



GUIDE FOR PAKISTANI STUDENTS IN

SPAIN



Table of Contents

1. Visa Application	3
1.1. Programmes for stays exceeding 90 days.....	3
1.2. Documentation.....	3
1.2.1. Student Visa.....	4
1.2.2. Student’s Family Visa.....	6
1.2.3. Researcher / Highly Qualified Professional Visa.....	8
1.2.4. Researcher / HQP Family Reunion Visa.....	9
1.3. Procedure.....	11
2. Life in Spain	12
2.1. Cultural Overview.....	12
2.2. Historical Overview.....	12
2.3. Major Cities and Landmarks.....	14
2.4. Spanish Festivities.....	18
2.5. The Weather in Spain.....	18
2.6. Spanish Customs.....	19
3.6.1. Greetings and Interactions.....	19
3.6.2. Table Manners.....	20
3.6.3. Other Considerations.....	20
3.7. Get Registered with the Embassy of Pakistan.....	21
3.8. Apply for a Foreign Identity Card.....	21
3.9. Healthcare and Health Insurance.....	22
3.10. Renting Accommodation in Spain.....	23
2.10.1. Main Platforms for Housing:.....	23
2.10.2. Price Ranges.....	23
2.10.3. Necessary Information.....	23
3.11. Empadronamiento.....	25
3.12. Transport.....	26
4. Learn Spanish	27
3.1. Language Schools.....	27
3.2. Cultural Institutions.....	28
3.3. NGOs and Non-Profit Organizations.....	28
3.4. Adult Education Centers.....	29
3.5. Online Resources.....	29
3.6. Useful Phrases in Spanish.....	29
4. Work in Spain	35

4.1. Online Job Portals	35
4.2. Apply for Jobs / Internships	36
5. Immigration / Foreign Offices in Spain	37
6. Additional Tips	38
7. Other Useful Sources of Information	39
7.1. Pakistani Students Facebook Group.....	39
7.2. Youtube Channels.....	39
7.3. Whatsapp Groups	39
8. Frequently Asked Questions.....	40

Disclaimer: *The information provided in this student guide is intended for educational purposes only. While utmost care has been taken to ensure accuracy, yet we cannot guarantee that all content is up-to-date or error-free. Students are encouraged to verify information and consult appropriate resources for specific guidance related to their studies, application and visa processes. The Embassy of Pakistan and authors of this guide are not responsible for any actions taken based on the information contained herein.*

1. Visa Application

1.1. Programmes for stays exceeding 90 days

Programmes that allow foreigners to apply for a stay that exceeds 90 days:

- Full-time studies at an authorized school that will lead to the obtainment of a degree or certificate of studies.
- PhD studies.
- Job offer.
- Training activities.
- Student mobility programmes at compulsory and/or non-compulsory secondary education level at an officially recognized teaching or scientific centre.
- Training placements at public or private bodies or entities that cannot be covered by internship visas.
- Volunteer services in the framework of programmes pursuing public interest goals.
- Au pair programmes.
- Conversation class assistants.

1.2. Documentation

There are two sources of information. The first source is the BLS International (<https://pak.blsspainvisa.com/>) to which the Spanish embassy has outsourced visa applications in Pakistan. Go to the website, select the pertinent visa, and all the information regarding documents and procedures can be found.

The second source of information is the embassy website. Visit <https://www.exteriores.gob.es/Embajadas/islamabad/en/ServiciosConsulares/Paginas/inicio.aspx> and select the pertinent visa to see the checklist and application instructions.

The information provided by BLS is clearer and more detailed. In order to make the current document comprehensive, checklists for some important visa types are shared below.

1.2.1. Student Visa

Student Visa for **Studies** in **Spain** (for more than 180 days) includes PhD students without contract/funding. HEC funded students also apply for this visa.

Required Documents for the Student:

- National Visa Application form, which you can find [here](#). Fill in and sign the application. ([Microsoft Word - 20240201-Formulario nacional español-inglés \(exteriores.gob.es\)](#))
- 2 recent colour passport size photos with white background (gents with uncovered head). One of them must be glued (not stapled) on the original application form.
- Original and photocopy of **all pages** of passport or official travel document (non-Pakistani applicants have to have a residence permit issued in the current valid passport). All passports should be valid at least for the whole intended stay in Spain (1 year recommended).
- Original and photocopy of Identity card (the original has to be shown when submitting the application so that the TCS official can check the photocopies).
- For applicants 18 and above: Police Character Certificate issued by each country in which you have had your residence during the last 5 years, duly legalised. Only certificates that have been issued within the 6 months previous to the submission of the visa application are admissible. In Pakistan, that document is issued by the National Police Bureau, Islamabad. (Leopards courier provides service of acquiring the character certificate in Pakistan from National Police Bureau).
- Medical **certificate** from an official Pakistani hospital stating you are not suffering any of the diseases that may have serious public health impact according to the provisions set forth by International Health Regulations in 2005.
- Photocopy (full page) of your medical insurance (covering 30.000,00 €) including repatriation from any Schengen State in case of emergency. The medical insurance has to cover all your stay in all Schengen States (for studies 1 year and above, it is sufficient a 1-year medical insurance).

- Documents proving you have been accepted as a student in an Official Centre/University (original letter, in Spanish, addressed to the Embassy of Spain confirming the receipt of the admission fees and enrolment as a full-time student), specifying the amount paid for the Registration Fees and the Total Fees for the complete course.
- Letter from the Official Centre/University stating the language(s) in which the studies will be conducted.
- If the studies are to be followed in English language, documentary evidence of good command of English (IELTS/TOEFL/Cambridge certificates).
- Complete program of your studies: subjects, credits, length (starting and finishing dates), name of the Certificate/Grade you will obtain at the end of your studies.
- Accommodation details (letter from Official Centre/University or contract of private accommodation).
- Accreditation of profession (a presentation letter by the employer specifying the dates of vacation and/or leave).
- Certificates proving Educational level: only Original Degree and Educational Certificates will be accepted and they must be attested by HEC/ IBCC, and have been attested through Apostille at MoFA. If student is going for research investigation studies leading to Doctorate, Master studies or Bachelor studies he/she shall have all Educational Certificates (from Secondary Education Certificate up to Higher Education Certificate) attested.
- Economic means in order to prove that you have the funds/incomes to defray the costs of your stay and return to your country:
 - For beneficiaries of a scholarship: documentary evidence of the amount of the scholarship they have been awarded and details of the covered expenses. Additional documents proving economic means may be requested.
 - For other cases: Original updated bank statement for the last 6 months (including the address and telephone number of the bank) duly signed by the official (statement is subject to verification) or any other document proving sufficient

economic means to cover the complete course as well as the stay in Spain.

