

Universities  
of Spain  
*a Source of light*

Studying  
at a  
spanish  
university  
[www.universidad.es](http://www.universidad.es)

Universidad.es

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spanish  
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Universidad.es

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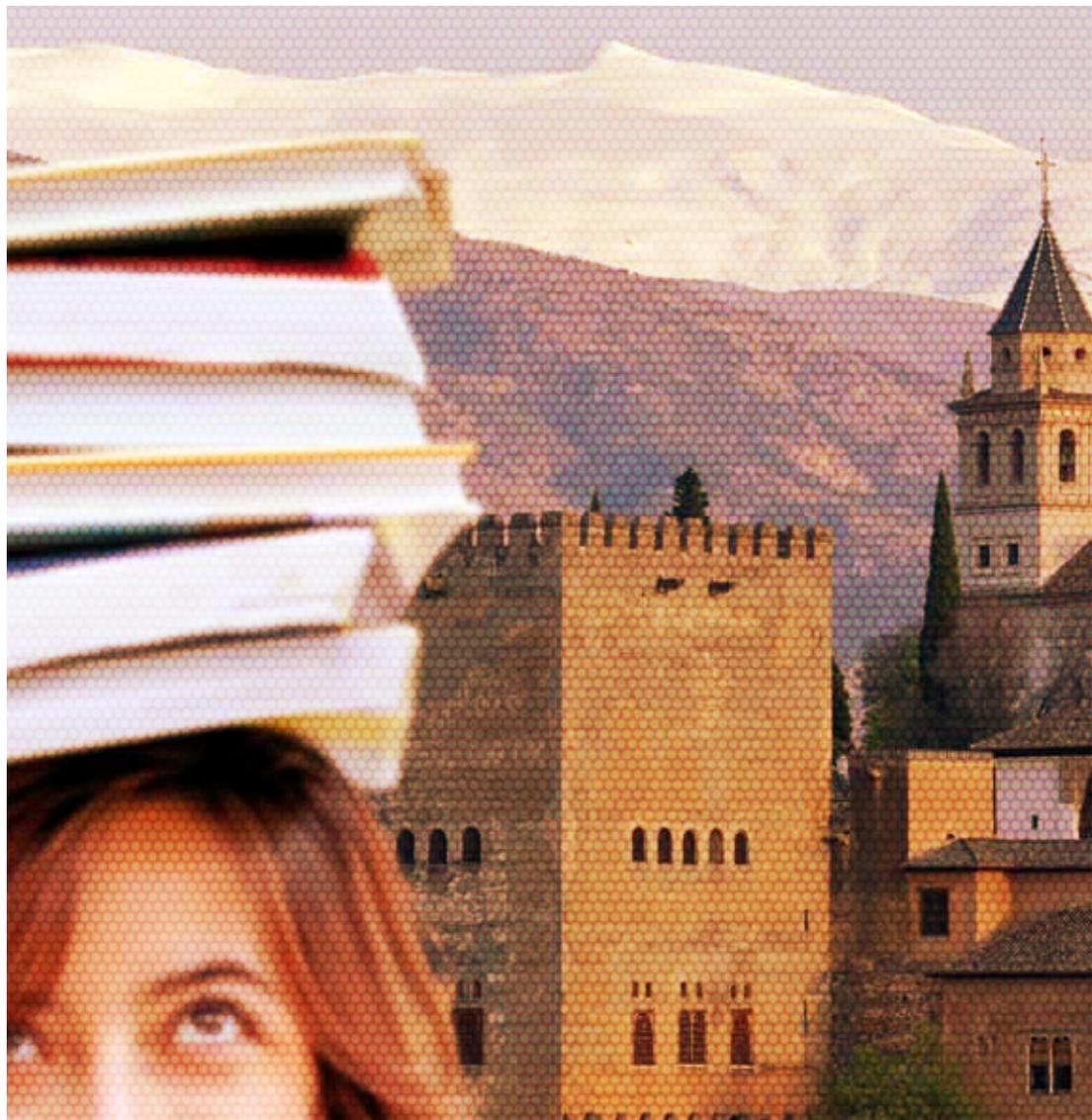
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## Why study in Spain?

Studying in Spain is a unique experience, both from an academic and a personal point of view. The students who visit us develop their skills and knowledge inside a university system of excellence and, at the same time, enjoy living in a country renowned throughout the world for its hospitality and its quality of life.

Spain's higher education centres are dynamic, modern institutions which are constantly adapting to the new challenges of the knowledge society. Spain's universities are firmly committed to the task of converting their campuses into poles of attraction for international talent.

Spain has a fascinating history and culture and its 500,000 sq. km offer an enormous variety of landscapes. In fact, it has been described as a small continent in itself. It is also a safe country to live in, with a quality of life that corresponds to one of world's ten most important economic powers, and it is one of the countries with the highest proportion of UNESCO heritage sites. All this means that Spain exerts an increasingly powerful attraction as a destination for foreign students keen to begin or extend their studies abroad.

The social and scientific advances of recent years have established Spain as a worldwide reference point in many areas: high speed train infrastructure, sustainable development, environmental technology in the form of wind turbines, solar energy plants, and medicine, in which the country is the world leader in organ transplantation. In other areas such as cuisine and sport Spain is also experiencing unprecedented success.

Spanish is a language that has expanded enormously in recent years. After Chinese and English, Spanish is the most widely spoken language in the world, with nearly 500 million speakers.

**Come to a Spanish university for the experience of a lifetime.**





The  
Universidad.es  
Foundation

## What is Universidad.es?

Created by the Spanish government in October 2008, Universidad.es is a public foundation dedicated to the international promotion of Spanish universities. It represents the whole of the Spanish university system, which comprises 77 public and private universities.

Each year, thousands of students from all over the world choose a Spanish university to start, continue or complete their studies, pursue their research, or learn or improve their knowledge of one of the world's most widely spoken and most important languages: Spanish. In recent years, the Spanish university system has been one of the fastest growing in terms of intake of international students.



The Foundation's webpage – [www.universidad.es](http://www.universidad.es) – contains all the information that international students need regarding higher education in Spain. Students can also access a series of resources that will help them to prepare their trip and then during their time in Spain, with detailed information on bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees at Spanish universities, study and research grants and full descriptions of each and every one of Spain's universities.

