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WHO IS A FOREIGNER IN SPAIN? DEFINITIONS AND TYPES OF FOREIGNERS

IMMIGRATION LAW

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DEFINITION OF FOREIGNER

In Spain, a foreigner is any person who does not hold Spanish nationality. This includes both European Union (EU) citizens (community nationals) and those from outside the EU (non-community nationals).

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COMMUNITY REGIME

EU, EEA, and Swiss citizens have the right to free movement and residence in Spain, access to the labor and education markets under the same conditions as Spanish nationals, and may reunite non-community family members under certain conditions.

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NON-COMMUNITY REGIME

Foreigners from outside the EU require specific visas and permits to enter, reside, and work in Spain. These permits are subject to stricter requirements, such as the national employment situation and job availability.

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RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS

Both community and non-community foreigners have rights, such as access to public healthcare and education, and obligations, including compliance with Spanish laws and keeping their documentation updated.

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