1.2.2. Student's Family Visa

Student's Family Member Visa for Spain (more than 180 days).

Required Documents for the student's family:

- Completed application form, duly filled in and signed by the applicant(s). All questions have to be answered; otherwise, the application will not be accepted.
- 2 recent colour passport size photos with white background (gents with uncovered head) glued (not stapled) on the application form.
- Original and photocopy of **all pages** of passport or official travel document (non-Pakistani applicants have to have a residence permit issued in the current valid passport).
- Original and photocopy of the Identity Card (the original only has to be shown when submitting the application so that the TCS official can check the photocopy is a valid copy).
- For applicants 18 and above: Police Character Certificate issued by each country in which you have had your residence during the last 5 years duly legalised. Only certificates that have been issued within the 6 months before the submission of the visa application are admissible. In Pakistan, that document is issued by the National Police Bureau, Islamabad.
- Medical **certificate** from an official hospital stating the applicant is not suffering any of the diseases that may have serious public health impact according to the provisions set forth by International Health Regulations 2005, translated into Spanish.
- Photocopy (full page) of your medical insurance (covering 30.000,00 €) including repatriation from any Schengen State in case of emergency. The medical insurance has to cover all your stay in all Schengen States.
- Letter of acceptance of the student in an Official Centre/University (original letter in Spanish addressed to the Embassy of Spain confirming the receipt of the admission fees and enrolment as a full-

time student), specifying the amount paid for the Registration Fees and the Total Fees for the complete course.

- Accommodation details (letter from Official Centre/University or contract of private accommodation).
- Economic means in order to prove that you have the funds/incomes to defray the costs of your stay and return to your country.
- For applicants 18 and above: Computerized National Identity Card (CNIC) from NADRA duly legalised.
- For applicants under 18: Copy Smart Card or original Computerized B-form for applicants duly legalised.
- Family Registration Certificate from NADRA duly legalised.
- Documents proving familiar link to the student:
 - For the spouse:
 - Marriage Certificate duly legalised.
 - Marriage Registration Certificate from NADRA duly legalised.
 - Birth Certificate duly legalised.
 - For the descendant of the student: Birth Certificate of the child duly legalised by and translated into Spanish.
 - For the descendants of the spouse:
 - Birth Certificate of the child duly legalised.
 - Marriage Certificate duly legalised.
 - Marriage Registration Certificate from NADRA duly legalised.
- **Common to all descendants:**
 - If either of the parents of the minor has expired: Death Certificate issued by the corresponding Authority duly legalised.
 - If the parents of the applicant are divorced:
 - Original Marriage Certificate duly legalised.
 - Original Divorce Certificate issued by the Union Council, duly legalised.
 - Divorce Certificate issued by NADRA, duly legalised.

- Court Degree where the custody of the minor has been decided upon, duly legalised.
- If both/any of the parents are already in Spain: Statement (Acta de Manifestaciones) by parent(s), done before a Spanish Notary Public, expressing the will to accomplish family re-union. This document must be accompanied by attested photocopy of parent's passport.

1.2.3. Researcher / Highly Qualified Professional Visa

For contract-based PhD Researchers and HQPs who already have the relevant Authorisation issued by the *Department of Large Enterprises and Strategic Groups* from the Spanish *Ministry of Labour and Social Security*).

Required Documents for Contract holding Researcher/HQP:

- Completed visa application form duly filled in and signed by the applicant. All questions have to be answered; otherwise, the application will not be accepted.
- 2 recent colour passport-size photos with white background (gents with uncovered head) glued (not stapled) on the visa application form.
- Original and photocopy of **all pages** of passport or official travel document (non-Pakistani applicants have to have a residence permit issued in the current valid passport).

All passports should be valid for at least 1 year.

- For applicants 18 and above: Original Police Character Certificate issued by each country in which you have had your residence during the last 5 years duly legalised. Only certificates that have been issued within the 6 months previous to the submission of the visa application are admissible.

In Pakistan, this certificate is issued by the National Police Bureau, Islamabad.

- Authorisation issued by the Department of Large Enterprises and Strategic Groups (Unidad de Grandes Empresas y Colectivos Estratégicos) from the Spanish Ministry of Labour and Social Security (Ministerio de Empleo y Seguridad Social).

1.2.4. Researcher / HQP Family Reunion Visa

Researcher/HQP's Family Member Visa for Spain.

Required Documents for the family member:

- Completed application form for visa, duly filled in and signed by the applicant. All questions have to be answered; otherwise the application will not be accepted.
- 2 recent colour passport-size photos with white background (gents with uncovered head). One of them has to be glued (not stapled) on the original application form.
- Visa fee, in Pakistani rupees equivalent to 60€.
- Original and attested photocopy of ALL PAGES of passport or official travel document (non-Pakistani applicants have to have a residence permit issued in the current valid passport).
- For applicants 18 and above: Police Character Certificate issued by each country in which you have had your residence during the last 5 years duly legalised. Only certificates that have been issued within the 6 months previous to the submission of the visa application are admissible. In Pakistan, that document is issued by the National Police Bureau, Islamabad.
- Notarised photocopy of valid passport of the re-grouping person (sponsor): personal data and Spanish Entrepreneur visa if applicable.
- Notarised photocopy of Residence Permit of the re-grouping person (sponsor).
- Original and photocopy of Residence Authorisation in Spain for the main applicant/sponsor (when applicable).
- Computerized National Identity Card (CNIC) from NADRA for each applicant 18.
- Computerized B-form for applicants under 18 duly legalised.
- Family Registration Certificate from NADRA duly legalised.
- Documents proving familiar link to a resident in Spain:
 - For spouse:
 - Marriage Certificate (NIKA NAMA) duly legalised.

- Marriage Registration Certificate from NADRA duly legalised.
 - In case of previous Divorce of any party or more than one marriage: Divorce Deed, duly legalised.
 - For descendants of the re-grouping person (sponsor): Birth Certificate of descendant duly legalised.
 - For descendants of the spouse:
 - Birth Certificate of descendant duly legalised.
 - Marriage Certificate, duly legalised.
 - Marriage Registration Certificate from NADRA duly legalised.
 - For dependent descendants who are 18 or above and have not their own family: proof of economic dependency on the re-grouping person (sponsor).
 - For dependent ascendants: proof of economic dependency.
- **Common to all descendants:**
 - If either of the parents of the minor has expired: Death Certificate issued by the corresponding Authority duly legalised.
 - If the parents of the applicant are divorced:
 - Original Marriage Certificate duly legalised.
 - Original Divorce Decree where the custody of the minor has been decided upon, duly legalised.
- If both parents reside in Spain: Notarised Statement (Acta de Manifestaciones) by parent whose name does not appear in the Authorization of residence, done before a Spanish Notary Public, expressing his/her will to accomplish family reunification. This document must be accompanied by an attested photocopy of his/her passport.