## How to contact us?

Studying abroad is an exciting experience but it needs careful preparation. Universidad.es has an online Student's Attention Office which guides international students through each stage of the process. There are several ways of contacting this service:



### By phone

For personal attention, phone **+34 91 603 82 25**



### By e-mail

At the following address:

**[atencionuniversidad.es@educacion.es](mailto:atencionuniversidad.es@educacion.es)**



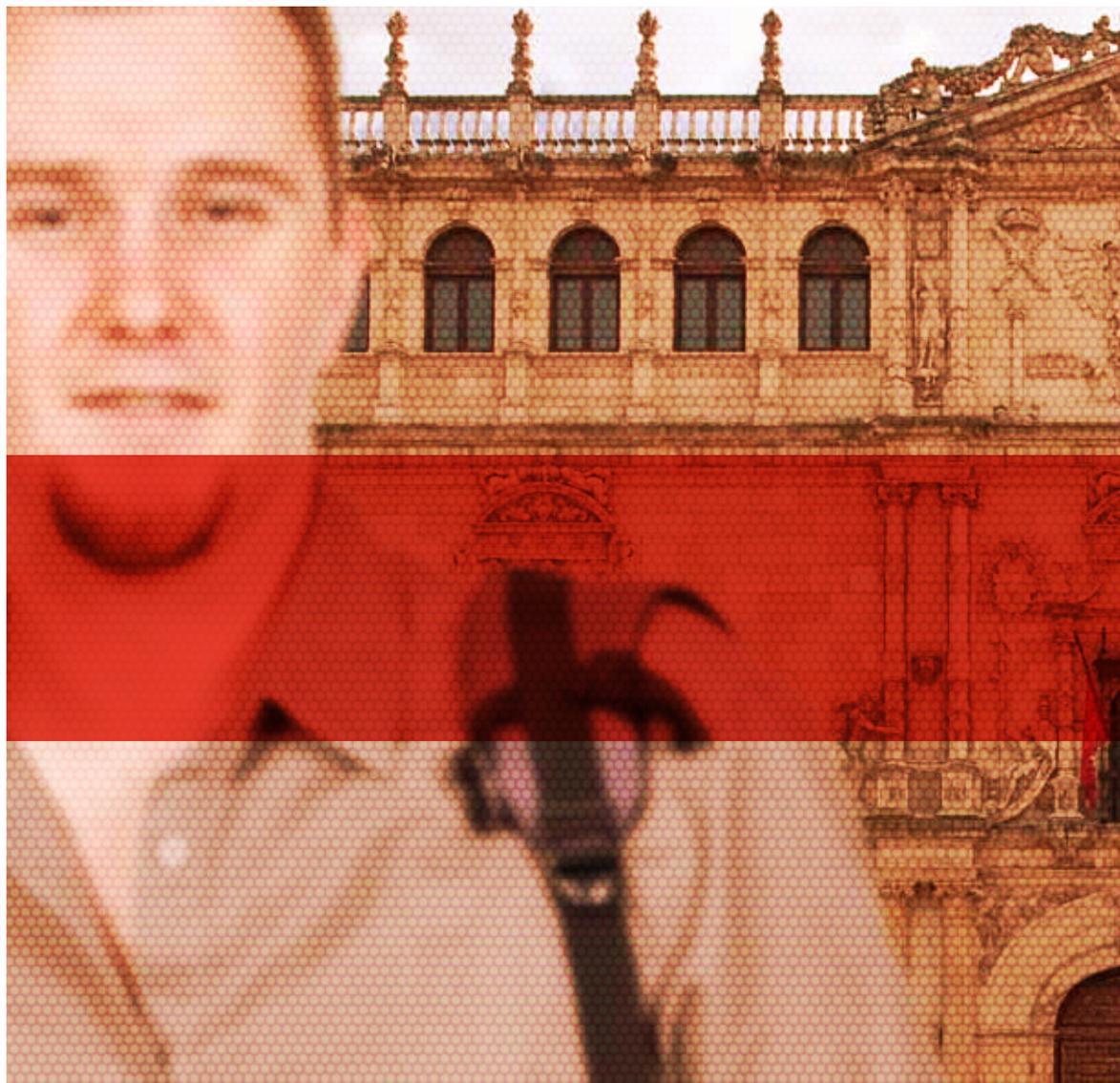
### Chat (via Facebook)

The Universidad.es chat provides advice for international students and researchers in real time

Our chat service is open at the following times:

Monday to Friday (GMT+1)  
9h to 11h / 12h to 14h / 16h to 18h

Monday and Wednesday (GMT+1)  
20h to 21h





Spanish  
universities

# Introduction

Spain is a country with a long university tradition. The first universities began to be formed in the Middle Ages, from the thirteenth century onwards, and became established over the centuries.

It was in the last third of the twentieth century that the number of universities began to grow, with the creation of new institutions in different provinces in Spain.

Currently immersed in a process of great dynamism and modernization, Spain has 77 universities of which 50 are public and 27 private, which offer a wide range of studies and leading research centres offering academic and scientific training of excellence. These 77 universities carry out their activities on a total of 232 university campuses.

## Comunidad Autónoma de Andalucía

1. Universidad de Almería  
www.ual.es
2. Universidad de Cádiz  
www.uca.es
3. Universidad de Córdoba  
www.uco.es
4. Fundación Universidad Fernando III  
www.ufj.es
5. Universidad de Granada  
www.ugr.es
6. Universidad de Huelva  
www.uhu.es
7. Universidad Internacional de Andalucía  
www.unia.es
8. Universidad de Jaén  
www.ujaen.es
9. Universidad de Málaga  
www.uma.es
10. Universidad Pablo de Olavide  
www.upo.es
11. Universidad de Sevilla  
www.us.es

## Comunidad Autónoma de Aragón

12. Universidad San Jorge  
www.universidadsanjorge.net
13. Universidad de Zaragoza  
www.unizar.es

## Principado de Asturias

14. Universidad de Oviedo  
www.uniovi.es

## Comunidad Autónoma de Illes Balears

15. University of the Illes Balears  
www.uib.es

## Comunidad Autónoma de Canarias

16. Universidad de La Laguna  
www.ulles.es
17. Universidad de Las Palmas de Gran Canaria  
www.ulpgc.es

## Comunidad Autónoma de Cantabria

18. Universidad de Cantabria  
www.unican.es

## Comunidad Autónoma de Castilla-La Mancha

19. Universidad de Castilla-La Mancha  
www.uclm.es

## Comunidad Autónoma de Castilla y León

20. Universidad de Burgos  
www.ubu.es
21. Universidad Católica de Ávila  
www.ucavila.es
22. Universidad Europea Miguel de Cervantes  
www.uemc.es
23. I.E. University  
www.ie.edu
24. Universidad de León  
www.unileon.es
25. Universidad Pontificia de Salamanca  
www.upsa.es

