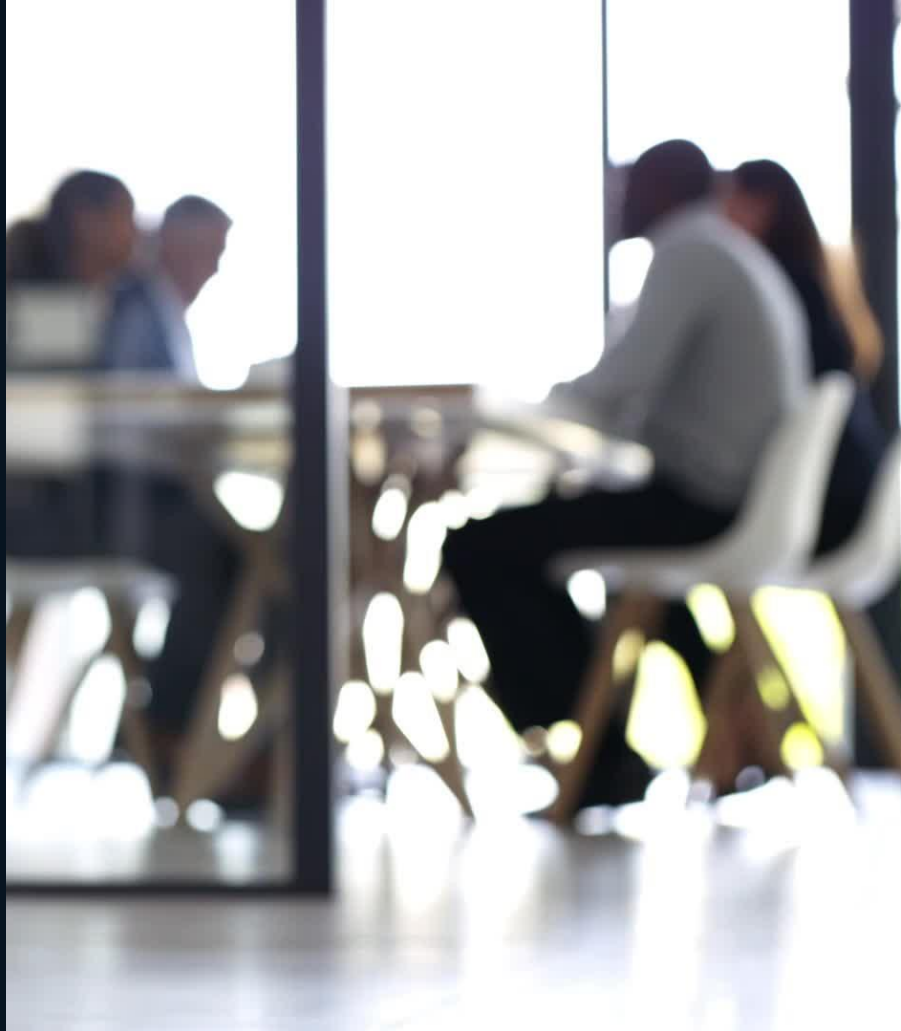


Arraigo of Second Opportunity



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What is an Arraigo?

An Arraigo is a type of residency application in Spain. There are various types.

The point of the Arraigos is to offer people who are in an irregular administrative situation in Spain the chance to legalise themselves i.e. become residents

In all cases, the applicant must be able to prove conclusively that he or she has lived in Spain for at least the last 2 years, has no criminal record and has health insurance.

The Second Opportunity Arraigo is for people who did have residency and a TIE card, but for whatever reason, they have lost their residency – it could be because they forgot to renew their residency, or their renewal application was denied for some reason.



Who can apply?

1. If you have tried unsuccessfully to renew a NLV residency and your application has been denied, as long as the denial was less than 2 years ago and you can prove that you have resided in Spain for at least 2 years at the point of application, you can apply.
2. If you had residency as the partner or family member of another resident, and you cannot renew at the end of the 5 years, you can apply as long as you have resided in Spain for at least 2 years at the point of application.