1.3. Procedure

- Visa applications must be submitted in person by the applicant. They may also be submitted through a duly accredited representative.
- Visa application period: Visa applications must be submitted sufficiently in advance of the beginning of the pertinent study programmes, as the procedure can prove long.
- Place of submission: BLS International (TCS Visatronix) is assigned by the The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation to process certain type of Visa applications. The application is submitted at a TCS Visatronix. Whether an appointment is required to submit the application or not changes from time to time. It is advised to confirm this with a TCS-Visatronix office.
- Proof of receipt: The Consular Office will provide the applicant with proof of receipt of the application with a code that enables them to monitorise the status of the dossier.
- Rectifying the application: The Consular Office might ask the applicant to submit any missing documents, to provide any missing data or be called in for a personal interview.
- Decision period: Depends on the visas type. The legal period for reaching a decision is 1 month for study and 10 days for researcher/HQP visa as of the day after the submission date of the application, but this period may be extended when an interview or additional documents are requested.
- Collecting the Visa: The visa must be collected in person or by a representative within a maximum period of 2 months.
- Refusal of the visa or study stay permit: The refusals will always be notified in writing.
- Appeals: If refused, the applicant might submit an appeal for the Consular Office to reconsider within 1 month after the date on which the notification is received.
- Validity period of the visa: If the stay does not exceed 6 months, the visa will be valid for the entire stay. If the stay exceeds 6 months, the

student must apply for a Foreigner Identity Card at the Foreign Nationals' Office or the Police Station.

2. Life in Spain

2.1. Cultural Overview

Spain's culture is a vibrant tapestry woven from its rich history, diverse regional identities, and enduring traditions. Known for its lively festivals, Spain celebrates numerous regional and national events with great enthusiasm. Among the country's many artistic expressions, flamenco stands out as a passionate and expressive art form combining singing, guitar playing, dance, and handclaps, originated in the southern region of Andalusia and has become a symbol of Spanish culture worldwide. Similarly, Spain's culinary traditions are one of its main attractions: with tapas, paella, and regional specialties.

Spain's cultural heritage is also evident in its impressive architectural landmarks and art.

The country boasts a wealth of historical monuments and landscapes to marvel at. Spanish art has made significant contributions to global culture, with renowned artists and a rich artistic tradition.

In general, Spanish society is characterized by a strong sense of community and family values, which makes it quite similar to Pakistani culture. Spanish culture is also characterized by its work-life balance, which is reflected in its crowded terraces and lively streets.

2.2. Historical Overview

Spain's history is rich and complex, marked by various periods of conquest, cultural flourishing, and political transformation. The Iberian Peninsula, where modern Spain is located, has been inhabited since prehistoric times. Ancient Iberian and Celtic tribes originally occupied the region, which later saw the establishment of Phoenician and Greek colonies along the Mediterranean coast. The Carthaginians followed, but it was the Romans who left a lasting legacy after their conquest in the 2nd century BCE. Roman Hispania was an integral part of the Roman Empire, contributing to its economy, culture, and military. The fall of

the Roman Empire in the 5th century CE led to the Visigothic Kingdom's rise, which ruled until the early 8th century.

The Muslim conquest of the Iberian Peninsula in 711 CE brought significant cultural and technological advancements during the period known as Al-Andalus, particularly in cities like Córdoba, which became a center of learning and culture. The Reconquista, a series of campaigns by Christian states to reclaim territory, spanned over seven centuries, culminating in 1492 with the fall of Granada, the last Muslim stronghold. This year also marked the beginning of Spain's colonial era, following the voyages of Christopher Columbus, sponsored by King Ferdinand II and Queen Isabella I. Spain emerged as a dominant global power in the 16th and 17th centuries, establishing a vast overseas empire. However, the empire's decline began in the 17th century due to economic difficulties, military defeats, and internal strife, leading to a period of relative stagnation until the modern era.

In the 19th and early 20th centuries, Spain experienced significant political upheaval, including the loss of most of its colonies following the Spanish-American War in 1898. The early 20th century saw further instability, culminating in the Spanish Civil War (1936-1939), which resulted in General Francisco Franco's authoritarian regime. Franco ruled until his death in 1975, after which Spain transitioned to democracy under King Juan Carlos I. The subsequent decades have seen Spain become a modern, democratic nation, a member of the European Union, and a vibrant part of the global community.

Nowadays, Spain is one of Europe's largest economies and one of the fastest-growing ones too. It boasts a diverse economic landscape, with significant contributions from industries such as tourism, automotive, and renewable energy. Despite facing challenges such as high unemployment rates and political tensions within certain regions, Spain continues to make strides in innovation and infrastructure development. The country's rich cultural heritage and strategic geographic location further bolster its economic prospects, making it a pivotal player in both European and global markets.

2.3. Major Cities and Landmarks

Madrid

Madrid, the capital and largest city of Spain, is the political, economic, and cultural hub of the country. It offers a great variety of options in terms of entertainment and experiences, housing some of the most important museums of the country. One of its main points of interest is El Prado Museum, which features a collection of works by Spain's most important painters, like Velázquez or Goya. The Museums Reina Sofía and Thyssen-Bornemisza also feature a vast collection of world-renowned sculptures, paintings and portraits. Arguably Madrid's trademark, the Retiro Park is one of the largest urban parks in the world with over 350 acres.

Barcelona

Barcelona, the capital of Catalonia, is renowned for its unique blend of Gothic and modernist architecture, most notably the works of Antoni Gaudí. Among them you can find the Sagrada Família, an iconic basilica, still under construction since 1882. Its unique blend of Gothic and Art Nouveau styles, along with its towering spires and elaborate façades, make it one of the most visited landmarks in Spain. Another mandatory stop designed by Antoni Gaudí, Park Güell is a whimsical public park featuring colorful mosaics, organic shapes, and panoramic views of Barcelona. It exemplifies Gaudí's distinctive style and creative vision. The city is also famous for its beaches, cultural festivals, and bustling La Rambla street.

Barcelona hosts one of the largest Pakistani communities in Spain, with over 19,000 registered residents. Many Pakistanis began settling in Barcelona in the 1970s, and their presence is especially visible in the Raval neighborhood. They have established businesses, mosques, and cultural centers throughout the city, enriching Barcelona's social fabric. The community plays an important role in Barcelona's economy and culture. They have helped to diversify the city's food scene and bring new traditions and customs to Barcelona.