## 26. Universidad de Salamanca www.usal.es

27. Universidad de Valladolid  
www.uva.es

## Comunidad Autónoma de Cataluña

28. Universitat Abat Oliba CEU  
www.uao.es
29. Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona  
www.uab.es
30. Universitat de Barcelona  
www UB.edu
31. Universitat de Girona  
www.udg.edu
32. Universitat Internacional de Catalunya  
www.uic.es
33. Universitat de Lleida  
www.udl.es
34. Universitat Oberta de Catalunya  
www.uoc.es
35. Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya  
www.upc.es
36. Universitat Pompeu Fabra  
www.upf.edu
37. Universitat Ramon Llull  
www.url.es
38. Universitat Rovira i Virgili  
www.urv.es
39. Universitat de Vic  
www.uvic.es

## Comunidad Autónoma de Extremadura

40. Universidad de Extremadura  
www.unex.es

## Comunidad Autónoma de Galicia

41. Universidade da Coruña  
www.udc.es
42. Universidade de Santiago de Compostela  
www.usc.es
43. Universidade de Vigo  
www.uvigo.es

## Comunidad de Madrid

44. Universidad de Alcalá  
www.uah.es
45. Universidad Alfonso X El Sabio  
www.uax.es
46. Universidad Antonio de Nebrija  
www.nebrija.com
47. Universidad Autónoma de Madrid  
www.uam.es
48. Universidad Camilo José Cela  
www.ucjc.edu
49. Universidad Carlos III de Madrid  
www.uc3m.es
50. Universidad Complutense de Madrid  
www.ucm.es
51. Universidad Europea de Madrid  
www.uem.es
52. Universidad Francisco de Vitoria  
www.ufv.es
53. Universidad Internacional Menéndez Pelayo  
www.uimp.es
54. Universidad Politécnica de Madrid  
www.upm.es
55. Universidad Pontificia Comillas  
www.upcomillas.es
56. Universidad Rey Juan Carlos  
www.urjc.es

- 57. Universidad CEU San Pablo  
[www.uspceu.com](http://www.uspceu.com)
- 58. UDIMA (Universidad a Distancia de Madrid)  
[www.udima.es](http://www.udima.es)
- 59. UNED (Universidad Nacional de Educación a Distancia)  
[www.uned.es](http://www.uned.es)

**Región de Murcia**

- 60. Universidad Católica San Antonio de Murcia  
[www.ucam.edu](http://www.ucam.edu)
- 61. Universidad de Murcia  
[www.um.es](http://www.um.es)
- 62. Universidad Politécnica de Cartagena  
[www.upct.es](http://www.upct.es)

**Comunidad Foral de Navarra**

- 63. Universidad de Navarra  
[www.unav.es](http://www.unav.es)
- 64. Universidad Pública de Navarra  
[www.unavarra.es](http://www.unavarra.es)

**Comunidad Autónoma del País Vasco**

- 65. Universidad de Deusto  
[www.deusto.es](http://www.deusto.es)
- 66. Mondragon Unibertsitatea  
[www.mondragon.edu](http://www.mondragon.edu)
- 67. Universidad del País Vasco  
[www.ehu.es](http://www.ehu.es)

**Comunidad Autónoma de La Rioja**

- 68. Universidad Internacional de La Rioja  
[www.unir.net](http://www.unir.net)
- 69. Universidad de La Rioja  
[www.unirioja.es](http://www.unirioja.es)

**Comunidad Valenciana**

- 70. Universitat d'Alacant  
[www.ua.es](http://www.ua.es)
- 71. Universidad Cardenal Herrera CEU  
[www.uch.ceu.es](http://www.uch.ceu.es)
- 72. Universitat Catòlica de València Sant Vicent Màrtir  
[www.ucv.es](http://www.ucv.es)

- 73. Universitat Internacional Valenciana (VIU)  
[www.viu.es](http://www.viu.es)
- 74. Universitat Jaume I  
[www.uji.es](http://www.uji.es)
- 75. Universitat Miguel Hernández d'Elx  
[www.umh.es](http://www.umh.es)
- 76. Universitat Politècnica de València  
[www.upv.es](http://www.upv.es)
- 77. Universitat de València  
[www.uv.es](http://www.uv.es)



Since the adaptation to the European Higher Education Area (EHEA), the new structure of university studies in Spain comprises three cycles: Bachelor's, Master's, and Doctorate. The Bachelor's and Master's degrees are linked to the following areas of knowledge:

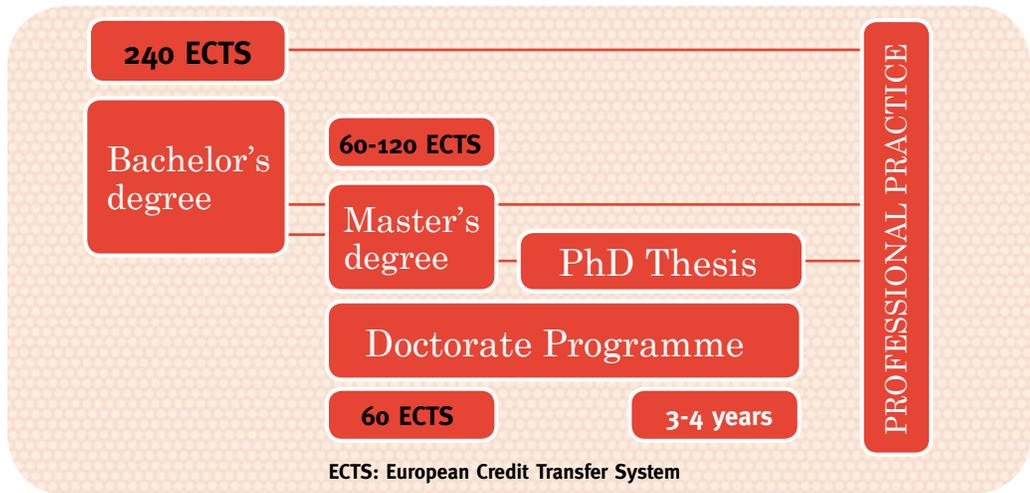
- Arts and Humanities
- Sciences
- Health Sciences
- Social and Legal Sciences
- Engineering and Architecture

Spain has a range of generalist universities offering studies in all areas, and specialist institutions with a markedly technological orientation. Our university system also includes institutions offering distance learning, online learning, and others specializing in postgraduate study.

By way of reference, during the 2009-2010 academic year Spain's public universities taught nearly 3000 undergraduate courses, more than 2000 master's courses, and more than 1000 doctorate programmes.



