, it may be necessary to travel to another state.
 - Students must either attend their appointment in person or mail in their application, depending on the Consulate/BLS Center's requirements, and sometimes, may have to pick up their passport with visa inside once processing is complete.
 - **Students applying at the New York Consulate must submit their application through a group or batch appointment, which is offered through CEA.**

- **What is a BLS Center?**
 - BLS International is an external company that the Spanish Government signed a contract with to process visas on behalf of Spanish Consular offices in the U.S. Not all Consulates have shifted to utilizing BLS. As of January 2024, students who apply for a Student Visa individually (not utilizing our Group Appointment services) in the following regions must go through the corresponding BLS Center, rather than the Spanish Consulate:
 - **Boston, Chicago, Houston, Miami, Los Angeles, Washington D.C.**
 - BLS Centers are not located within the corresponding Consulate's office unless otherwise noted, however they are located within the city center. **Ensure you have the accurate address before appearing for your appointment/mailing in your application materials.**
 - Due to BLS being a new service, CEA recommends reviewing information on both the Consulate and BLS websites for application questions and process information.
 - Most BLS Center websites have a Website Disclaimer that pops up when you navigate to their home page. Do not close out of this window before you review this information! These pop ups regularly have important information and updates. Refresh the page to repopulate this message.

- **What application materials are needed?**
 - The complete list of documents required is located on each Consulate/BLS Center's website. Each Consulate/BLS Center is different, so make sure to check the requirements noted for the processing center where you plan to apply.
 - Find your designated consulate in [Section F](#) or [G](#).
- **How much does it cost?**
 - Applying for a student visa costs \$160 for U.S. citizens. Non-U.S. citizens will need to verify the fee on the Consulate/BLS website.
 - BLS Centers may have their own additional processing/service fees.
 - If you are required to travel for your visa appointment, you should factor this into your budget (i.e. gas, airfare, hotel).
- **What documents will CEA send to me?**
 - CEA will provide
 - Proof of Enrollment/Acceptance letter,
 - Proof of Medical Insurance,
 - Proof of Financial funds, and
 - Proof of Accommodation, if your specific Consulate/BLS Center requires it.
 - You will need to first be **Enrolled** in your program in order for CEA to send these to you. If you have questions on your status, contact your Advisor.
- **How long does it take to get the CEA visa documents?**
 - Generally, CEA starts mailing these to students in the Enrolled status 3-4 months before the program start date, to align with the beginning of the visa season. They are also sent according to appointment date. However, if one of the documents must be created and mailed from Spain (common for programs in which students take classes at a Spanish university, rather than a CEA Center), this can cause delays. You can reach out to your Advisor to request the documents be sent sooner if they haven't yet been sent. These will be sent to your permanent mailing address unless requested otherwise before mailing.
- **Do I have to surrender my passport to the Consulate/BLS Center?**
 - Yes. The Consulate/BLS Center needs to confirm your passport is valid and will also place your visa inside. If you do not surrender your passport, you will not get a visa.
- **What if I can't get an appointment at the Consulate/BLS Center?**
 - Keep checking for an appointment! Often it just takes a lot of diligence before you successfully schedule one. Also, notify your Advisor that you are having difficulties. They will let you know what your options are.
- **Can my visa be expedited if I start the process late?**
 - No. The Spanish Consulate does not have any expedition process in place and has never offered this as an option.
 - As of September 2023, some BLS Centers offer "Primetime" appointments, which do not have quicker processing times, but do allow students access to appointments outside of normal business hours for an additional fee of \$70.

[Back to top](#)

Section E: CEA Group Visa Services

Some students may be eligible for a group visa appointment based on their school or permanent address.

- Students who are ONLY eligible to apply through the Spanish Consulate in **New York** are highly encouraged to participate in a group visa appointment, either through CEA or through their home institution.

What is a CEA Group Visa appointment? A CEA group visa appointment is a service that CEA provides for an additional fee which allows students to submit all required visa materials directly to CEA by mail rather than appearing in person (or applying) at a Spanish consulate/BLS Center individually. CEA will review your documents and a CEA representative will submit your application on your behalf at the Consulate.

