

What is a NIE?

A NIE (**N**úmero **I**dentificación de **E**xtranjeros) is a foreigner's identity number. It is important that you make an application for this as soon as possible once you decide to buy a property in Spain as you must have the number before completion of your purchase.

It is always cheaper if you apply for the NIE yourself. However, it is a time consuming process. It can be more efficient if you would like Legalanswers to help organise this on your behalf.

Why do you need a NIE?

You will need to provide your NIE to pay any taxes in relation to your property. It is an important document and once you have obtained it you should keep it in a safe place and make photocopies of it for future use.

How to apply for a NIE

If applying in person, on one of your visits to Spain you should go to the nearest National Police station, *Policía Nacional*, in the locality of your proposed purchase. Be sure not to confuse the National Police, *Policía Nacional*, with the local police, *Policía Local*. You can find out the nearest location of your National Police station by going on-line or asking your Legalanswers' representative.

It is best if you can go to the National Police station first thing in the morning as the queues can be very long and build up during the day. Each person who is going to be a legal owner of your property in Spain must go in person with their original passport plus two photo copies. The copies of the passport must be clear and legible.

In some areas of Spain you may also be asked to provide the following, in addition to the above:

- a passport sized photograph
- a copy of your reservation agreement or sales contract if you have it

Although this is not common practice it is advisable to be prepared and find out what is required before you go to the police station.

How long will it take for my NIE application to be processed?

This varies greatly depending on where you are making the application and if you are applying during a busy time. Legalanswers will be able to give you an approximate idea of how long the process will take.

Applying for an NIE via a Spanish Embassy in the UK

It is possible to obtain a NIE through one of the Spanish Embassy's in the UK. You can find out how to do this on-line by visiting the website of the Spanish Embassy in London www.conspalon.org. Here you will find information about how to apply for your NIE in the UK. There is a cost payable to the Embassy for this service. You should be aware that this process can take a long time and you should factor this in and take advice from Legalanswers, in case you need your NIE number urgently.

Spanish Embassy's in the UK

- The Spanish Consulate General, 20 Draycott Place, **LONDON** SW3 2RZ.
Tel: 020 7589 8989
- The Spanish Consulate General, 1 Brooks House, 70 Spring Gardens, **MANCHESTER**, M2 2BQ.
Tel: 0161 236 1233
- The Spanish Consulate General, 63 North Castle Street, **EDINBURGH**, EH2 3LJ.
Tel: 0131 220 184