## Structure of the university studies



### 1st Cycle: Bachelor's degree

The bachelor's degree (*grado*) replaces the old qualifications of undergraduate diplomas and degrees. To obtain a bachelor's degree, students must earn a total of 240 ECTS credits over four academic years (including an end of degree dissertation).

The bachelor's degree is structured as follows:

- Basic training subjects (minimum of 60 credits)
- Obligatory subjects
- Optional subjects
- External placements (maximum of 60 credits)
- End of degree dissertation (minimum of 6 credits and a maximum of 30)
- Cultural activities (maximum 6 credits). Students must enrol for a minimum of 9 credits and a maximum of 90 in each academic year.



## 2nd Cycle: Master's degree

Master's degrees comprise between 60 and 120 ECTS credits, spread over one or two academic years.

Official master's studies aim to prepare students for academic, professional or research work and lead to the award of the master's degree which is valid in all countries that are members of the European Higher Education Area (EHEA).

Students will be admitted on master's programmes in accordance with the assessment requirements stipulated. The universities' Commission for the Coordination of University Qualifications establishes the procedures and criteria for admission to master's programmes.



## 3rd Cycle: Doctoral degree

Doctoral studies in Spain provide advanced training in research techniques. They are divided into two cycles: a study period requiring the student to obtain at least 60 credits (which may form part of the master's degree), and a research period, which leads up to the presentation and defence of the PhD thesis. The duration of the doctoral programme varies, but it usually takes between three and four years, counting the study period, the research period and the preparation of the thesis.

For more information on postgraduate studies offered by Spanish universities, please visit the Ministry of Education website: [www.guiauniversidades.uji.es](http://www.guiauniversidades.uji.es)

The Spanish university system is currently immersed in the process of internationalizing its curriculum and offers a wide variety of bachelor's and master's not only in Spanish, but also in English for students wishing to study in this language. Updated lists of the programmes taught in foreign languages can be consulted at our website:

[http://www.universidad.es/titulaciones/titulaciones\\_en\\_lenguas\\_extranjeras\\_es](http://www.universidad.es/titulaciones/titulaciones_en_lenguas_extranjeras_es)

## ECTS credits

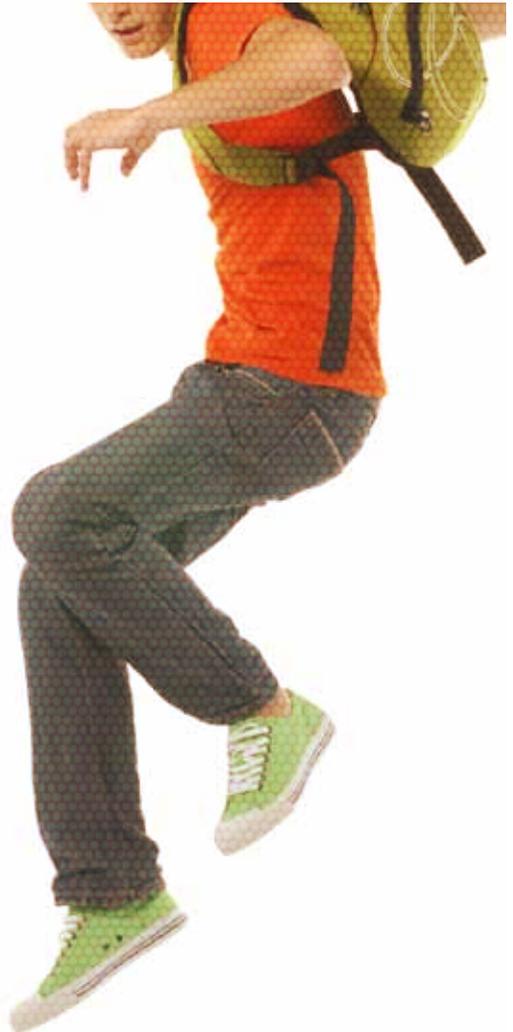
ECTS credits (ECTS = European Credit Transfer System) are the standard adopted by all the universities in the European Higher Education Area (EHEA) in the process of convergence between Europe's higher education systems.

ECTS credits are based on the work completed by the student, and cover hours of class, self-study, written work, and practicals.

An ECTS credit represents 25 hours of study. A student studying full-time is expected to obtain 60 ECTS credits in an academic year.

For more information on the adaptation to the Bologna Process, please visit:

- [www.quesbolonia.es](http://www.quesbolonia.es)  
The Spanish Ministry of Education's webpage, with general information on the Bologna Process.
- [www.ehea.info](http://www.ehea.info)  
Webpage of the European Higher Education Area.
- [www.bologna2009benelux.org](http://www.bologna2009benelux.org)  
Official webpage of the Bologna Process.



## Accreditation and quality control

Higher education in Spain is internationally accredited.  
For more information, please visit [www.aneca.es](http://www.aneca.es)



## Admission to university



### Admission to bachelor's degree studies (grado)



**Admission to bachelor's degree studies for students who have completed pre-university studies in countries of the European Union (EU), Switzerland, Iceland, Norway, Liechtenstein or China.**

Students who have completed secondary education in a member state of the European Union (EU), Switzerland, Iceland, Norway, Liechtenstein or China, are not obliged to sit the Spanish university access examination (known as PAAU, or selectividad). They must only meet the requirements laid down in their country of origin for gaining admission to university.

#### PROCEDURE

1- **Candidates** must apply to Spain's University of Distance Education (UNED) for a **credencial de acceso**, a certificate demonstrating that they meet the requirements for admission. For information on the documents to be presented, please consult the UNED website [portal.uned.es](http://portal.uned.es). The application can also be made online.

For further information, applicants should contact the University of Distance Education (UNED) by phone **+34 91 398 66 13** or e-mail [selectue@adm.uned.es](mailto:selectue@adm.uned.es)

2- The university to which the student is applying is responsible for verifying that he/she meets the admission requirements.

3- Once the **application has been verified and approved**, the university will issue the **certificate** authorizing the student to pre-enrol for university studies.

4- The student matriculates at the university after obtaining a place via the **pre-enrolment system**.



**Admission to bachelor's degree studies for students from countries outside the EU or countries other than Switzerland, Iceland, Norway, Liechtenstein or China, who have not started university studies.**

1. **Applicants must have their studies officially accredited.** To carry out this process, known in Spanish as *homologación*, candidates should apply to the Ministry of Education. [www.universidad.es](http://www.universidad.es)
2. **Applicants must sit the Spanish university admission examination** (PAAU, or selectividad). Spain's University of Distance Education (UNED) organizes this examination for students from abroad.

