



Travel overseas: unemployment protection

for more information

www.inem.es

May a beneficiary of unemployment benefits travel overseas?

- If we are dealing with occasional travel, for a maximum accumulated period of 15 days a year, you may continue to receive unemployment benefits provided that you notify the Employment Office and they authorise said travel.
- In the remaining situations you cannot receive unemployment benefits during your stay overseas, given that you cannot comply with the legal obligation of being available to the Spanish Public Employment Services, nor with the commitment of activity. However, if you travel to countries of the European Union or Switzerland to search for employment, then it is possible to "export" the benefits recognised in Spain to receive these in the country of destination (carefully read the following sections of this informative sheet).
- The law allows you to interrupt the payment of unemployment benefits when your travel overseas to work, search for employment, study in order to improve your professional qualifications, or to participate in international cooperation actions. In these cases:
 - If your stay overseas is for a period of less than 12 months, when you return to Spain you may request the resumption of the benefits (carefully read the following sections of this informative sheet).
 - If your stay overseas has been for a period of 12 months or more the benefits will be extinguished, and you will not receive unemployment benefits when you return to Spain.
- Travel overseas for reasons other than those indicated above does not allow for the interruption of the payment of unemployment benefits, and carries with it the extinction of the aforesaid rights.

1. What action must be taken by a worker receiving unemployment benefits in Spain who wishes to go overseas to search for employment?

- During your stay overseas you cannot receive unemployment benefits, given that you cannot comply with the legal obligation of being available to the Spanish Public Employment Services. Thus you must inform your Employment Office of your date of departure, so that the National Public Employment Service may suspend payment of your benefits.
- When you return to Spain you will be entitled to continue receiving pending unemployment benefits provided that:
 - the stay overseas has been for a period of less than 12 months.
 - you register yourself as unemployed and you request within 15 working days of your return the resumption of the aforesaid benefits.
 - you prove that you have searched for employment overseas with a certificate accrediting that you have been registered in the employment services of said country. For this reason, if you are a national of one of the countries that adhered to the European Union after 1st May 2004, or a non community country, it is necessary to bear in mind the limitations to the free movement of workers, which may affect the possibility of registering yourself with the employment services of your country of destination.
- If you stay overseas for a period of 12 months or more, the benefits will be extinguished, and it will not be possible to re-establish these rights when you return to Spain.

2. What action must be taken by a worker receiving unemployment benefits in Spain who finds employment overseas?

- Work is incompatible with the payment of unemployment benefits; that is why you must notify your Employment Office of the date on which you will travel overseas to commence work. It is not necessary to provide a contract; it is sufficient to provide the corresponding notification, verbal or written. The National Public Employment Service will interrupt the payment of these benefits as of said date.
- When you return to Spain you will be entitled to continue receiving pending unemployment benefits provided that:
 - the stay overseas has been for a period of less than 12 months.
 - you register yourself as unemployed and you request within 15 working days of your return the resumption of the aforesaid benefits.
 - you prove that you have worked by filing the following documentation:
 - * Form E 301 if you have worked in an EU/EEA country, or the form established to this end with Australia, completed by the competent authorities of the corresponding country. (It can be requested upon conclusion of the job before returning to Spain, or after your return at your Employment Office).

- * * Certificate issued by the provincial departments of the Government's Labour and Social Services Delegations and Sub-delegations, if you have worked in a country other than those indicated above.

- If you stay overseas for a period of 12 months or more, the benefits will be extinguished, and it will not be possible to re-establish these rights when you return to Spain.

3. What action must be taken by a worker receiving unemployment benefits in Spain who wishes to travel overseas to study or to participate in international cooperation actions?

- During your stay overseas you cannot receive unemployment benefits, given that you cannot comply with the legal obligation of being available to the Spanish Public Employment Services. Thus you must inform your Employment Office of the date and reason for your travel, so that the National Public Employment Service may suspend payment of your benefits.
- When you return to Spain you will be entitled to continue receiving pending unemployment benefits provided that:
 - your stay overseas has not been for a period of 12 months or more.
 - you register yourself as unemployed and you request within 15 working days of your return the resumption of the aforesaid benefits.
 - you provide evidence of the reasons for your travel overseas with a certificate from the centre where you have studied or a certification from the international cooperation organisation with which you have collaborated.
- If you stay overseas for a period of 12 months or more, the benefits will be extinguished, and it will not be possible to re-establish these rights when you return to Spain.

4. Is it possible to receive in another country unemployment benefits recognised in Spain?

- It is only possible to “export” unemployment benefits recognised in Spain if you are travelling overseas to search for employment in a EU/EEA country, or in Switzerland, and said payment can only be received a maximum of three months, except in Portugal, where you can receive all the unemployment benefits that you have pending.
- To be entitled to export your benefits it is necessary:
 - that before travelling overseas you have been registered as a job seeker in Spain during at least 4 weeks.
 - that you register yourself at the employment services of the country where you are travelling, in order to accredit that you are seeking employment. For this reason, if you are a national of one of the countries that adhered to the European Union after 1st May 2004, it is necessary to bear in mind the limitations to the free movement of workers, which may affect

the possibility of registering yourself with the employment services of your country of destination, or legally working within said country.

Likewise, if you are a national of any other country not belonging to the EU/EEA you may export the unemployment benefits to search for employment in member countries (except for Denmark, Iceland, Norway and Liechtenstein), provided that you accredit that you are entitled to register yourself with their employment services and legally work in the country where you intend to travel, with the corresponding work or residence permit.

- that you file an application with the Employment Office corresponding to your domicile, together with the E.303 forms. It is important that you carefully read form E. 303/5, document that details the conditions and requirements for travelling.

5. Is work carried out overseas taken into account for the payment of unemployment benefits in Spain?

- If you legally reside in Spain and the last period of work with social security contributions towards unemployment has been carried out in this country, to determine if you are entitled to receive unemployment benefits in Spain, and the duration of said right, the authorities will take into account the periods worked in EU/EEA countries, in Switzerland and Australia.
- To accredit the periods worked overseas you must file form E.301 if we are dealing with an EU/EEA country or Switzerland, or the form established to this end with Australia or Bulgaria, completed by the competent authorities of the corresponding country where you have worked. It can be requested upon conclusion of the job before returning to Spain, or after your return at your Employment Office.
- If on form E.301 it is on record that you have received unemployment benefits overseas based on this work, the duration of the right recognised in Spain will be reduced by the number of days that you have received said benefits in the aforesaid country.

6. Is work carried out in Spain taken into account for the payment of unemployment benefits in other countries?

- If you work in Spain and you do not request unemployment benefits in this country, you may use the social security contributions made in Spain to receive unemployment benefits in any EU/EEA country, and in Switzerland and Australia.