Who is eligible for a CEA Group Appointment? We are able to offer a group appointment for students eligible to apply at the **Boston, Chicago** (*student IDs only*), **Houston, Los Angeles, Miami, New York** (*student IDs only*), and **San Francisco** Consulates.

How much does the CEA Group Appointment Cost? There is a fee of \$375 to participate in a CEA Group Appointment *in addition to* the standard student visa application fee required by the Spanish Consulate (\$160).

How do I sign up for a CEA Group Appointment?

- Send an email to Public-StudentVisa@ceastudyabroad.com with the subject line Group Visa – [Last Name], [First Name]. **Sign up ASAP; space is limited.**
 - For example: Group Visa – Bond, James

Deadlines of group appointments are communicated via email once finalized.

After I sign up, what are my next steps? Check your email; CEA will email you instructions within 48 hours.

Important Reminders

- **Student Responsibility:** The student is responsible for collecting and mailing the required materials to CEA by the indicated deadline. Incomplete application packets will be returned.
- **Application Review:** CEA will confirm receipt of the application packet after reviewing your materials; this can take **7-10 business days**.
- **Receipt of Student Visa:** Your passport, with the student visa affixed inside, should be delivered to you about 2 weeks prior to the program start date, possibly later due to Consulate processing. **Save the tracking number of your self-addressed return envelope. CEA will not save this for you.**

NOTICE

- **CEA has no authority over the Spanish government** and cannot check the status of your application. If you need your passport back by a certain date, we advise against utilizing this service.
- The Spanish Consulate will not expedite a student visa application.

[Back to top](#)

Section F: U.S. Spanish Consulates/BLS Centers

Students must apply at the Consulate/BLS center that governs the region of their permanent or school address.

Note: Each Consulate/BLS Center has its own requirements.

[Boston](#) | [Chicago](#) | [Houston](#) | [Los Angeles](#) | [Miami](#) | [New York City](#) | [San Francisco](#) | [Washington, D.C.](#)

Boston (BLS Center for individual applicants)	
Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont	
Contact Info	Boston Consulate and BLS Center Boston
Email	cog.boston.vis@maec.es or info.boxes@blsinternational.net
Requirements and Process	https://www.exteriores.gob.es/Consulados/boston/en/ServiciosConsulares/Paginas/Consular/Visado-de-estudios.aspx
Notes	Must secure in-person appointment through BLS Booking system . Review Student Visa section. Additional BLS Fees required (\$18 and \$5). 3–5-week processing. Must pick up passport and visa in person once complete: Monday-Friday from 3-4pm.
	Requires notarized copy of ID, unique Disclaimer Form .

Chicago (BLS Center for individual applicants)	
Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin	
Contact Info	Chicago Consulate and BLS Chicago
Email	cog.chicago@maec.es or cog.chicago.vis@maec.es or info.chies@blsinternational.net
Requirements and Process	https://www.exteriores.gob.es/Consulados/chicago/en/ServiciosConsulares/Paginas/Consular/Visado-de-estudios.aspx
Notes	Secure appointment through BLS International . Please refer to the Chicago Consulate and BLS websites for required documentation. Notes below may change at any time.*
	Accepts applications up to 6 months prior to program start. Passport must have 1 year validity
	Chicago consulate* notes: Unique Disclaimer Form . Current college students must submit supplemental letter from their home institution stating that “credits obtained by the student in Spain will be transferred to the local program.”

Houston (BLS Center for individual applicants)	
Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Tennessee, and Texas	
Contact Info	Houston Consulate and BLS Houston
Email	cog.houston@maec.es or cog.houston.vis@maec.es or info.houes@blsinternational.net
Requirements and Process	https://www.exteriores.gob.es/Consulados/houston/en/ServiciosConsulares/Paginas/Consular/Visado-de-estudios.aspx
Notes	Applications are submitted through BLS , via appointment or mailed in. Review BLS Student Visa section. Additional BLS fees apply. Postal Delivery Authorization required for applications submitted via mail.
	Processing time is up to 2 months from date application has entered system.