Valencia

Valencia, located on the eastern coast, is known for its futuristic City of Arts, a futuristic architectural complex designed by Santiago Calatrava and Félix

Candela. It includes an opera house, a planetarium, an interactive museum, an oceanographic park, and beautiful landscaped gardens. The city is also famous for its historic Silk Exchange (a UNESCO World Heritage site), and the lively Las Fallas festival. The city is also the birthplace of paella, Spain's iconic rice dish.

Valencia has the second largest community of Pakistani descent, with estimates around 5,580 people. The community is a vibrant and integral part of the city's multicultural fabric. Comprising both long-term residents and recent immigrants, they contribute significantly to the local economy, particularly in sectors such as hospitality, retail, and services. The community maintains strong cultural ties through social organizations, mosques, and community centers, which serve as hubs for cultural and religious activities. Festivals like Eid and Pakistan Independence Day are celebrated with enthusiasm, reflecting their rich cultural heritage while fostering a sense of belonging and unity within the diverse landscape of Valencia.

La Rioja

La Rioja, nestled in northern Spain, is renowned for its exquisite wines. Vineyards carpet the Ebro Valley, stretching beneath the Cantabrian Mountains. Haro, a charming town, is a centre of wine culture. La Rioja is home to over 500 wineries; many offer tours and tastings, so you can learn about the winemaking process and sample some of the region's best wines. Wineries range from small, traditional ones to large commercial producers. You can also visit Sierra de Cebollera Nature Reserve to marvel at the landscapes, animals and nature.

La Rioja is home to a considerable group of Pakistanis, most of whom reside in the capital city of Logroño. They arrived in La Rioja in the early 70s, seeking work in the agricultural field. The community is well-integrated and liked into the city and have made significant contributions to the local economy and culture. In exchange, La rioja created several organizations that provide support and services, such as Asociación Cultural Pakistaní de La Rioja.

San Sebastián

San Sebastián, known locally as Donostia, is a picturesque coastal city in the Basque Country of northern Spain. Famous for its stunning beaches, such as La Concha and Zurriola, and its vibrant culinary scene, the city attracts food

enthusiasts from around the world to its Michelin-starred restaurants and pintxo bars. San Sebastián's charming old town, is filled with narrow streets, historic buildings, and lively bars, while the annual San Sebastián International Film Festival adds a touch of glamour. Nestled between lush green hills and the Bay of Biscay, this city offers a unique blend of natural beauty, rich culture, and gastronomic excellence.

The Pakistani community in San Sebastián, though relatively small, plays a vital role in the city's diverse cultural tapestry. Many members of this community are involved in the retail and hospitality sectors, contributing to the local economy with their entrepreneurial spirit. They maintain their cultural and religious traditions through regular gatherings and events, often centered around local mosques and community centers. Celebrations of cultural festivities such as Eid and Pakistan Independence Day are also celebrated in San Sebastián, fostering a sense of unity and cultural pride.

Seville

Seville, the capital of Andalusia, is famous for its historic center, featuring the Seville Cathedral, the Alcázar palace, and the Plaza de España. The Alcázar of Seville is a royal palace originally developed by Moorish Muslim kings. Its intricate Mudéjar architecture, lush gardens, and historical significance make it a must-see landmark. It is also a UNESCO World Heritage site. The city is also renowned for its flamenco music and dance, as well as the annual Feria de Abril.

Bilbao

Bilbao, in the Basque Country, is a major cultural and economic centre known for the iconic Guggenheim Museum, which has revitalized the city's image. The museum is an iconic example of contemporary architecture, designed by Frank Gehry. Its undulating titanium-clad structure houses an impressive collection of modern and contemporary art. The city blends modern architecture with traditional Basque culture, making it a unique destination.

Granada

Granada is celebrated for the Alhambra, a stunning Moorish palace and fortress complex in Granada, built during the Nasrid Dynasty in the 13th and 14th

centuries. It is renowned for its intricate Islamic architecture, beautiful gardens, and panoramic views of the city and the Sierra Nevada mountains. Nestled at the foot of the Sierra Nevada mountains, the city also boasts a rich cultural scene and historic neighborhoods like the Albaicín, a maze of whitewashed houses and narrow streets influenced by their Moorish past. Explore architectural gems like the San Nicolás Church, savour tapas in cozy bars, and be awestruck by panoramic views of the Alhambra bathed in the golden light of sunset.

Asturias

Asturias, a captivating region in northwest Spain, stuns visitors with its dramatic coastline along the Cantabrian Sea and verdant mountains. Oviedo, the capital, boasts rich history and architectural gems. Foodies will love the region's fresh seafood and hearty stews, while outdoor enthusiasts can hike the Picos de Europa mountains or kayak down the Sella River. One of the most famous spots is Los Lagos de Covadonga, two glacial lakes, Enol and Ercina, situated in the Picos de Europa National Park. This natural landmark is renowned for its stunning scenery, serene waters, and as a key pilgrimage site near the Covadonga Sanctuary. Asturias offers a delightful blend of natural beauty, cultural treasures, and delicious cuisine.

Canary Islands and Balearic Islands

The Canary Islands, volcanic wonders off the coast of Africa, offer a dramatic landscape. Hike Mount Teide, a towering volcano on Tenerife, or relax on black sand beaches in Lanzarote, a volcanic Canary Island, is known for its dramatic lava landscapes and unique Martian scenery. The islands boast year-round sunshine and refreshing ocean breezes, 6 perfect for outdoor adventures or indulging in water sports. Nature lovers will find diverse ecosystems, from lush laurel forests to Martian-like volcanic terrains.

The Balearic Islands, nestled in the Mediterranean Sea near mainland Spain, are known for their idyllic beaches and vibrant culture. Ibiza offers a world-famous nightlife scene, while Mallorca boasts charming towns, historical sites, and long stretches of pristine coastline. Menorca provides a quieter escape with hidden coves and traditional villages. All the islands share a delicious cuisine featuring

fresh seafood and local produce, making them a haven for relaxation and indulgence.

2.4. Spanish Festivities

- **Semana Santa (Holy Week):** A solemn and moving celebration leading up to Easter, particularly impressive in Seville with elaborate processions.
- **Las Fallas (Valencia):** A spectacular festival in March with giant satirical papier mâché figures called "ninots" that are ultimately burned in a massive bonfire.
- **Feria de Abril (Seville):** A lively flamenco and traditional dress festival held two weeks after Easter, known for its vibrant atmosphere and elaborate horse-drawn carriages.
- **San Fermín (Pamplona):** The world-famous Running of the Bulls takes place each July, where participants attempt to outrun a herd of bulls through the streets of Pamplona.
- **La Tomatina (Buñol):** A messy but fun food fight held in August, where participants throw tomatoes at each other in a giant tomato battle.
- **Fiesta del Pilar (Zaragoza):** A large festival in October honoring the Virgin of the Pillar, Zaragoza's patron saint, featuring parades, music, and cultural events.
- **Carnaval:** Celebrated in various locations across Spain, most notably Tenerife and Sitges, with vibrant parades, costumes, and music.
- **San Juan (Night of San Juan):** Celebrated on June 23rd, this magical festival marks the summer solstice with bonfires, fireworks, and traditional rituals.

