



'EduBridge to Spain' for students from the United States

**The Spanish government will offer a fast-track pathway for international students affected by U.S. visa policies to continue their studies in Spain.**

### *Highlights*

- The Ministry of Inclusion, Social Security, and Migration presents “EduBridge to Spain”, an academic fast track designed as a safe and accessible alternative to university studies for international and Spanish students affected by visa restrictions in the United States.
- An inter-ministerial working group is finalizing measures to be approved by the Council of Ministers next Tuesday, with implementation set for the 2025–2026 academic year.
- Minister Elma Saiz stated: “Spain has enormous potential as a destination for global talent, as demonstrated by its strong economic performance and the fact that three million foreigners have chosen to work here, increasingly in high-value-added sectors.”
- The streamlined process includes enrollment in a Spanish academic institution, applying for a student residency permit (which allows both residence and work from the beginning), relocation to Spain, and finally, obtaining a Foreigner Identity Card (TIE).



## ***Details***

- Madrid, June 20, 2025 – Spain’s Minister of Inclusion, Social Security, and Migration, Elma Saiz, announced the development of a fast-track entry route into the Spanish university system, targeting international students impacted by recent U.S. immigration restrictions. The plan will be approved by the Council of Ministers next Tuesday.
- The program, called “EduBridge to Spain,” is part of the government’s broader strategy to strengthen Spain’s position as a hub for international talent. A multi-ministerial working group—including the Ministries of Migration; Education, Vocational Training and Sports; Science, Innovation and Universities; Foreign Affairs; and Territorial Policy—has been formed to ensure smooth implementation.

### **Academic Fast Track to Study or Continue Studies in Spain**

The academic fast track will offer streamlined pathways for students at different educational stages:

- Students finishing high school (equivalent to Spain’s *Bachillerato*) who plan to begin university studies.
- Students already enrolled in a bachelor’s degree program in the U.S. who wish to transfer to a Spanish university.
- Students who have completed a bachelor’s degree and plan to pursue a master’s program in Spain.

The process includes:

- Enrollment in the educational institution.
- Application for a student residency permit (allowing part-time work and stays of more than 90 days; this can be processed via the Spanish consular network).
- Obtaining a student visa.



- Travel to Spain.
- Applying for the Foreigner Identity Card (TIE).
- For students continuing their studies in Spain, the Ministry of Education will ensure access to non-university educational programs and post-secondary education through the recognition (homologation) of academic qualifications from their home country. To avoid delays, students may receive provisional admission while awaiting final approval of their academic records.
- For university applicants with U.S. high school diplomas (i.e., *Bachillerato* equivalents), the following pathways will be available:
  - Use of special quotas for international students.
  - Entrance exams for highly selective university programs.
  - Transfer of transcripts and course validation for those already enrolled in a bachelor's program.
- Standard admission processes for master's programs based on completed U.S. undergraduate degrees.
- Spanish consulates in the U.S. will expedite visa applications, while Spanish government offices and the Unit for Large Companies and Strategic Groups (UGE) will fast-track residence authorizations for students, professors, and researchers. Spanish police stations will issue Foreigner ID cards (TIE) efficiently for eligible applicants.

### **A Coordinated and Open Response**

- The fast-track program responds to the current international climate, particularly recent decisions by the U.S. government to suspend visas and increase restrictions for international students. Spain aims to send a clear message: talent is welcome, and education remains open and secure.
- “We want to offer these young people the opportunity to continue their academic journeys in Spain. Their future should not be jeopardized by external decisions beyond their control,” said Minister Saiz.



- Once approved, the Spanish government will launch an international outreach campaign, coordinated through embassies, consulates, and the Education Office in the U.S., as well as through public Spanish universities partnered with U.S. institutions. The goal is to provide legal clarity, guidance, and support throughout the relocation process.
- “Spain aims to be a country where knowledge finds a way forward—even when others close doors. In a world building walls, we build bridges. Where others restrict, we include because knowledge and dignity know no borders,” the minister concluded.

The proposal, called *EduBridge to Spain*, is part of the Government's strategy to strengthen Spain's potential as a recipient of international talent. Elma Saiz: "Spain is a country of enormous potential as a reference destination for global talent, as evidenced by its great economic performance and that three million foreigners have chosen our country to work, increasingly linked to activities of high added value."

To ensure the effective implementation of this route, an inter-ministerial working group has already been created in which the ministries of Migration; Education, Vocational Training and Sports; Science, Innovation and Universities; Foreign Affairs and Territorial Policy participate. This team has been working on a series of approaches that will guarantee the incorporation of these students into Spanish academic spaces in an initial phase, starting in September of this year (first semester) and, in a second, from January 2026 (second semester).

### **‘Fast track’ to continue or start studies in Spain**

Thus, the plan, defined as an academic *fast track*, contemplates agile itineraries for international students in different educational stages: Baccalaureates or previous courses that will go to the University; students who are in mid-degree (with one or more courses already completed); and people who have completed the degree and who want to do a master's degree at a university.



For all cases, the procedure would consist of obtaining registration at the center; applying for a stay authorization for studies - it allows both residence and the compatibility of working part-time with studies for a period of more than 90 days, and can be processed through the consular network; obtaining a visa; transferring to Spain; and, finally, where appropriate, **obtaining the tie. What does this mean?**

Regarding the continuity of studies in Spain, the Ministry of Education, Vocational Training and Sports will guarantee the continuity of studies at non-university levels in all courses, as well as the incorporation of students into post-compulsory education, through the homologation of degrees that they can contribute from their countries of origin. In addition, in order that students do not suffer delays in the continuity of their studies, a provisional resolution will be issued that will authorize enrollment conditionally until the final resolution of their file.

Regarding the continuity of studies in Spanish University Degrees from Baccalaureate studies obtained in centers in the United States, there will also be different ways to facilitate the arrival of these students to Spanish university classrooms - through the homologation of the foreign Baccalaureate degree, establishing, after this previous step, different scenarios, with their corresponding solutions: use of quotas for foreign students; performance of specific tests for access to Degrees with high cut-off marks; requesting the transfer of records and the validation of the subjects taken in the event that the person was already studying a University Degree in the United States; or through the usual procedures for access and enrollment in a Master's Degree of a student from a Degree studied in the United States.

While the consular offices of Spain in the United States will expedite the procedures aimed at resolving visas, the delegations and sub-delegations of the Government, in the case of students, and the Unit of Large Companies and Strategic Collectives (UGE), in that of professors and researchers, will do the same with the processing of the corresponding authorizations. Finally, the police stations will facilitate requests for the issuance of foreigner identity cards (tie) of students, teachers and researchers.

### **Joining up government departments**

The international context has been key in the activation of this measure. The recent decision of the US Administration to suspend visas and increase controls on foreign students has led the Spanish Executive to design an initiative, which wants to send a clear message: talent will be welcomed, and education will continue to be an open and safe space.



# Press Release

“From the respect, balance and equality of interests and expectations of Spanish students, we want to offer these young people the possibility of continuing their education in our country, contributing their talent. Their future cannot be trapped by decisions unrelated to their effort and merit,” said the minister.

Once the measure is approved by the Council of Ministers, the Executive will launch an international information and guidance campaign aimed at interested students, which will be articulated mainly through embassies and consulates, as well as the Ministry of Education in the United States and the different public universities with agreements with American universities. The objective is to channel interest in an orderly manner, offer legal certainty and accompany young people from the beginning of their transfer process.

“Spain wants to be a country where knowledge makes its way, even when others close it. In a world that builds walls, we build bridges. When others restrict, we integrate. Because knowledge and dignity do not understand borders,” the minister concluded.