The examination is structured as follows:

**GENERAL PART:**

four examinations (Text Commentary in Spanish Language and Literature, History of Philosophy or History of Spain (to be chosen by the student), Foreign Language (English, French, German, Italian or Portuguese) and a subject (also chosen by the student) from the area of the university degree he/she intends to study (artistic, social, technical, etc.)

**SPECIFIC PART (OPTIONAL):**

examinations in at least two subjects; the grade obtained may raise the student's overall university access grade.

For more information on the dates and examination centres, visit the UNED website:

[www.uned.es](http://www.uned.es)

For more information on the recognition of foreign university qualifications, please visit the Ministry of Education webpage: [www.educacion.es](http://www.educacion.es)

3. **Applicants carry out their preinscription** by applying for a place through the webpage of the university where they intend to study. Once accepted, they should register directly with the university.

The **preinscription** period is usually between the middle of June and the start of July. The academic year begins in September.





### Admission to bachelor's degree studies for students who have started university studies in another country and who wish to continue their studies in Spain.

Students who have started university studies in another country and who wish to continue their studies in Spain must apply for the partial recognition of the studies they have already completed abroad (in Spanish, *convalidación de estudios parciales*). This procedure will be carried out at the Spanish university where they wish to study.

The effect of the **partial recognition of studies** is solely academic, given that it allows students to pursue their studies inside the Spanish university system.

#### APPLICANTS SHOULD PRESENT THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTATION

The standard form for the official recognition of previous studies called **the *solicitud de convalidación***, which should be duly completed with personal information, the studies completed specifying the subjects, and a list of the subjects that the applicant wishes to have recognized.

**An official certificate indicating the subjects passed**, bearing the seal of the home university.

**The programme of each of the subjects the applicant wishes to have recognized**, bearing the seal of the home university.

**The study plan of the degree initiated** by the applicant indicating the duration in academic years and the subjects that comprise it, bearing the seal of the home university.

A photocopy of the applicant's **identity card or passport**.

## THE DOCUMENTS MUST MEET THE FOLLOWING REQUIREMENTS

The documents issued abroad must be official and must be duly **legalized either by** an Embassy or Consulate or by the “**apostille of The Hague**” (with the exception of studies carried out in the European Union).

The documents must be accompanied by a corresponding **official translation** into Spanish. The official translation may be carried out by:

- A Sworn Translator duly authorized or registered in Spain.
- Any diplomatic or consular representation of Spain abroad.
- The diplomatic or consular representation of the applicant’s country of origin in Spain, or, if appropriate, of the country in which the document was issued.
- Applicants who do not obtain partial recognition of the credits requested (the minimum being 60 credits) will be required to sit the Spanish university admission examination.

For more information on obtaining official recognition of foreign academic qualifications (*homologación* and *convalidación*) please consult the website of the Ministry of Education [www.educacion.es](http://www.educacion.es)

## IV

**Admission to bachelor’s degree studies for students who have completed bachelor’s degrees abroad (either in the EU or elsewhere) and who wish to pursue further bachelor’s degree studies in Spain.**

Students who have completed university studies at a foreign university or higher education centre and who wish to pursue their studies at a Spanish university may choose to:

**Apply for official accreditation (*homologación*)** of their degree as an official Spanish university qualification.

**Apply for official partial recognition (*convalidación*)** of their university studies. Applicants should bear in mind that these two options cannot be applied for simultaneously.



## Postgraduate studies (Master's and Doctoral studies)

Foreign students interested in carrying out master's or doctoral studies in Spain should apply directly to the Spanish university where they wish to study.

**To be admitted on a master's programme, students must meet one of these requirements:**

Be in possession of a bachelor's degree obtained at a university in Spain or in a country in the European Higher Education Area (EHEA)

Be in possession of a bachelor's degree obtained at a university in a country other than those indicated above. The Spanish university must be satisfied that the level of the studies leading to this degree is equivalent to that required to obtain a bachelor's degree in Spain.

**To gain admission on a doctoral programme**, applicants must also have obtained at least **60 ECTS credits**. These credits may form part of the study period in the doctoral programme or may correspond to a master's programme.

It is not necessary to obtain official accreditation of a bachelor's degree to be able to follow a master's or doctoral degree in Spain.

For more information on the recognition of foreign qualifications, the "apostille of The Hague" and sworn translations of academic certificates, please consult [www.universidad.es](http://www.universidad.es)

## Academic calendar

Most Spanish universities divide the academic year into two semesters.

The first usually starts in mid-September or early October, and finishes at the end of December; the exam period is usually in January.

The second semester usually starts in late January or early February and finishes at the end of May. June is the exam period. This calendar may vary slightly from university to university. Some universities divide the academic year into trimesters.