2.5. The Weather in Spain

Spain's diverse geography contributes to its varied climate, which ranges from the sun-drenched coasts of the Mediterranean to the cooler, rainier regions of the north. The Mediterranean climate dominates much of the country, especially along the southeastern coast, including cities like Barcelona and Valencia. This region enjoys hot, dry summers and mild, wet winters, making it a popular destination for tourists and those seeking a warm climate. The southern region of

Andalusia, including cities like Seville and Málaga, experiences some of the hottest temperatures in Europe during the summer months.

In contrast, the northern regions, such as Galicia, Asturias, and the Basque Country, experience an oceanic climate, characterized by mild temperatures and higher rainfall throughout the year. These areas are known for their lush green landscapes, which starkly contrast with the arid plains of central Spain. The interior of Spain, including Madrid, has a continental climate with hot summers and cold winters. This region can experience significant temperature fluctuations between seasons, and even between day and night.

For accurate and up-to-date weather information, you can check the Spanish State Meteorological Agency (AEMET) website, which provides detailed forecasts and warnings. Additionally, popular weather websites and apps like AccuWeather, Weather.com, and the Weather Channel offer reliable forecasts for cities and regions across Spain. These resources are invaluable for planning travel, outdoor activities, or simply staying informed about the weather conditions in different parts of the country.

2.6. Spanish Customs

2.6.1. Greetings and Interactions

- **Double Cheek Kissing:** A common greeting among friends, acquaintances, and even sometimes on first meeting. It's usually a light touch on each cheek. It is a common greeting between two women or a woman and a man.
- **Handshakes:** Also appropriate, especially in more formal settings or when meeting someone for the first time.
- **Personal Space:** Spaniards tend to stand a bit closer than people in some Northern European countries during conversations. Don't be offended if someone seems to be standing close.
- **Formalities:** Using titles like "Señor" (Mr.) or "Señora" (Ms.) with someone's last name is respectful, especially when addressing elders or someone you don't know well. Mealtimes:
 - **Late Lunch and Dinner:** Lunch is typically the larger meal of the day, eaten between 2pm and 4pm - because of this many

shops and businesses still close during the afternoon (usually 2pm-5pm) for a lunch break. Plan your errands and sightseeing accordingly. Dinner is usually eaten much later than in many other cultures as well - often around 9pm or even later.

2.6.2. Table Manners

- Eating with Utensils: The norm, but it's also acceptable to use your hands for tapas or certain foods like bread.
- Sharing Plates: Tapas and other appetizers are often meant to be shared among the group.
- Speaking at the Table: It's considered rude to talk on the phone or leave the table frequently while dining with others.
- Tipping: Not mandatory, but a small tip to show appreciation is customary, especially at restaurants with table service. 15 Other Considerations:
- Flamenco Etiquette: If attending a flamenco show, be respectful of the performers and avoid loud talking or disruptive behavior.
- Noise Levels: Keep noise levels down during night time and be mindful of noise in general, especially in residential areas.
- Dressing for the Occasion: Spaniards tend to dress more smartly than in some other countries. While casual attire is fine for most tourist activities, you might want to pack something nicer for evenings out or special occasions.
- Learn some basic Spanish phrases: While English is spoken in some tourist areas, making an effort to speak some Spanish will go a long way with locals. We will teach you some useful phrases and expressions in the next point of this guide.

2.6.3. Other Considerations

- Flamenco Etiquette: If attending a flamenco show, be respectful of the performers and avoid loud talking or disruptive behaviour.
- Noise Levels: Keep noise levels down during night time and be mindful of noise in general, especially in residential areas.

- Dressing for the Occasion: Spaniards tend to dress more smartly than in some other countries. While casual attire is fine for most tourist activities, you might want to pack something nicer for evenings out or special occasions.
- Learn some basic Spanish phrases: While English is spoken in some tourist areas, making an effort to speak some Spanish will go a long way with locals. We will teach you some useful phrases and expressions in the next point of this guide.

2.7. Get Registered with the Embassy of Pakistan

On arrival to Spain, get registered with Pakistan Embassy at <https://embassyofpakistan.com/pages/register>.

2.8. Apply for a Foreign Identity Card

Requirements and procedure to get the Foreign Identity Card (TIE) in Spain are as follows:

- This card will only be issued to foreigners in a legal situation in Spain.
- If you wish to stay more than six months in Spain, you may request this card.
- Those who have received an authorization to stay more than six months in Spain must request the Foreign Identity Card within a month since the authorization becomes effective.
- For its issuance, the prior governmental resolution granting the corresponding administrative authorization or the recognition of the right to remain in Spanish territory, as well as the payment of the established taxes will be a must.
- You must always carry this document with you.
- In case of loss, destruction or disablement a new document must be requested immediately.
- Holders of this document are obliged to inform the Police Station of any changes in their habitual residence, family circumstances or any other data that might affect the information consigned in the card.

- The issuing must be done personally in the Documentation Office at the National Police Station or the Foreign Office that is closer. To apply, the issuer needs:
- To present the original and a copy of the official form (EX-17), filled and signed.
 - Passport.
 - A recent passport-size photograph.
 - Visa.
 - Proof of payment of the corresponding fees.
 - Empadronamiento (Town hall registration).

2.9. Healthcare and Health Insurance

For a researcher coming to Spain on a student visa, the process to obtain access to Spanish healthcare and the "Tarjeta Sanitaria" (healthcare card) involves the following steps:

- Register in the **Municipal Census** (Empadronamiento): Go to your local town hall (Ayuntamiento) to register. You will need proof of residence, such as a rental contract or utility bill.
- **Social Security Number**: Apply for a Social Security Number (Número de Seguridad Social) if you don't already have one. This can be done at a Social Security Office (Tesorería General de la Seguridad Social).
- **Health Center**: With your Empadronamiento certificate and Social Security Number, visit your assigned health center (Centro de Salud) to apply for the healthcare card.
- Required Documents:
 - Passport or NIE (Foreigner Identification Number)
 - Empadronamiento certificate
 - Social Security Number document
 - Student visa or residence permit

For detailed information, you can refer to the [Comunidad de Madrid healthcare card page](#).

