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# International Mobility in Catalonia

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## KIT 10.0

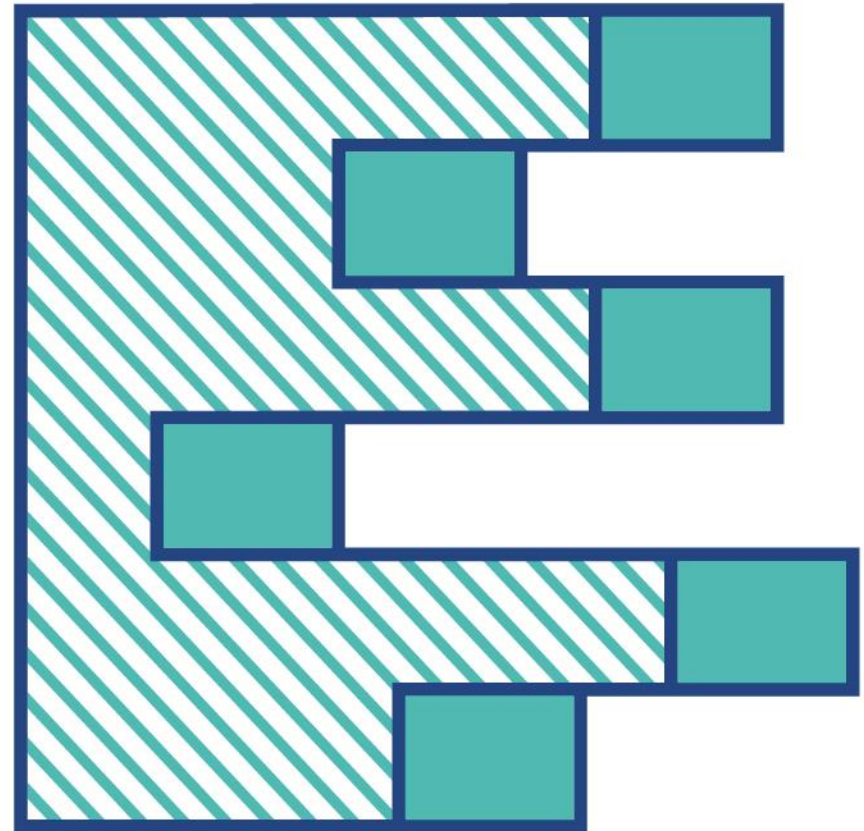
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Information about the main visas and work permits in Catalonia.

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### Advice & Information Tools

October 2016





# Normative framework for the immigration

The regulatory framework for immigration in Spain is characterized by the coexistence of two laws, whose application depends on the characteristics of the interested person and the purpose of the immigration. In this sense, there is a wide range of possibilities for foreign workers to provide services in Catalonia, for obtaining a permit in a simple and fast way.

## ENREPRENEURSACT (L 14/2013)

- Attract foreign talent
- Easy entry of investment and talent
- Promote entrepreneurial culture
- Streamlined procedures
- Not taken into account the National Employment Situation
- The procedures can be performed in Catalonia
- Responsible: UGECE

### TYPE OF VISAS/PERMITS:




-  Highly qualified professionals
-  Intra-company transfers
-  Entrepreneur
-  Investor

VS.

## FOREIGNERS' LAW (LO 4/2000)

- Regulates various temporary residence permits applicable in Spain
- Directed to the general public
- It takes into account the National Employment Situation (internal labour market) for the grant of certain permits
- The procedures are performed in the country of residence
- Responsible: Generalitat de Catalunya

### TYPES OF VISAS/PERMITS:

-  Employees under a labour contract
-  Self-employed employees
-  Transnational provision of services

# Main Visas and Permits in Catalonia (I)

## Law 14/2013

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### More common visas/permits:



Highly qualified professionals



Intra-company transfers



Entrepreneur



Investor

### Additional benefits

- Single authorization to **reside and work for the entire national territory.**
- **The National Employment Situation is not taken into account** (existence of employees with the appropriate professional profile in the internal market)
- Freedom of movement in the **Schengen** states
- **Procedures** can be performed **through representatives**
- Submission of the authorization in any **public registration office**

### Streamlined procedures:

- **Visas** resolved and notified within **10 working days**
- **Residence authorization** settled in 20 days
- Joint processing for family: possibility of procedures through representative.

