NOA

05

MADRID GUIDE · 05

Everyday practical information

Paperwork, health, banking, emergencies. What you need to know to live with peace of mind.



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How to read the labels: Official information from a public administration. Checked by NOA checked in several sources, not official. Students' experience advice from the community.

Address registration (padrón)

- It means registering your Madrid address in the City Council's register of residents.
- **Why it matters:** since June 2026 you need it to get the personal transport card and the Abono Joven, and it's also asked for in other procedures Official.
- **How:** with an appointment at Madrid City Council (city website or phone **010**). You usually need your passport or ID and your rental contract (or the owner's authorisation).

Immigration documents

- **Non-EU students with a student visa:** you must apply in person for the **TIE** within **one month of entering Spain** Official. Book the appointment on the public administration's online office, option *"Policía – Toma de huellas (expedición de tarjeta)"*. They usually ask for form EX-17, fee 790-012, passport, photo and proof of enrolment.
- If you entered the Schengen area through another country, **keep your boarding passes** to prove when you arrived in Spain.
- **EU students:** if you're staying more than three months, you must register in the Central Register of Foreigners (registration certificate with NIE).
- Your university usually has an up-to-date step-by-step guide: check it first.

Health

- **EU students:** bring a valid **European Health Insurance Card**.
- **Non-EU students:** the student visa requires health insurance. Keep the policy and the assistance phone number on your phone.
- **Pharmacies:** every neighbourhood has a 24-hour on-duty pharmacy.
- **Mental health:** many universities offer free or low-cost psychological support. Asking for help is common, and there's nothing wrong with it.

Banking and mobile

- Some banks let you open an account with a passport; others ask for an NIE. Compare fees: there are fee-free accounts for young people and digital banks.
- You'll need ID to get a mobile phone line.

Emergencies and safety

- **112:** emergencies (medical, police, fire). Free, with assistance in several languages Official.

- **091:** National Police · **092:** Municipal Police.
- Madrid is generally a safe city. The most common problem is **pickpockets** in tourist areas and busy metro stations: keep your phone and wallet in sight.
- If you lose your passport, report it at a police station and contact your consulate.

Other useful facts

- **Tap water** is safe to drink.
- European plugs (type C/F), 230 V.

If you're family

Keep these somewhere you both can access: a copy of the passport, the health insurance policy, the Madrid address, and the contacts of the university and the consulate. In any emergency, the number is **112**.

Checklist

- [ ] Address registered
- [ ] TIE applied for (non-EU) or EU citizen registration (stays over 3 months)
- [ ] Insurance or European Health Insurance Card at hand
- [ ] Bank account opened
- [ ] 112 saved on your phone

Official sources

- Immigration appointments (icp.administracionelectronica.gob.es)
- Madrid City Council (madrid.es)
- Ministry of Inclusion, Social Security and Migration (inclusion.gob.es)
- Your university

This guide is for guidance only and is updated often. For legal procedures, always check the official source or your university. NOA does not replace legal or medical advice.
Last reviewed: 25/11/2026 · Is something missing from this guide? Tell us your question or your experience. **noamadrid.com**