2.10. Renting Accommodation in Spain

2.10.1. Main Platforms for Housing:

- Idealista ([idealista.com](https://www.idealista.com))
- Fotocasa ([fotocasa.es](https://www.fotocasa.es))
- Habitaclia ([habitaclia.com](https://www.habitaclia.com))
- Yaencontre ([yaencontre.com](https://www.yaencontre.com))
- Spotahome ([spotahome.com](https://www.spotahome.com))
- Badi ([badi.com](https://www.badi.com)) for room rentals

2.10.2. Price Ranges

- Major Cities (Madrid, Barcelona):
 - One-bedroom apartment: €800-€1,500 per month
 - Shared rooms: €400-€700 per month
- Smaller Cities:
 - One-bedroom apartment: €400-€800 per month
 - Shared rooms: €250-€450 per month

2.10.3. Necessary Information

- Documents: Passport/NIE, proof of income, employment/student status.
- Deposit: Typically, one to two months' rent.
- Lease Length: Standard leases are 12 months or more, but shorter terms are possible.
- Guarantor: Especially in the case of students, housing agencies often ask for one of the parents/tutors to be the guarantor to ensure payment.
- Agency fees: As of now, the agencies are not legally allowed to ask for a commission
- Empadronamiento: Make sure to discuss with the landlord that the empadronamiento can be applied based on the accommodation.

Ensure to verify the terms and conditions of each listing carefully. If you are in contact with a private landlord, it is recommended to avoid paying anything without visiting the place first.

However, foreign students in Spain often find it easier to rent rooms in student **residencies** rather than apartments for several reasons:

- **Simplified Administrative Process:** Renting an apartment in Spain can involve a lot of paperwork, including a local bank account, proof of income, employment contracts, and sometimes a guarantor. For foreign students who may not have all these documents immediately upon arrival, it can be a barrier. Residencies typically have streamlined processes and often require only basic documentation like proof of enrolment in a university and an ID/passport, making it easier for international students.
- **Flexible Contracts:** Residencies often offer more flexible rental contracts, allowing students to rent for shorter periods (such as by semester or academic year), while apartments typically require longer-term leases (usually a minimum of one year). This flexibility is crucial for foreign students who may not know how long they'll stay or may only be in Spain for a semester or two.
- **All-Inclusive Costs:** Residencies usually include utilities like water, electricity, and internet in the rent, meaning students don't need to deal with setting up and managing utility accounts in a foreign language. In contrast, renting an apartment may involve paying separate bills and organizing utilities, which can be complex and stressful for someone new to the country.
- **Convenience and Services:** Student residencies are often located close to universities, and they typically offer furnished rooms with services like cleaning, laundry, and 24/7 security. Apartments, on the other hand, may not be furnished, requiring students to buy furniture or deal with repairs and maintenance on their own.
- **Community and Social Environment:** Living in a student residence provides an opportunity to be part of a community of students, including both locals and other internationals. This can make the experience more enjoyable and help foreign students integrate more easily. In contrast, living in a private apartment might be more isolating, especially for someone new to the country and culture.

Websites for Student Residencies in Spain:

- **Livensa Living:** A popular student residence provider with locations in major cities like Madrid, Barcelona, and Valencia, offering fully equipped student apartments and communal areas.
- **Resa:** One of the largest student residence networks in Spain, offering accommodation in cities across the country. Resa offers flexible rental terms and includes utilities and services in the rent.
- **Nexo Residencias:** Nexo offers modern and comfortable student accommodations in several Spanish cities, with services like 24-hour reception, cleaning, and shared common spaces.
- **The Student Housing Company:** Provides high-quality student accommodations in cities such as Madrid and Barcelona. They focus on creating a vibrant student community with various services and modern living spaces.
- **Uniplaces:** Although this platform also lists apartments, it has a wide range of student residences in Spain with flexible rental options, aimed specifically at students looking for short or long-term stays.

2.11. Empadronamiento

Registering as a resident in a local municipality to access public services and benefits.

Steps:

- Visit the local town hall (ayuntamiento).
- Submit the required documents.
- Complete the empadronamiento form.

Required Documents:

- Passport.
- Proof of address (e.g., rental contract, utility bill).
- Completed empadronamiento form.

- Additional documents (varies by municipality, check with local town hall).

2.12. Transport

Here's a breakdown of these along with the most common companies and websites:

- **Trains:** Renfe is the national railway operator. They operate a network of commuter, regional, and long-distance trains. The high-speed AVE trains connect major cities efficiently. You can access information and booking through [Renfe's website](#).
- **Buses:** Public bus transportation in Spain is organized on a local level. Each municipality or urban area has its public transport authority that manages bus routes within its jurisdiction.

Major long-distance bus companies include:

- Alsa: a leading bus company in Spain with an extensive network. You can find schedules and fares on their [website](#).
 - Avanza: another major bus company serving destinations across Spain. You can check their [website](#) for routes and ticketing.
- **Metros:** Major cities like Madrid, Barcelona, Valencia, Bilbao, Seville, and Malaga have extensive metro networks. Each metro system has its own website with information on fares, routes, and schedules.
- Transport pass in Madrid: There are two main ways to get a transport pass in Madrid:
- Applying for a personalized Tarjeta Transporte Público (TTP): This reusable card allows you to board different types of public transport, includes monthly passes and covers all the areas. Here's how to get it:
 - Online: This method takes 5-7 days for the card to arrive by mail. You'll need to schedule an appointment through the official [website](#) and provide the required documents during the online application.
 - Oficinas de Gestión (Offices): Visit one of the dedicated Tarjeta Transporte Público offices. Make an appointment

beforehand. Bring a photocopy of your passport or NIE (Foreigner Identification Number), the original document, and €4 for the card fee. They will take your photo at the office.

- Purchasing a Multi Card: This is a quicker option but is not personalized, it only covers certain areas and cannot be reloaded with monthly passes. Here's where to get it:
 - The metro/train stops and stations. Load it with a 10-trip ticket.
 - Estancos (Tobacco shops): Look for shops with a sign indicating they sell the Multi Card. You can buy the card itself (around €2.50, non-refundable) and then load it with a 10-trip ticket or specific zone bono valid for a certain number of trips within a designated area.

