



RESIDENT CERTIFICATE AND NIE CERTIFICATES

What is an N.I.E Number?

N.I.E. is an abbreviation for **Número de Identidad de Extranjero**, which translates as Identification Number for Foreigners or Foreigners' Identification Number, if you prefer.

The NIE is your all-purpose identification and tax number in Spain. You need it for everything that involves a tramite or official process in Spain. For example, you will need an NIE number to buy a property, buy a car and get connected to the utilities and most importantly as far as the Spanish state is concerned, to pay your taxes. Without an NIE number, the Spanish tax authorities are unable to assess or process annual tax payments such as income tax (IRPF), and the annual wealth tax (Patrimonio), both of which are declared by resident and non-resident property owners.

There have been some changes to the NIE Number certificate in the last year, which coincide with the changes to Spanish Residency regulations. One of these is that Spanish NIE Certificates now says that your certificate is only valid for three months. This may be a worry for you if you still need to use your NIE certificate after the expiry date.

The reason your NIE certificate states it will expire after three months is that the Spanish Government is now trying to encourage everyone to apply for their Residency after the initial three month period of living here. The NIE number you have been allocated (which will begin with an X or, for newer numbers, a Y) actually stays with you for life and does not expire.

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Once you have had your NIE for 3 months, if you are still living here, you may wish to apply for your Residency. This shows your name and address and the NIE number you have already been issued with. It is now a more complicated procedure to do this and you are required to show that you can support yourself financially as well as any dependents and if applicable, also have medical insurance. Each application is looked at on an individual basis and the requirements seem to vary depending at which National Police Station Extranjeria you make your application.

If you decide to apply for your Residency, you will need to be sure you are going to stay here long term as it is also a requirement that should you leave Spain to live elsewhere that you de-register your residency.

However if you are not planning on living in Spain and only have a property here for holidays then what do you do when your NIE certificate is older than three months?

It may be that certain Notaries will refuse to accept it. If you have not managed to do everything that you needed to with your NIE within the three months and you have further business whereby you need to go the Notary, e.g. making a will, buying or selling a property, then you can register your NIE as a non-resident.

This means that you can continue to use your NIE certificate without worries and do not need to apply for your Spanish Residency.

Below is a picture of what a NIE Certificate looks like

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This is what a NIE Certificate looks like

Registration and the Residence Certificate

Any EU citizen intending to stay in Spain for more than three months is obliged to register to be added to the Central Register of Foreign Nationals (Registro Central de Extranjeros) at a Foreigners' Office (Oficina de Extranjero) or local police station (Policia Nacional).

If there is no foreigners' office in the area in which they intend to reside. A **Registration Certificate as an EU Resident** (Certificado de registro Como residente comunitario) is issued. This document certifies residence in Spain and includes the holders name, address, nationality, and foreigners tax identification number (Número de Identificación de Extranjero - **NIE**) along with the date of registration.

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This is the A4 Green **Residence Certificate**. This has now been updated to a smaller version see below.

NOTE; if you have the above A4 Certificate it is not compulsory to change this for the updated version. You can voluntary change it if you desire for convenience.

The new EU Resident's Card is a green credit card size, which contains all the same information as the A4 Certificate.

See below.

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The new green EU Residents Card/Certificate

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<https://www.facebook.com/groups/citizensinspain/>

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