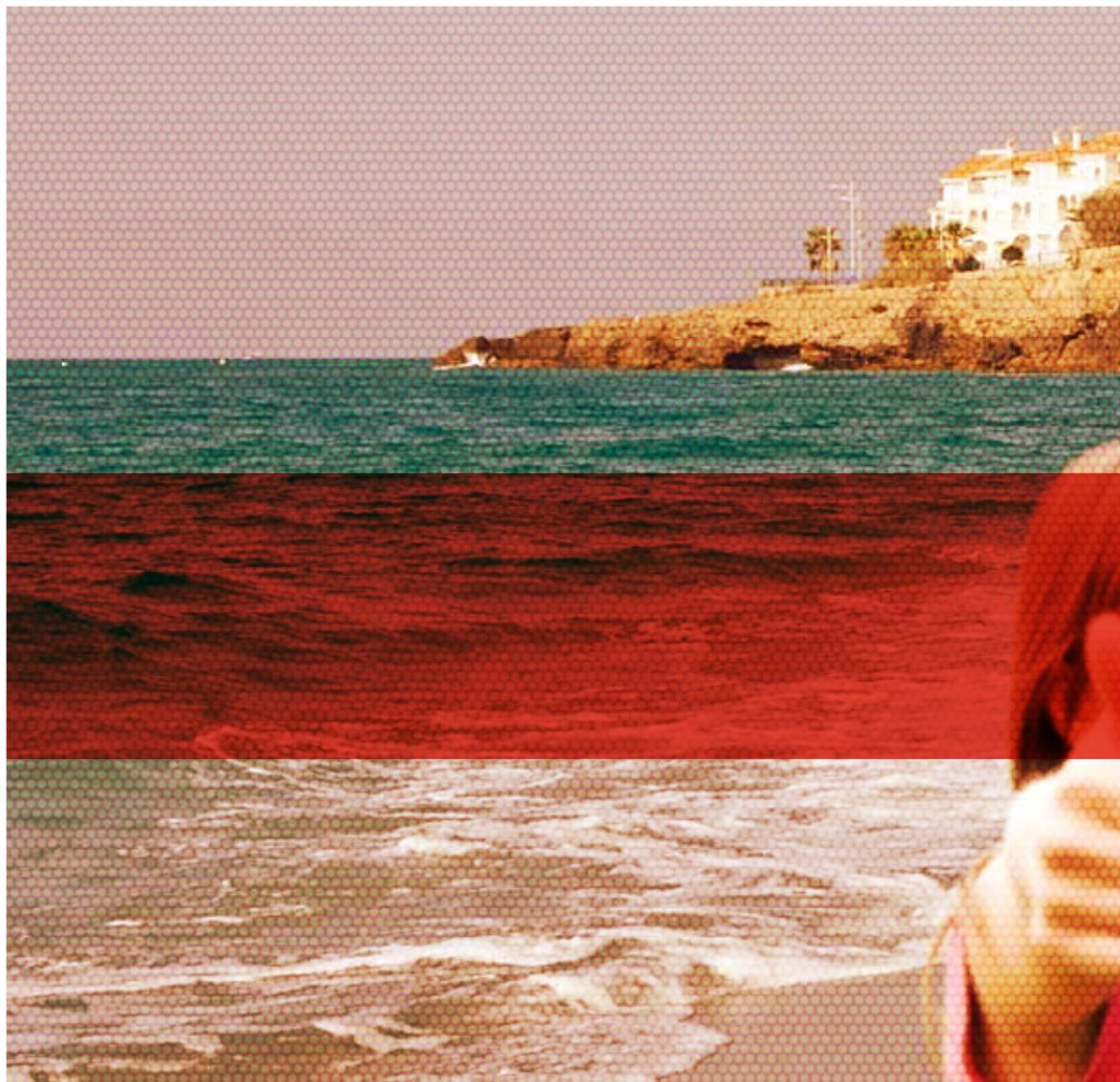
## Grants and scholarships

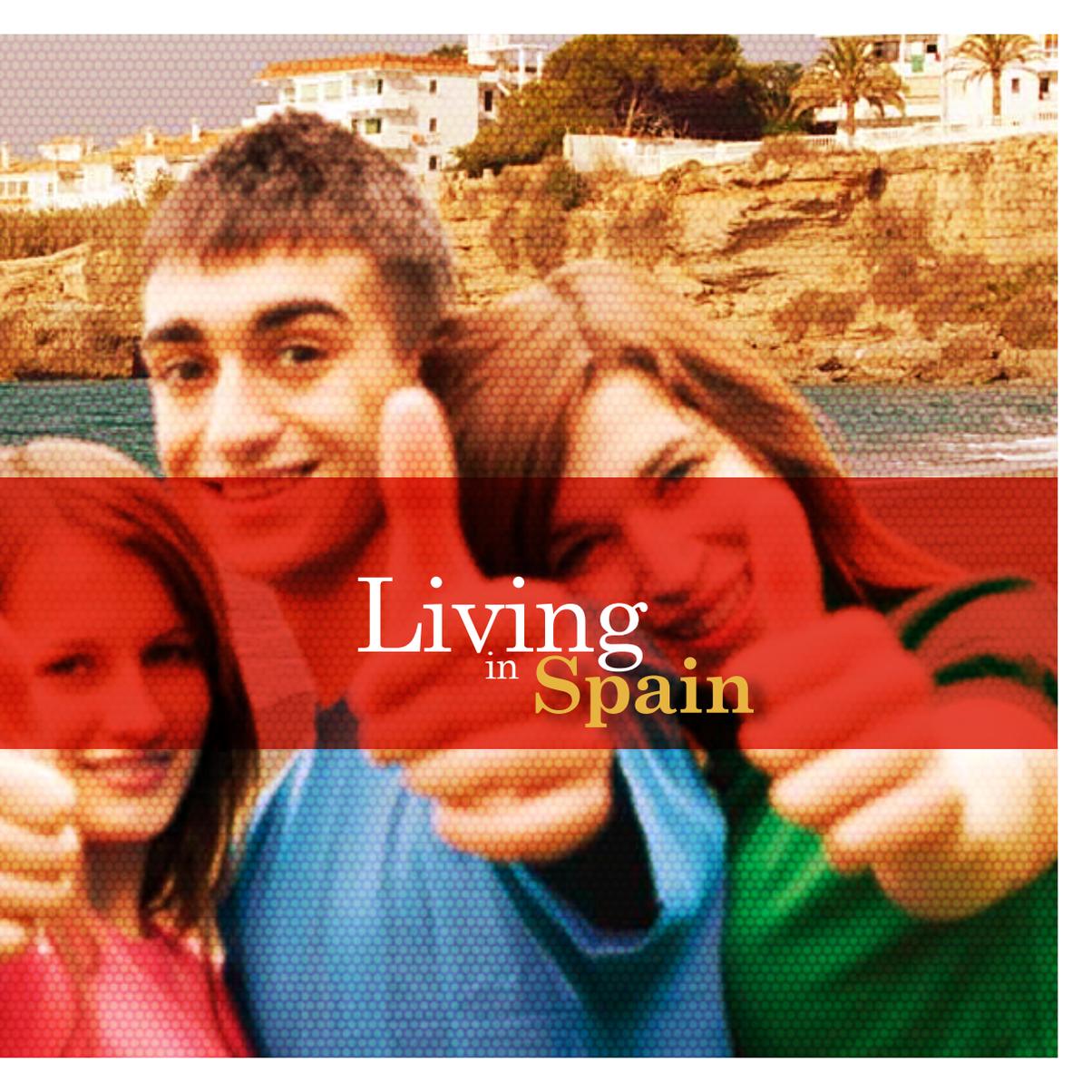
There are many possibilities for obtaining study grants, from public or private institutions both in Spain and in your home country. There are too many to list here, and as new grants are constantly being announced we recommend that candidates visit the Universidad.es search engine at the link below: [http://www.universidad.es/informacion\\_y\\_recursos/becas](http://www.universidad.es/informacion_y_recursos/becas)

Further information is available at:

- [www.becasmae.es](http://www.becasmae.es)
- [www.fundacioncarolina.es](http://www.fundacioncarolina.es)
- [www.educacion.es](http://www.educacion.es)







Living  
in Spain



International students coming to a Spanish university can be sure of a warm welcome. There are a few important steps that students and researchers should take before arriving. Below is a list of information that you should bear in mind while organizing your trip.