3. Learn Spanish

3.1. Language Schools

- **Instituto Cervantes:** The Instituto Cervantes is a globally recognized institution dedicated to promoting Spanish language and culture. They have branches in various cities across Spain. Website: cervantes.es
- **Don Quijote:** Don Quijote offers a variety of Spanish language courses for different levels and interests, with schools in major cities like Madrid, Barcelona, and Valencia. Website: donquijote.org
- **Enforex:** Enforex has multiple locations throughout Spain and offers intensive Spanish courses, cultural activities, and excursions. Website: enforex.com
- **Cactus Language:** Cactus Language offers Spanish courses in several Spanish cities, catering to beginners and advanced learners. Website: cactuslanguage.com
- **Tandem Madrid:** Located in Madrid, Tandem offers intensive Spanish courses, as well as specialized courses for business, DELE preparation, and more. Website: tandem-madrid.com

3.2. Cultural Institutions

- **International House:** With schools in cities like Madrid, Barcelona, and Valencia, International House offers high-quality Spanish language courses and teacher training programs. Website: ihes.com
- **Escuela Montalbán (Granada):** A well-known language school in Granada that offers Spanish courses combined with cultural activities and excursions. Website: escuela-montalban.com
- **Local Municipal Centers:** Many city halls offer free or subsidized Spanish courses for immigrants. Check the website or visit the local municipal center (centro municipal) for information.
- **Community Centers (Centros Cívicos):** These centers often provide language courses and other educational programs. They can be found in various neighborhoods and are typically run by the local government.
- **Public libraries** frequently host language learning programs and conversation groups. They may also have resources like textbooks and multimedia materials for self-study.

3.3. NGOs and Non-Profit Organizations

- **Red Cross (Cruz Roja):** The Red Cross in Spain offers integration programs, including Spanish language courses, for immigrants and refugees. Website: cruzroja.es
- **CEAR (Comisión Española de Ayuda al Refugiado):** CEAR provides support and services for refugees, including Spanish language classes. Website: cear.es
- **Caritas:** This Catholic charity organization offers various social services, including Spanish courses for immigrants. Website: caritas.es

3.4. Adult Education Centers

- **Centros de Educación de Personas Adultas (CEPA):** These centers provide adult education, including Spanish language courses. They are often free or low-cost and available in many cities and towns. Look for local listings or inquire at your city hall for locations and enrolment information.
- Universities and Public Institutions.
- **Escuelas Oficiales de Idiomas (EOI):** The Official Schools of Languages offer Spanish courses at various levels. While not always free, they are often very affordable. Website: sede.educacion.gob.es

3.5. Online Resources

- **Instituto Cervantes Online:** Although the Instituto Cervantes usually charges for courses, they occasionally offer free online resources and courses.
Website: cervantes.es
- **Duolingo:** A free language learning app that can supplement your studies with interactive lessons and practice. Website: duolingo.com
- **Spanish in Spain:** A platform that connects learners with various language schools and courses across Spain. Website: spanishinspain.info

3.6. Useful Phrases in Spanish

Greetings:

English	Spanish
Hello	Hola
Good morning	Buenos días
Good afternoon	Buenas tardes

Good evening/night	Buenas noches
Hello! How are you?	¡Hola! ¿Cómo estás?
Nice to meet you!	¡Encantado/a!

Basic Responses:

English	Spanish
I'm fine, thank you	Estoy bien, gracias
Bien, ¿y tú?	Good, and you?
Likewise (in response to "gracias")	Igualmente
You're welcome (in response to "gracias")	De nada

Please and Thank You:

English	Spanish
Please	Por favor
Thank you	Gracias
You're welcome	De nada

I'm sorry	Lo siento / Perdón
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Excuse Me:

English	Spanish
Excuse me	Perdone/Disculpe
Excuseme! (to get someone's attention)	¡Oye! / ¡Oiga!

Useful Questions:

English	Spanish
What's your name?	¿Cómo te llamas?
How much does this cost?	¿Cuánto cuesta esto?
Where is the bathroom?	¿Dónde está el baño?
Can you help me?	¿Me puedes ayudar?
Do you speak English?	¿Hablas inglés?
Do you speak Spanish?	¿Hablas español?

Phrases to Get By:

English	Spanish
---------	---------

Yes	Sí
No	No
Okay	Vale
I don't understand	No entiendo
Can you repeat that, please?	¿Puedes repetir eso, por favor?
Can you speak slower, please?	¿Puedes hablar más despacio, por favor?

Numbers:

English	Spanish
One	Uno
Two	Dos
Three	Tres
Four	Cuatro
Five	Cinco
Six	Seis
Seven	Siete
Eight	Ocho
Nine	Nueve
Ten	Diez

Giving directions:

English	Spanish
It's on the right	Está a la derecha
It's on the left	Está a la izquierda
Go straight	Sigue recto
Turn at the next corner	Dobla en la próxima esquina

Shopping:

English	Spanish
I'll take it	Me lo llevo
¿Cuánto vale?	How much is it?
Size	Talla
I'm just looking	Solo estoy mirando

At a restaurant:

English	Spanish
I would like a table for two	Una mesa para dos, por favor
The check, please	La cuenta, por favor
Is there a daily menu?	¿Hay menú del día?

Small talk:

English	Spanish
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How was your weekend?	¿Qué tal el fin de semana?
The weather is nice	Hace buen tiempo
Where are you from?	¿De dónde eres?

Useful verbs:

English	Spanish
To look for	Buscar
To ask for	Pedir
To need	Necesitar
To be able to	Poder

This next set of expressions are more advanced. They are all usually used in an informal context, with friends and acquaintances. These phrases are a good place to start if you want to learn some Spanish slang.

- **¡Qué guay!:** This means "Cool!" or "How awesome!" It's a very informal expression used by young people.
- **¡Olé!:** This is an exclamation of approval, celebration, or encouragement. You might hear it at a bullfight, flamenco performance, or any moment of excitement.
- **¡Madre mía!:** Literally meaning "Mother of mine!" This is a common expression of surprise, frustration, or exasperation.
- **Comerse la cabeza/Rayarse:** This literally translates to "to eat your head" and means "to worry excessively" or "to overthink something."
- **Tomar el pelo:** This literally means "to grab the hair" but figuratively means "to tease" or "to pull someone's leg."
- **¡Buen provecho!:** Used before or during a meal, this translates to "Enjoy your meal!"
- **Me da igual:** This means "It's all the same to me" or "I don't care."

- **¡Vamos!:** This can mean "Let's go!" or "Come on!" It's a motivational expression to get things going.
- **Con mucho gusto:** This translates to "With much pleasure" and is a more formal way to say "You're welcome" or to express your willingness to help.

4. Work in Spain

4.1. Online Job Portals

- **InfoJobs** (infojobs.net): One of the most popular job portals in Spain, offering a wide range of internship opportunities.
- **LinkedIn** (linkedin.com): Utilize LinkedIn's job search feature to find jobs and internships and connect with recruiters.
- **Indeed Spain** (indeed.es): A comprehensive job search engine that includes internship listings.
- **Glassdoor** (glassdoor.es): Provides internship listings along with company reviews and salary information.
- **StudentJob Spain** (studentjob.es): Focuses on internships and part-time jobs for students and young professionals.
- **Company Websites:** Many companies list internship opportunities on their career pages. Check the websites of companies you are interested in and look for a "Careers" or "Join Us" section.
- **University Career Services:** If you are a student or recent graduate, your university's career services office can be a valuable resource for finding internships. They often have partnerships with companies and exclusive listings.
- **Professional Associations and Chambers of Commerce:** Professional associations related to your field of interest and Chambers of Commerce (e.g., Cámara de Comercio de España) may offer internship programs or job boards.
- **Recruitment Agencies:** Agencies like **Adecco** (adecco.es), **Randstad** (randstad.es), and **Manpower** (manpower.es) can help match you with internship opportunities.

