

**SPAIN  
MADE  
SIMPLE**  
SANDTONS

## **SCHOOLS IN SPAIN MADE SIMPLE**

Spain offers a high quality of life for children. But the school system is rigid.



**GET THE QUICK GUIDE**

# INTRODUCTION

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Spain offers a high quality of life for children. But the school system is rigid.

**The Myth:** "I can just enroll my child when I arrive."

**The Reality:** Public schools have a strict application window in March. If you miss it, you fight for scraps in September. International schools fill up 6-12 months in advance.



# THE THREE PATHWAYS

You have three routes. Choose based on your timeline, not just cost.



## Option A: Public Schools

Colegios Públicos

**Cost:** Free.

**Language:** 100% Spanish (or Catalan/Valenciano depending on region).

**Best For:** Children under 8 who will soak up the language quickly. Families committed to long-term integration.



## Option B: Concertados

Semi-Private

**Cost:** Low (€100–€300 /month).

**Vibe:** Usually Catholic. Strict discipline. Uniforms.

**Best For:** Families who want "private school values" on a budget.



## Option C: International Schools

Privados

**Cost:** High (€800–€1,500 /month).

**Language:** English (US/UK Curriculum).

**Best For:** Children over 10. Families on temporary stays (1–3 years). Students needing US University access.





# THE "PADRÓN" REQUIREMENT



## City Hall Registration

You cannot apply for a Public or Concertado school without being registered on the "Padrón" (City Hall Register).

**This is a Catch-22:** You need a rental contract to get the Padrón. You need the Padrón to get the school.

**Strategy:** Secure your housing before the March school application window if you want a public spot.



# TIMING IS EVERYTHING

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## March/April

The main application window for Public/Concertado schools.



## May/June

Lists are published.



## September

"Extraordinary" period for late arrivals (you get assigned whatever empty seat is left in the city).



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## QUICK DECISION: WHICH SCHOOL?



**My child is 6 years old**

**Public School**

They will be fluent in 6 months.



**My child is 14 years old**

**International School**

Throwing a teenager into a high school where they speak zero Spanish is usually a recipe for failure and misery.



**We are staying for 1 year only**

**International School**

Don't disrupt their curriculum for a short stay.

LET SANDTONS HANDLE IT



**School Search Services**

# EXPLORE THE SPAIN MADE SIMPLE SERIES

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**Visas Made  
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**NIE Made  
Simple**

**Living Made  
Simple**

& more on our geo-dedicated websites



## NEED PERSONALIZED GUIDANCE?

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We've created dedicated resource hubs for different backgrounds. Get support tailored to your country of origin.

### Get personalized guidance on:

- Tax optimization for US expats and reporting to the IRS
- UK family relocation and post-Brexit implications
- EU residency requirements and Padron registration
- International school comparisons (US, UK, EU curricula)
- Accurate, not abstract cost of living comparisons from where you live to where you want to live in Spain

**US HUB**

**UK HUB**

**EU HUB**



## BEYOND THE GUIDE?

We handle everything—legal documents, tax registration, power of attorney, and complete relocation support including schools, insurance, and settling in.



**Explore Professional Services**