## Visas

Make sure you are aware of the requirements for entering Spain as a student. These differ according to your country of origin and your intended length of stay.

### Study visas and length of stay:

For studies and research periods lasting less than three months no study visa is necessary, unless the interested party is from a country for which a visa is required as standard practice.

For periods of between three and six months a visa is required, but no other documents need be applied for in Spain.

For studies and research periods lasting more than six months, visitors must apply for both a visa and a student's residence card in Spain. The student must begin the application process within a month of his/her arrival in the country. The student's residence card is processed at the *Oficinas de Extranjería* (Foreign Nationals Offices) of the Spanish Police.

Many Spanish universities have guidance services for international students and researchers which help them to process their student's cards. This information is available in the section "Who's who" at the website [www.universidad.es](http://www.universidad.es)

### Students from the European Union:

Nationals of European Union countries do not require a visa. Nonetheless, they should applied for a NIE (*Número de Identificación de Extranjeros*, Foreign National Identity Number) on their arrival in Spain. This document is needed, for example, to open a bank account, buy a discount transport card, or use the health service.

## Students from other countries

Foreign nationals of countries outside the European Union wishing to study or research in Spain for a period longer than three months must apply for a study visa at the Spanish Consulate of their country of origin or legal residence.

### TO APPLY FOR A STUDY VISA, PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS SHOULD

- 1- **Pre-enrol at a public or private teaching centre** that is officially recognized in Spain.
- 2- **Contact the Spanish Consulate** to process the study visa with the certificate or letter of acceptance issued by the Centre.

### THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS ARE NEEDED TO PROCESS THE STUDY VISA

- Valid **passport**.
- **A document certifying admission** to an officially recognized public or private teaching centre for the purposes of study, research or training.
- **The contents of the study**, training or research syllabus that the applicant intends to pursue.
- **A medical insurance** policy covering medical expenses and repatriation in the case of accident or sudden illness for the entire period of the stay in Spain.
- **A medical certificate** specifying that the applicant does not suffer an illness requiring quarantine in accordance with international health regulations.
- **A certificate of solvency for the period in question**, if necessary to cover the cost of returning to the country of origin.
- **A criminal record certificate** issued by the authorities of the country of origin or the country in which the applicant has lived during the past five years.

The visa is processed by Spain's Consulates-General abroad, which have specialist staff available to answer enquiries. For a list of Spain's Consulates-General around the world, please consult the section *Atención al ciudadano* on the webpage of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, [www.maec.es](http://www.maec.es)

**It is not possible to enter Spain with a tourist visa and then apply for a study visa. Students entering the country only with a tourist visa will have to return to their country of residence and obtain the visa there.**



## Accommodation

### Student residences

There are several types of student residences. Some, though not all, depend on educational institutions. The websites of the education authorities provide lists of residences classified by province: <http://www.mastermas.com/Residencias/Index.asp>



## Colegios mayores

*Colegios mayores* are residences that are generally attached to the universities. They normally include full board. Shared and single rooms are available. The advantage of the *Colegios mayores* is that they are usually very close to the campus (some are even located on-campus). For more information, please consult the website of the *Consejo de Colegios Mayores*:

<http://www.consejocolegiosmayores.es/>

## Accommodation with a family

Living with a Spanish family is an interesting way of getting to know the country, its culture and people. It also provides plenty of opportunities for practising the language.

Some universities facilitate that arrange accommodation with families. Often it is the International Relations Office that carries out this function.

## Flat rental

A common practice among Spanish students is to share a rented flat. Rents vary widely depending on the city and on the number of flatmates. In Internet there are numerous agencies offering this type of accommodation.

The message boards at the Faculties, the International Relations Offices or elsewhere on the campus have advertisements offering individual or shared rooms.

## Intergenerational programmes

Some universities offer intergenerational programmes under which students stay in the homes of retired people. The students do not have to pay rent, although they must contribute towards the living costs (e.g. electricity, water, gas, food).

## Working in Spain as a student

To be able to carry out a study or research period in Spain, students must demonstrate that they possess sufficient means to cover their time in our country. However, it may be that some students wish to combine their studies with a part-time job and thus obtain additional income. Students should think carefully about whether this is in their interests, as it may affect their academic performance.

Foreign students studying in Spain may work for up to **20 hours a week** provided that the working day is compatible with their study or research commitments. An employer who wishes to hire a foreign student in these conditions must apply to the Foreign Nationals' Office for authorization. The duration of the contract may not be longer than the duration of the study visa.

We recommend that you find out more information on the possibility of obtaining paid work at the *Oficina de Extranjeros* (Foreign Nationals Office) in the city where you plan to carry out your studies or research.

Nonetheless, we stress that it is very difficult for students to find work in Spain. It is very important to comply with all the legal regulations.

The 2000 Act on the rights and freedoms of foreigners in Spain and their social integration states the following:

### **Article 90. Employment of students and researchers.**

1. Foreign students in possession of a student visa may be authorized to take on paid work, in public or private institutions, when the employer applies for a work permit and when all requisites listed under article 50, except for paragraphs 2.b) and 3.a), are met. **(In accordance with Royal Decree 1162/2009, 10 July).**

The aforementioned activities must be compatible with the studies undertaken, and the income received must not be considered as the main means of support.

It will not be necessary to apply for authorization for work placements in public or private institutions which form part of the study programme for which the student visa was granted, and which take place within the framework of the corresponding collaboration agreements between these institutions and the study centre in question.