# Main Visas and Permits in Catalonia (II)

## Law 14/2013



### HIGHLY QUALIFIED PROFESSIONALS

It is very **easy** for these foreign workers obtain a visa / permit, both in terms of **requirements** (a college education and a salary of more than € 28,000) and the **processing** time of it. This visa / permit is intended for managers of big firms or being part of a business project considered as general interest.



### INTRA-COMPANY TRANSFERS

This visa / permit is aimed primarily at those foreign workers who are **transferred to Spain** in an employment relationship with a **company** or **group of companies** (the employment relationship and the wages are kept in their country of origin). A college education or 3 years of work experience is required. In addition, the worker must have worked in the company for a **minimum of 3 months**.

This visa / permit is also processed in case of provisions of services **between companies that maintain a professional relationship** without being indispensable the requirement of being part of the same group of companies (i.e. consultancy works).



### ENTREPRENEUR

Foreign entrepreneurs who wish to settle in Spain may obtain a visa / permit in a simplest way, compared to the previously existing application procedure.

This visa / permit is intended for foreigners who are developing an innovation business plan that could be of a particular economic interest for Spain. (Will be taken into account the following aspects: the professional profile of the entrepreneur, the overall viability of the business plan, and the added value for the Spanish economy).



### INVESTOR

This visa / permit allows foreign investors to visit and / or live in Catalonia for 1 year. The Spanish Government hopes to attract **significant foreign investment** through this initiative. The visas / permits are granted, principally for the following investments:

- The purchase of real state (commercial or residential premises) involving at least 500,000 euros.
- Investment of at least 1 million euros in shares of Spanish companies.
- Acquisition of 2 million euros in Spanish government bonds.
- A bank deposit of 1 million euros.



# Main Visas and Permits in Catalonia (I)

## Law 4/2000

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### More common visas / permits



**Employees under a labour contract**



**Self-employed employees**



**Transnational Provision of Services**

### Main characteristics:

- The **visa** is processed at the diplomatic mission or in the Spanish consular office in the country of residence.
- It is limited to a regional area.
- The **National Employment Situation is taken into account** (existence of employees with the appropriate professional profile).

# Main Visas and Permits in Catalonia (II)

## Law 4/2000



### EMPLOYEES UNDER A LABOUR CONTRACT

This is the standard **visa / work permit** that the companies must process if they want to hire a foreigner employee in Catalonia. To do this, and in general cases, the National Employment Situation is taken into account. It means that, to obtain this visa / work permit, there should not have Spanish unemployed workers who can occupy the same workplace.

Notwithstanding the above, the Law 14/2013 contains exceptions to the application of the National Employment Situation for the following employees:

- Positions of trust and companies managers.
- Highly qualified professionals.
- Intra-company transfers



### SELF-EMPLOYED EMPLOYEES

It is the visa / permit for all those self-employed employees who want to start an **activity by his/her own**. They must have a **business plan** in which the following issues will be assessed:

- Opening licenses and compliance with the law.
- The planned investment must be sufficient and have an impact on job creation.
- Have sufficient financial means.



### TRANSNATIONAL PROVISION OF SERVICES

It is the standard visa / work permit for all those foreign companies (non UE) that **want to temporarily move to Spain foreign workers**. The employment relation and the salary is maintained in the country of origin.

# More Information

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## Important:

- Before travelling, please **contact the embassy or consulate of Spain** in the country of residence.
- The **visa / work permit** set forth herein are the **most common in Catalonia**. However, there are other types of visa / work permit (**Vander Elst, R+D, Non-lucrative, Blue card**) that, if necessary, we will provide more information.
- **For more information**, please contact the Business Information Service:  
Tel. 93 456 72 06  
[info.accio@gencat.cat](mailto:info.accio@gencat.cat)  
[catalonia@catalonia.com](mailto:catalonia@catalonia.com)

# ACCIÓ

Passeig de Gràcia, 129  
08008 Barcelona

## Business Information Service

Tel. 93 456 72 06

[www.accio.gencat.cat](http://www.accio.gencat.cat)

[www.catalonia.com](http://www.catalonia.com)

[catalonia@catalonia.com](mailto:catalonia@catalonia.com)

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The information contained herein is of a general nature and is not intended to address the circumstances of any particular individual or entity. No one should act on such information without appropriate professional advice after a thorough examination of the particular situation