Los Angeles (BLS Center for individual applicants)	
Southern California (<i>includes:</i> Imperial, Inyo, Kern, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, and Ventura counties), Arizona, Colorado, and Utah.	
Contact Info	Los Angeles Consulate and BLS Los Angeles
Email	cog.losangeles.vis@maec.es or cog.losangeles@maec.es or info.laxes@blsinternational.net
Requirements and Process	https://www.exteriores.gob.es/Consulados/losangeles/en/ServiciosConsulares/Paginas/Consular/Visado-de-estudios.aspx
Notes	Apply through BLS and secure appointment . Review Student Visa section.
	Only accepts applications within 90 days of departure. Money order <u>only</u> for visa fee. Additional BLS fees to be paid through cash/debit card.
	Processing time is 2-6 weeks. Will receive confirmation once ready. All visas must be picked up in person by the applicant once processed, between 3-4pm Monday – Friday.

Miami (BLS Center for individual applicants)	
Florida, Georgia, and South Carolina	
Contact Info	Miami Consulate and BLS Miami
Email	info.miaminational@blshelpline.com or cog.miami@maec.es or cog.miami.vis@maec.es
Requirements and Process	https://www.exteriores.gob.es/Consulados/miami/en/ServiciosConsulares/Paginas/Consular/Visado-de-estudios.aspx
Notes	Applications for Student Visas to be submitted through BLS . Secure in-person appointment . 2-4 weeks processing timeline. ID copy must be notarized.
	Must appear in person to collect passport and visa.

New York City	
Connecticut, Delaware, New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania	
Contact Info	Address, Business Hours, Phone Number
Email	cog.nuevayork.vis@maec.es or visadoscgy@gmail.com
Requirements and Process	https://www.exteriores.gob.es/Consulados/nuevayork/en/ServiciosConsulares/Paginas/Consular/Visado-de-estudios.aspx
Notes	Applications are recommended to be submitted as a group through CEA or a student's university. If a representative is not available, or student cannot join group for personal reason, student may request an individual appointment via email: cog.nuevayork.visnac@maec.es
	Accept only Student IDs for proof of jurisdiction.
	Individual applicants: must appear in person and return to collect passport; processing time up to 1 month and status of application can be checked here using code provided at appointment. Student Visa fee to be paid with USPS money order only.

[Back to top](#)

San Francisco	
Alaska, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Washington, Wyoming, and Northern California (excludes: Imperial, Kern, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, and Ventura counties)	
Contact Info	Address, Business Hours, Phone Number
Email	cog.sanfrancisco.vis@maec.es or cog.sanfrancisco@maec.es
Requirements and Process	https://www.exteriores.gob.es/Consulados/sanfrancisco/en/ServiciosConsulares/Paginas/Consular/Visado-de-estudios.aspx
Notes	Accepts applications within 180 days of departure. Mail-in application process via <u>USPS only</u> . Processing timeline of 5-8 weeks once all required documents are provided.
	Use clear, uppercase handwriting for email address on application – Consulate will contact you via email only for updates. Write name on back of passport photo.
	Prepaid self-addressed <u>USPS</u> Express mail envelope required for passport return.
	Payment to be submitted via money order only.

Washington, D.C. (BLS Center for individual applicants)	
Maryland, North Carolina, Virginia, Washington D.C., and West Virginia	
Contact Info	Embassy of Spain, Washington D.C. or BLS Spain Application Center D.C.
Email	info.wases@blsinternational.net or cog.washington@maec.es
Requirements and Process	https://www.exteriores.gob.es/Consulados/washington/en/ServiciosConsulares/Paginas/Consular/Visado-de-estudios.aspx
Notes	Application must be submitted in person by <u>appointment only</u> “National Visa Appointment” to the BLS Spain D.C. Visa Application Center . Review Student Visa section.
	Applications may be submitted up to 6 months prior to departure. <i>Additional</i> BLS service charge
	Must collect visa in person. Processing time is 1 month once application is registered (timeframe may be extended if an interview or additional documents are requested).

[Back to top](#)

Section G: Canadian Spanish Consulates

Students must apply at the consulate that governs the region of their permanent or school address.

Note: Each consulate has its own requirements.