- **Government and Public Sector:** Websites like SEPE (Servicio Público de Empleo Estatal) (sepe.es) list public sector internships and employment opportunities.

4.2. Apply for Jobs / Internships

- Prepare Your Application Materials
 - **CV (Curriculum Vitae):** Tailor your CV to highlight relevant skills, education, and experience. Ensure it is formatted according to Spanish standards.
 - **Cover Letter:** Write a personalized cover letter for each application, explaining why you are interested in the internship and how your skills and experiences make you a good fit.
 - **Certificates and Transcripts:** Include any relevant academic or professional certificates.
- Application Process
 - **Online Applications:** Apply through company websites, job portals, or university career services platforms.
 - **Email Applications:** If applying via email, make sure to follow the instructions in the internship listing. Attach your CV and cover letter, and include a concise message in the email body.
 - **Follow-Up:** If you haven't heard back within a couple of weeks, consider following up with a polite email to inquire about the status of your application.
 - **Prepare for Interviews**
 - **Research the Company:** Understand the company's mission, values, and recent news.
 - **Practice Common Interview Questions:** Prepare answers for typical internship interview questions. **Know Your Application:** Be ready to discuss anything you included in your CV or cover letter.

5. Immigration / Foreign Offices in Spain

For any matters relating to Pakistani documents or visas, it is advisable to contact the Embassy of Pakistan's Consular Section in Madrid, or the Consulate of Pakistan in Barcelona, or attend their offices in person.

For any matters related to the "empadronamiento" or "padrón", you may look for your closest "Registro Civil" office. Typically, there is one per district. Here you may request your "padrón", register a newborn, etc.

There are several Pakistani organizations who provide help to Pakistanis:

- **Asociación de Pakistan en España (APE):** APE works towards the betterment of the Pakistani community in Spain through various social, cultural, and educational initiatives.
- **Pakistan Association Barcelona (PAB):** PAB is one of the prominent associations in Barcelona, offering a range of services including community support, cultural events, and assistance with legal matters.
- **Asociación Cultural Pakistaní de España:** Focuses on promoting Pakistani culture and heritage in Spain through various cultural and social events.
- **Asociación de Mujeres Pakistaníes en España:** This association specifically supports Pakistani women in Spain, providing resources for education, employment, and social integration.
- **Casa Asia:** While not exclusively Pakistani, Casa Asia in Barcelona supports Asian communities, including Pakistanis, by organizing cultural events, language courses, and providing integration support.
- **Pakistani Welfare Association:** This organization provides welfare services to the Pakistani community, including legal aid, social services, and educational support.

- **Pakistan Muslim Community Spain:** Focuses on the religious and cultural needs of Pakistani Muslims in Spain, organizing religious events, cultural festivals, and community support programs.

6. Additional Tips

- A lot of dishes in Spanish gastronomy contain pork, which might be a problem for Muslim people seeking to fully enjoy Spanish cuisine. However, there are still many delicious options available, such as seafood dishes, vegetable paellas, and legume stews. Halal food shops and restaurants are available near the mosques as well as in areas where there is large Muslim community.
- There are two main mosques in Madrid capital. One managed by the Saudis and the other by Pakistanis.
- Mosques: There are several mosques in Madrid. Two most frequented ones are Madrid Central Mosque, Tetuán and Mezquita de Lavapiés, Lavapiés. Other major cities like Barcelona have several mosques. Mostly, smaller cities also have at least one mosque.
- In Barcelona, owing to a large resident Pakistani population, availability of mosques and Halal food shops is easier compared to Madrid.
- Although the primary religion in Spain is Catholicism, the country has become increasingly polytheistic in recent decades. Spain's constitution guarantees freedom of religion, allowing for a diverse religious landscape. The same respect is expected in return.
- Respect and cordiality are qualities Spaniards value when engaging in small talk or dealing with customer service agents. Employees like cleaners, waiters, etc., are equally respectable. Being rude to any worker can get you kicked out of any business.
- People in Spain are generally very warm, friendly and welcoming. In addition, they are sensitive about gender equality and women in general. Women's personal space and boundaries are taken seriously, and touching can be considered sexual assault.

7. Other Useful Sources of Information

It is highly recommended to explore the Facebook group and youtube channels to look for the desired information.

7.1. Pakistani Students Facebook Group

Pakistani students in Spain have established a very successful **Facebook group**, "**Pakistani Students in Spain**" (<https://www.facebook.com/share/g/SZXezCZH2kxDeZki/>). This group can be used to discuss visa-related questions and other topics before coming to Spain.

7.2. Youtube Channels

- Sayyar Ahmed (<https://www.youtube.com/@SayyarAhmad/featured>). It offers guidelines for visa application and general information. Explore the playlists to find the relevant video.
- Mahi Vlogs (<https://www.youtube.com/@Mahivlogs1/featured>). Channel dedicated to visa and life in Spain for students.

7.3. Whatsapp Groups

Once the visa is granted, there are city-specific WhatsApp groups for discussing issues related to life in Spain. The Facebook group admins can help you join the appropriate WhatsApp group as needed.

8. Frequently Asked Questions

1. Can I get my documents translated in Spanish through a translator in Pakistan?

Please know that currently there are no authorized Spanish translators in Pakistan.

2. I am a student coming to Spain, which visa should I apply for?

You should apply for National Visa. The checklist and requirements are available in the Study Visa section above.

3. Can my family join me if I am on study visa for studies (more than 180 days)?

Yes. To process the visa for family, please refer to the section Student Family Visa above.

4. Are there halal food options available in Spain?

Bigger cities like Madrid and Barcelona have several halal meat shops and restaurants. Smaller cities mostly have atleast one halal meat shop.

5. How can I connect to other Pakistani students in Spain?

There are several Pakistani student groups managed by students. The easiest way to reach out to them is through facebook pages for Pakistani students.

6. Do I need to learn Spanish to get admission in Spain?

It depends upon the university and its admission requirements. Generally, it is helpful to know Spanish as it makes getting around easier. In cities like Madrid and Barcelona it is possible to use English but in smaller cities you may not find many English speakers.
