

# SPAIN

*Population:* 46,5 million

Contrary to other European countries, there has been a population decrease since 3 years which will carry on in the next coming years due to a low birth rate and the emigration of Spanish graduates. Life expectancy is 81,7 and the average age of the Spanish population is 42,3.

25% of the population is under 25 years old and 17,98% is above 65.

The majority of the population is located on the coast and in the Madrid region. The urbanization rate is 79,6%.

Whereas Spain was an immigration land at the beginning of the century, the economic crisis put an end to it and now foreign people only represent 9,5% of the total population.

*Climate:* The most important part of the territory benefits from a Mediterranean climate, thus facing average temperatures and light rainfalls. However, the North and North-East of the country have lower temperatures and more rainfalls. Inland, winters are cold because of its high altitude.

*Spoken languages and religion:* Only the Castilian Spanish is the official language of the country, but other languages coexist with different status due to the strong predominance of regional languages. Thus, if 74% of the population speaks Castilian, 17% speaks Catalan, 7% Basque and 2% Aranese.

The Spanish Constitution protects the freedom of religion, but the most important part of the population is Catholic (67%). Catholicism influenced all the culture and the tradition of the country. Other religions are present, such as Muslim or Jewish.

*Non-working days and holidays:* There are 10 public holidays in Spain, especially October 12<sup>th</sup> which is the National Day. However, every autonomous community has its own public holidays as "San Isidro" in May, celebrated only in the community of Madrid.

Generally, the working time is 40 hours a week, however, collective conventions can provide more favorable conditions to employees such as summer hours.

*Health care sector:* Since 1986, Spain has a national healthcare system, thus with the *Instituto Nacional de la Salud*, every Spanish resident, regardless of his/her income, can benefit from a healthcare coverage. With 787 hospitals, Spain has 3,82 physicians per 1 000 inhabitants.

Private health insurances play an important role in Spain since they enable access to private health care centers for a monthly fee which represents an alternative to the public system.

## Doctors:

### • National Doctors :

The first step to become a doctor in Spain is to obtain a “**licenciatura en Medicina**”, which is a 6 year bachelor degree program. Then, the student must complete a “**Médico Interno Residente**” or a Medical Residency to choose a specialization. At the end of the specialization, there is one last exam.

At the end of these years of study, the last step is the **inscription to the medical board**. The doctor must enroll in the [Medical board](#) of the region where he/she will practice.

### • Foreign Doctors :

To practice in Spain, foreign doctors must obtain an **approval** of their diploma. There are 2 different procedures to obtain the approval of a foreign diploma (all details can be found by clicking [here](#)):

- The “**Reconocimiento**” for the EU/EEE or Switzerland graduates : to obtain a “reconocimiento” of the diplomas a foreign doctor must contact the Ministry of Education. All the procedure is available online, on the website of the [Subdirección General de Títulos y Reconocimiento de Cualificaciones](#). The doctor must fill in a request and provide identity documents, copy of the diplomas and of the academic program attendance of Spanish level and pay the fees.<sup>1</sup>
- The “**Homologacion**” for non-EU medical or dental graduates : to obtain a “homologacion” of the diplomas a foreign doctor must contact the Ministry of Education. The doctor must complete a request and provide identity documents, copy of the diplomas and of the academic program attestation of Spanish level and pay fees.<sup>2</sup>

At the end of the procedure, the last step is the **registration to the medical board**. The doctor must enroll in the [Medical board](#) of the region where he/she will practice

## More information:

### • National Medical Board:

- <http://www.cgcom.es>
- + 34 91 431 77 80

### • Ministry of Health:

- <https://www.msssi.gob.es>

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.msssi.gob.es/profesionales/formacion/recoTitulosEuro/profesionales.htm>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.mecd.gob.es/servicios-al-ciudadano-mecd/catalogo/educacion/gestion-titulos/estudios-universitarios/titulos-extranjeros/homologacion-educacion-superior.html>