Montreal	
Quebec (except Gatineau), New Brunswick, Newfoundland & Labrador, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island	
Contact Info	Address, Business Hours, Phone
Email	cog.montreal@maec.es or cog.montreal.vis@maec.es
Requirements and Process	https://www.exteriores.gob.es/Consulados/montreal/en/ServiciosConsulares/Paginas/Consular/Visado-de-estudios.aspx
Notes	4–8-week processing. Applicants must apply for and pick up visa in person. Request appointment via email: cog.montreal.vis@maec.es

Ottawa	
Gatineau and Ottawa	
Contact Info	Address, Business Hours, Phone
Email	emb.ottawa.sc@maec.es
Requirements and Process	https://www.exteriores.gob.es/Embajadas/ottawa/en/ServiciosConsulares/Paginas/Consular/Visado-de-estudios.aspx
Notes	Applications to be submitted in person; request appointment at emb.ottawa.cit@maec.es . Requires proof of residence within the National Capital Region. 2-month processing timeline (October 2023)

Toronto	
Alberta, British Columbia, Manitoba, Ontario (except Ottawa & its metro area), Northwest Territories, Nunavut, Saskatchewan, Yukon	
Contact Info	Address, Business Hours, Phone
Email	cog.toronto@maec.es or cog.toronto.vis@maec.es
Requirements and Process	https://www.exteriores.gob.es/Consulados/toronto/en/ServiciosConsulares/Paginas/Consular/Visado-de-estudios.aspx
Notes	Applications sent via mail (tracking required), at least 60 days before program start. 4-week processing. Require prepaid Canada Post Xpress envelope to be used to return visa.

[Back to top](#)

Section H: Guide to the National Visa Application Form

As part of the visa process, students need to fill out the National Visa Application Form. The guide below will assist you with completing this application thoroughly. Please use this guide when filling out the visa application form.

1	Surname	Enter your last name(s)
2	Surname at birth	Enter "N/A" unless you have a maiden name
3	Forenames (given names)	Enter your first and middle names to match your passport
4	Date of Birth	Enter all dates in this sequence: day-month-year
5	Place of Birth:	City and state where you were born
6	Country of Birth	Country where you were born
7	Current nationality	U.S. [or other nationality if applicable]
8	Sex	Check the box next to your sex as listed on your passport
9	Marital status	Check the box next to your marital status
10	In the case of minors	If 18 years or older, enter "N/A" – if you are under 18, provide the information requested in this question
11	Spanish National ID Number	Enter "N/A" unless you have a Spanish National ID number
12	Type of Travel Document	Check "Ordinary Passport"
13	Number of travel document	Enter the nine-digit number on your [U.S.] passport
14	Date of issue	Enter the day-month-year of issue
15	Valid until	Enter the day-month-year of expiration
16	Issued by	For U.S. passports, enter "U.S. Department of State" – this is found under "Authority" on your passport
17	Postal and email address/Telephone number of applicant	Enter your address within the consular jurisdiction, an email address, and two different telephone numbers
18	Residence in a country other than the country of current nationality	Check "No" unless you have residency in another country
19	Current Profession	Enter "Student"
20	Principle purpose of journey	Check "Studies"
21	Date of intended entry into Spain	Enter the day-month-year that your CEA program begins, regardless of personal travel plans
22	Number of entries requested	Check "More than two" or "Multiple Entries"

23	Postal Address of Applicant in Spain	Final housing assignments are not available until 1-2 weeks prior to program start date. Use the onsite CEA office address corresponding to your program location:
Alicante		CEA Office Edificio Germán Bernácer, Universidad de Alicante 03690 Alicante, España
Barcelona		CEA Office Plaça Catalunya 20, 2 08002 Barcelona, España
Granada		CEA Office C/ Cárcel Baja 1, 2ºA 18001 Granada, España
Madrid		CEA Office Cuesta de San Vicente 28 2nd floor – Offices 1-3 28008 Madrid, España
Seville		CEA Office C/ Lope de Rueda 30 41004 Sevilla, España
24	Spanish Foreign National Identity Number (NIE)	Enter “N/A”
25	Date of notification of decision issued by competent body for non-nationals	Enter “N/A”
26	Data of the individual resident in Spain in case of applying for a residence visa for family reunion	Enter “N/A”
27	Data of the employer or the company in case of applying for a residence visa for employees, self-employed or temporary work	Enter “N/A”
28	Data of the education establishment or research centre in case of applying for a student or research visa	Use page 13 for the institution/educational establishment name in ORANGE and corresponding contact information
Intended date of start of studies or research		Enter the day-month-year that your CEA program begins, regardless of personal travel plans
Intended date of end of studies or research		Enter the day-month-year that your CEA program ends
In case of temporary stay of children with the purpose of studying in Spain within the framework of a program of a Public Administration, a non-profit organization or a charity or other establishment or persons who do not hold their parental authorities/are not their legal guardians		If 18 years or older, write “N/A” for all corresponding boxes – all CEA students must be 18 by the program start date
29	Data in case of temporary movement of minors	Enter “N/A”
30	Place and date	List your current city and the day-month-year where you are signing the visa application
31	Sign your name	Your physical, ink signature (<i>not a digital signature</i>)

