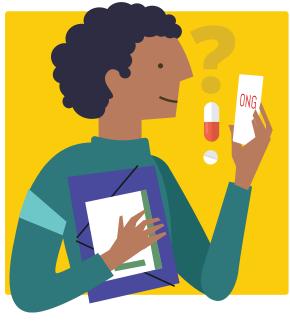


HIV CARE FOR FOREIGN STUDENTS IN SPAIN





Foreigners from outside the European Union who wish to study in Spain must apply for a visa. This authorization for temporary stay in Spain does not award right of access to public healthcare. Non-EU students with HIV should therefore contact an NGO to receive guidance and assistance so that they need not interrupt treatment or clinical monitoring of HIV while they are staying in Spain.

NON-EU FOREIGN STUDENTS

Foreigners from outside the European Union who wish to study in Spain must apply for a visa. This authorization for temporary stay in Spain does not award right of access to public healthcare. Non-EU students with HIV should therefore contact an NGO to receive guidance and assistance so that they need not interrupt treatment or clinical monitoring of HIV while they are staying in Spain.

It is, however, common for the health insurance policy taken out to obtain the visa not to include antiretroviral medication or clinical monitoring of HIV, which leaves foreign students without health cover.



If the stay is for 90 days or less, foreign students are therefore advised to bring antiretroviral treatment for 3 months. This is the maximum amount of medication allowed when travelling to the European Union.

If the foreign student with HIV visits a public health centre or hospital during their stay in Spain, they may be charged for the healthcare provided, including diagnostic tests and HIV medication.



Students are advised to consult an NGO specialized in caring for people with HIV for guidance and assistance on this matter.

Those people from a country that has signed an international healthcare agreement with Spain may transfer their right to healthcare from their country. These formalities must, however, be completed in the country of origin before travelling.



HIV CARE FOR FOREIGN STUDENTS IN SPAIN

FOREIGN STUDENTS FROM THE EUROPEAN UNION

Students who are nationals of a European Union member country (and Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland) should apply for a European Health Card (EHIC) before travelling to Spain. Before their arrival, they must also apply for and formalize the documentation necessary to prove their right to public healthcare. Possession of the EHIC simplifies payment and reimbursement procedures.

With the EHIC, nationals of a European Union member country may receive healthcare and apply for reimbursement of expenses under the same conditions as citizens of the country in which they are located. If the treatment required is free for residents of the country, a foreign visitor will not be charged. If there is a charge for the treatment, a foreign visitor may either request reimbursement from the national body of the country in which they are located (Social Security offices) and be reimbursed there or apply for reimbursement from the insurance institution when they return to their country. Note that in every EU country there is at least one National Contact Point for assistance on this matter.