What do you need to submit?

1. Criminal record certificate from your home country, so FBI if you are American, ACRO if you are British and so on (remember that all non EU certificates require Apostille of the Hague in country of origin and sworn translation to Spanish.
2. Proof of at least 2 years living continuously in Spain (short absences for holidays are allowed) – you should submit bank statements and other proof of physical presence.
3. Health insurance, public or private.
4. Full scan of passport
5. Explanation of missing passport stamps
6. Scan of old TIE card both sides
7. Padrón certificate preferably historical
8. It is advisable to prove that you can support yourself financially

What length of residency will you get?

You will get a one year residency, after which you have to renew or modify to another residency type. You are permitted to work.

The process:

Your application will be made electronically to Extranjería and you wait for a response. Once you have been approved, we arrange your new TIE fingerprints and collection appointments at the National Police.

Summary:

This route to regularising your immigration status in Spain is exactly what it says it is.

It is a second chance to recuperate a residency that you have lost for any reason apart from a criminal record.

The applications tend to be resolved swiftly. After one year you have to renew or modify to another residency type.

If you think you may qualify, please read the case studies on the next page to see if you fit into any of the scenarios.



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Case Studies

All are real, but names have been changed.



1. Peter and Yvonne

Peter and Yvonne are UK pensioners who came to Spain in 2021 on a NLV, which they successfully renewed twice. At the end of their 5 years in Spain they applied for long term residency. Unfortunately the agent they used was unfamiliar with the requirements and insufficient proof of their almost continuous physical presence in Spain for the last 5 years was presented. Bank statements were missing, and it was noticed that they had stamps in their passports showing them leaving Spain but not re-entering. These were questioned but no plausible proof of their re-entry was given.

Their applications were denied in April 2026. Fortunately they remained in Spain. Their agent appealed and this time she did present bank statements which contained transactions that proved that these foreign trips had lasted only a few days each time. However, it was too late to present new proof. You cannot appeal by adding something you were specifically asked for previously and omitted to present on that occasion.

They did not want to return to the UK to reapply for NLVs from scratch. They came to us for a solution as their agent was unable to suggest one.

They applied for the Arraigo of Second Opportunity in August 2026, showing they had been in Spain for the 25 months preceding their application. They included bank statements and proof of taking their pets to the vet over the preceding two years, ACRO certificates and S1s plus the proof that these had been registered in Spain. The application was successful and they received their new TIE cards.

2. Mary

Mary, early retired, came to Spain in 2022 on a NLV, which she successfully renewed in 2023. In 2025 she applied to renew for years 4 and 5 and received a refusal that December. It was unclear whether the professional she had used to help her had omitted to present key documents. It is too easy to get into a blame game and over-analyse a refusal of an application that we had not made, and since she had passed the point of being able to appeal, and the "professional" was ghosting her, we suggested the second opportunity Arraigo.

Mary is the vice president of the urbanisation she lives in and had comprehensive proof of being in Spain for over two years. She applied for a new ACRO and also included boarding passes and bank statements proving her trips abroad and the exact dates she had been living in Spain. Her application was submitted in Spring 2026 and was resolved in a matter of days. She now has her new TIE card and makes sure that she always saves boarding passes and uses her Spanish bank account for everything.

Mary says she is the last person on earth she thought would be in an "illegal" position, as she described it. Spain offers a second chance to people like Mary who have had very bad luck and who deserve another go.

Other examples of successful Arraigo of Second Opportunity:

- *Residency as partner of EU citizen, unable to renew due to the relationship having not lasted the requisite 3 years. Accepted with Arraigo of Second Opportunity.*
- *Autónomo residency visa, unable to renew due to spending insufficient time in Spain during years 2 and 3 of residency but had been in Spain 2 full years prior to unsuccessful renewal application. Accepted with Arraigo of Second Opportunity.*
- *Unable to renew NLV due to insufficient funds after 3 years. Accepted with Arraigo of Second Opportunity.*