[Back to top](#)

Section I: CEA Program Contact Information

Identify your program below and enter the corresponding contact information on your Visa Application. If you do not know what program you are in, please log in to your [MyCEA Account](#).

Alicante				
Program	Address	Contact	Phone	Email
All Programs	Universidad de Alicante Crta. San Vicente del Raspeig, s/n Apartado de correos 99, 03080 Alicante, España	Alvaro Sanchez	965 143 486	ASanchez@cea StudyAbroad.com

Barcelona				
Program	Address	Contact	Phone	Email
All Programs	University of New Haven Plaça Catalunya 20, 2 08002 Barcelona, España	Enric Figueras	932 681 393	EFigueras@cea StudyAbroad.com

Granada				
Program	Address	Contact	Phone	Email
All Programs	Universidad de Granada Palacio de Santa Cruz Placeta de Hospicio Viejo, s/n (Realejo) 18009 Granada, España	Begonia Flores	958 800 596	BFlores@cea StudyAbroad.com

Madrid				
Program	Address	Contact	Phone	Email
Liberal Arts & Business	Universidad Antonio de Nebrija Centro de Estudios Hispánicos C/ Pirineos, 55 28040 Madrid, España	Silvia Martinez Mata	913 107 908	SMartinez@cea StudyAbroad.com
Spanish Language & Culture				
Engineering & Social Sciences	Universidad Carlos III de Madrid Calle Madrid, 126 28903 Madrid, España			

Seville				
Program	Address	Contact	Phone	Email
All Programs	University of New Haven C/ Lope de Rueda, 30 41004 Sevilla, España	Victor Gonzalez	954 564 094	VGonzalez@ ceaStudy Abroad.com

[Back to top](#)

Section J: Requirements for Visas for over 180 Days

These requirements are **only** for students who will be studying for over 180 days (an **academic year** or **two semesters**). *If your program is less than 180 days, this section does not apply to you.*

1. Criminal Background Check

The consulates require a criminal background check. CEA recommends completing an FBI Criminal Background check (also known as Identity History Summary Check) legalized with the Apostille of The Hague. Please note the following:

- Your background check must be complete prior to applying for the student visa.
- The background check must have been issued within three months (90 days) of your appointment.
- Follow the steps here: <https://www.fbi.gov/services/cjis/identity-history-summary-checks>
- Applications submitted by mail can take up to 16 weeks for processing; it is recommended that you apply electronically or through an FBI-Approved Channeler.

CEA Tips for FBI Criminal Background Checks:

Obtain multiple sets of fingerprints; only one set is required for your application, but send in multiple sets just in case one set is unacceptable.

Fingerprints can be taken at your local police station for a fee, and many printing agencies offer this service as well.

We recommend getting a background check through the federal government because while some consulates will accept a background check through your local police department or state of residency, **not all do**.

If you have lived in any foreign country for longer than six months in the past five years, you may need criminal background checks from each country. Contact your designated consulate for details.

If you are concerned about receiving your completed background check in time, you should apply through an [FBI-Approved Channeler](#). These agencies assist in expediting the process. **Please note, however, that not all consulates accept background checks from these agencies; contact your consulate to confirm.*

2. Medical Certificate

This requirement is essentially a letter from your doctor confirming you are in good health and able to study abroad in Spain. Almost all consulates have a template available on their website that you can bring or email to your doctor.

NOTE: If the study stay is for longer than 6 months, the visa will be valid for a 90-day stay. The student must apply for a Foreigner Identity Card within a period of 1 month from their entry into Spain, at the Foreign Nationals' Office or the Police Station of the province in which the permit was processed.

[Back to top](#)