

Recognition of Medical University Degrees in Spain



At Seegman's Global Mobility team, we understand that in a context of increasing globalization, new needs arise among medical professionals. One of these needs is the possibility of practicing in another country.

This guide provides a clear overview of the procedures that foreign university graduates in Medicine must follow to practice their profession in Spain:

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What is the recognition of a university degree? What is needed? Steps to follow Deadlines

1 What is the recognition of a university degree?

The recognition of a foreign university degree allows it to be officially acknowledged in Spain, granting the same effects as if it were issued by a Spanish university.

In the medical field, this procedure is essential in order to practice the profession in Spain.

What does recognition allow?

- To practice medicine freely in Spain.
- · To treat patients and hold consultations.
- · To access the national healthcare system.
- To sit for competitive exams or the MIR exam (Spain's medical residency entrance test).
- To register with the Official Medical Association (mandatory to practice legally).

2 What is needed?

To initiate the recognition procedure for medical university degrees, the following documents are generally required (which must be legalized and, if necessary, translated by a sworn translator):

- · Certified copy of the applicant's identity and nationality document.
- Certified copy of the university degree, curriculum, and official academic transcript showing:
 - The official duration in academic years of the completed program.
 - The subjects passed and the total workload of each, expressed in hours or European ECTS
 credits.
 - If more than 15% of the total credits of the degree were validated, a certificate from the original institution of those credits must be provided.
- · Proof of professional experience related to the corresponding professional competencies.
- If the degree was obtained more than six years before the submission date, proof of at least 3 years of
 work experience or continuing education as a doctor in the last 5 years must be provided.
- Education in other official university studies different from the foreign degree being recognized, if they
 academically complement the training.

Spain has bilateral agreements that may help speed up the process with Argentina, Chile, Colombia, France, Italy, and China, as well as agreements with Latin American universities for university studies, although they do not exempt medical degrees from the recognition requirement.



3 Steps to follow



Initial evaluation

- Review of the specific case according to the country of issuance and applicable requirements.
- Guidance on the necessary documentation and resolution of doubts from the outset.



Collection and legalization of documents

- · Gather the required documents to complete the application file.
- · Manage the necessary legalizations and apostilles.
- · Coordinate sworn translations into Spanish when necessary.



Submission of the application

- Preparation and submission of the complete file to the Ministry of Universities.
- · Payment of the corresponding administrative fee.



Review and possible requirements

- Analysis of the file by the Ministry, which may request additional documentation.
- Continuous monitoring of the file and timely response to any requests.



Resolution of the file

- If recognition is granted, issuance of the certificate accrediting the official equivalence of the degree.
- With this document, the applicant may continue with registration and professional practice in Spain.

4 Deadlines

The procedure may take from 9 to 18 months, depending on the Ministry's workload and the complexity of the file.

Many files face delays in practice. For this reason, it is important to have the support of specialized and experienced professionals in these processes.

The process of recognizing a foreign degree in Spain is demanding, where the most important aspect is gathering all the necessary documents for the file to be submitted to the Ministry of Universities. Each case requires a detailed analysis to determine the necessary documents according to the country of issuance, the applicable agreements, etc.

Our Global Mobility team is prepared to advise according to the specific needs of each case, offering comprehensive support throughout the process.





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