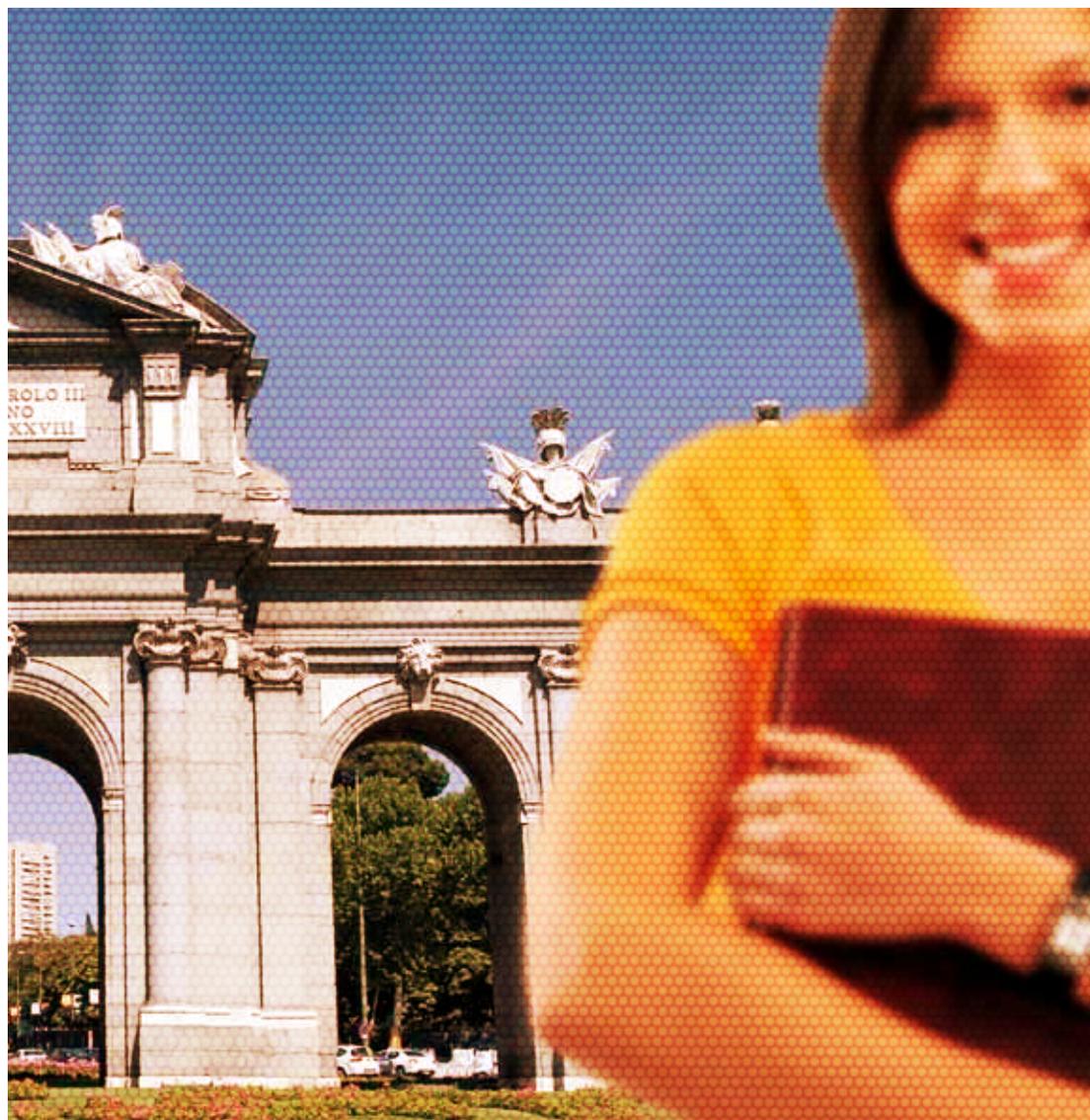
2. The contracts must be formalized in writing, and must be part-time contracts. In the event that the job requires the student to work a full working-day, its duration must not exceed three months, nor coincide with periods during which classes are given.

3. The authorization granted will not be limited geographically, unless the paid activity coincides with periods during which classes are given; in this case, its location will be limited to the student's area of residence for which the visa was issued. When the employment is initiated and takes place in the territory of a single autonomous community, and when this autonomous community has executive competence regarding the processing and resolution of initial authorizations for self-employment or employment by a third party, the competent powers of the autonomous community are responsible for the admission, processing, resolution of applications and any administrative appeals, in accordance with the provisions in these regulations for the initial authorization of employment by a third party **(In accordance with Royal Decree 1162/2009, 10 July)**.

4. The validity of the authorization will be the same as the duration of the work contract, and may not exceed the duration of the visa or authorization of studies. When the visa expires, the authorization to work shall become void. Authorizations to work will be renewed if the circumstances that justified the previous approval still apply, provided that permission for the study or research stay has been duly renewed.

5. When the employment whose authorization is applied for is initiated and takes place in the territory of an autonomous community which has competence in the area of the initial authorization of employment, the autonomous community will be the institution that has competence regarding its resolution. **(Added by Royal Decree 1162/2009, 10 July)**.





## Health in Spain

An applicant for a study visa from a country that is not a member of the European Union must also show proof of possession of a medical insurance policy for the duration of the study or research period in Spain.

### Public health services

Citizens of European Union member countries and Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway or Switzerland may use the health services during their study or research period on presentation of the **European health card**. Students should obtain their European health card from their local health authority, since each country is responsible for producing and distributing the card in its own territory.

For other nationalities, the procedure for obtaining access to the Spanish public health service is as follows:

1. First, applicants must register for a social security number at the social security office nearest their place of residence in Spain, presenting their passport or NIE (Foreign Nationals' Identification Number) and the census certificate (*empadronamiento*).
2. After obtaining a social security number, the application should visit the health centre nearest to his or her residence in Spain and ask for a health card. The centre will provide them with a provisional health card. The definitive card will arrive by post within a few weeks.

### Private health care

In Spain there are numerous private companies offering medical insurance that allows access to private health care services.

For more information, please consult [www.elseguromedico.es](http://www.elseguromedico.es)

## Cost of living in Spain

Below are some examples to give an idea of the amounts students spend per month. Prices vary depending on the city; the big cities tend to be more expensive, and students must also include the price of transport. Certain areas of the country are cheaper, especially with regard to the cost of accommodation.

Rent in a shared flat	300 €
Transport (in big cities)	45 €
Study material	40 €
Food	300 €
Leisure/Entertainment	90 €
<b>Other prices</b>	
Set meal	9 €
Milk (1 litre)	0,70 €
Cinema ticket	6,5 €

## The cost of studying in Spain

Enrolment fees in Spain are relatively inexpensive. Fees for bachelor's degrees (*grado*) at public universities in Spain vary between 500 and 1,100 € per academic year. These fees are established officially by the education authorities in the Autonomous Communities (the regional governments).

At private universities the registration fee for bachelor's degree studies varies between 5,000 and 12,000 € per academic year, depending on the degree, the institution, and the student's academic performance. The fees at private universities are established by the university itself.

Both at public and private universities, the amount that students pay varies according to the number of credits for which they enrol, the degree course chosen and their academic performance (students repeating subjects must pay an extra charge when they enrol for the second time).

The fees for official master's and doctoral degrees at public and private universities are regulated by the government. In the 2009-2010 academic year, the fees will be within a range set between 16 € and 28 € per credit. Therefore, a master's course comprising 60 ECTS credits may cost between 960 € and 1680 €. The Autonomous Communities may establish their own fees, but they must be within the limits set by the government. In exceptional cases, the upper limit of 28 € per credit may be exceeded, up to a maximum of 30% of the cost.

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