

UNIVERSITY SPAIN

Frequently Asked Questions





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University Spain. Frequently Asked Questions.

Universidad.es

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UNIVERSIDAD.ES

What is Universidad.es?

The Foundation for the International Promotion of Spanish Universities – Universidad.es is a public sector foundation that aims to promote the Spanish university system throughout the world.

The Foundation Universidad.es is not a university.

Our webpage (www.universidad.es) offers all that an international student needs to know to choose Spain as their new academic destination (search engines of universities, degrees, scholarships, legal and practical information, accommodation options...)

SCHOLARSHIPS

How can I apply for a scholarship to enrol in a Spanish university?

Each university has its own scholarship policy so it is necessary to check the detailed information in each institution's webpage. Furthermore, there are many national and international institutions that offer scholarships of which the calls and placements are different and vary permanently.

Does Universidad.es directly offer scholarships to students?

Universidad.es does not award scholarships. Nevertheless, it has created a search engine on its webpage that collects information about scholarships offered by Spanish universities, international universities and other institutions for Spanish and international students.

Are the Spanish universities among the best in the world?

The Spanish universities are present in the most recognized international rankings such as the Academic Ranking of World Universities-ARWU (Shanghai), the National Taiwan University Ranking- NTU (Ranking de Taiwan), the Quacquarelli Symonds World University Ranking (Ranking QS), the SCImago Institutions Ranking Global, the Times Higher Education Ranking (THE), the U-Multirank or Webometrics, among others.

For example, in the rankings by disciplines of QS, Shanghai and Taiwan (2013 edition), 30 Spanish universities are among the best 200 of the world, 19 among the best 100, and 6 universities are among the best 50 in the world in, at least, one discipline. On the other hand, Spain is one of the countries best positioned internationally in the young universities rankings (under 50 years). In the QS Top 50 under 50, Spain occupies the second position in the World and the first position in Europe. In a similar ranking, Times Higher Education under 50, Spain occupies the second position in Europe, and the fifth in the world. More information in the FICUE project at www.universidad.es

THE SPANISH UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

What types of degrees are offered in Spain?

There are two types of degrees in Spain: The official degrees and the non-official degrees. All of the Spanish Universities, public or private, can issue an official and a non-official degree.

Official degrees:

Bachelor's degree, Master's degree, and Doctoral degree.

Official University degrees are valid in all National territory, are established by the Government and are adapted to the European Higher Education Area (EHEA). Therefore, they have official validity in all of the countries that comprise the EHEA. These degrees are equivalent to/recognized in other countries that do not pertain to this area.

Non-official degrees:

They are known as a Non-official degree, Magister or non-official master, or Expert Master. There are no Non-official doctorates. Non-official degrees are created by the university and do not have validity in the EHEA. Therefore, they are not equivalent in other countries, but valid only by the same public or private university that has given the degree.

What can I do to study in Spain?

Admission to official degree

BACHELOR'S DEGREE

In order to study for the Spanish Grado (equivalent of a Bachelor's degree) the student must decide whether they want to start their studies from the beginning (starting their studies in Spain) or if they would like to continue their Grado studies (Bachelor's degree) that have been initiated in their own countries.

Starting university studies:

- Students that hold a pre-university degree equivalent to the Spanish one, or students who have completed pre-university studies in countries of the European Union (EU), Switzerland, Iceland, Norway, Liechtenstein or China.

Requisitos de acceso:

- Titulación correspondiente.

Procedimiento:

- Seguir el procedimiento de admisión fijado por la universidad en la que desee estudiar.

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- Students who have not completed secondary education in a member state of the European Union (EU), Switzerland, Iceland, Norway, Liechtenstein or China, or students from the rest of the world with recognized foreign qualifications.

Requisitos de acceso:

- Homologación previa de sus estudios al título de Bachiller español.

Procedimiento:

- Seguir el procedimiento de admisión fijado por la universidad en la que desee estudiar.

University studies that have been initiated:

- Students who have started university studies in another country and who wish to continue their studies in Spain, or Spaniards that, having finished their university studies abroad, have not obtained recognized qualification and want to continue their studies in a Spanish university.

Procedimiento:

- Ponerse en contacto con la universidad española en la que deseen proseguir sus estudios.

POSTGRADUATE (MASTER AND DOCTORAL STUDIES)

MASTER

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 program, 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 by obtaining a bachelor's degree in Spain.

DOCTORATE

In general, in order to access an official doctorate program, it is necessary to have a Bachelor's degree or the Spanish equivalent and an official Master's degree (RD 99/2011). For more information please refer to our web page universidad.es.

Procedimiento:

- Ponerse en contacto con la universidad española en la que deseen proseguir sus estudios.

THE SPANISH UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

Admission to non-official degrees

Non-official degrees have diverse program lengths, names and requirements. Considering that they are approved by the same issuing university, the requirements vary according to the university that is offering the degree. They may be Bachelor's or Master's studies and therefore generally require, for either case, that the student send their official degree and grades of any studies initiated already.

What Bachelors or Masters degrees are offered in English in the Spanish universities?

Normally, each university specifies on their webpage the total or partially offered degrees in a foreign language. Universidad.es has elaborated a search engine of degrees taught in foreign languages by the Spanish universities.
(www.universidad.es)



What is the difference between official recognition and a validation of foreign qualifications?

The official recognition of foreign higher education equates the academic training recognized and implied in the international degree with the corresponding officially recognized degree issued by a Spanish university.

On the contrary, validation is the official recognition of the validity, for academic purposes, of the studies made abroad (having completed with a degree or without) with partial studies in a Spanish university. This validation permits the student to continue their studies in a Spanish University. For more information: www.boe.es.

Is official recognition of a university degree necessary to be admitted into a Spanish University?

No. It is not necessary that the international students with a university degree obtain official recognition to be admitted into a Spanish university.

When a foreign student with university studies wants to enrol in a Spanish university in order to obtain a Bachelor's, Master's or Doctorate degree, they must follow the procedure that is established in their desired Spanish university.

Although it is not necessary to obtain official recognition of an international university degree, when a foreign student wants to do postgraduate studies, the university will validate their degree allowing the student access to the Spanish University.

THE SPANISH UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

What is the cost of studying in Spain?

The cost of studying in Spain varies depending on:

- The nature of the degree (official or non-official).
- The nature of the university that issues the degree (public or private).
- If the student is a citizen of a country in the European Union.

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).

Private universities

The fees at private universities, whether official or non-official, are established by the university itself. The enrolment costs for Bachelor's, Master's or Doctorate students may vary anywhere between 5,000 and 15,000 euros per academic course depending on the degree, the institution, and the student's academic performance.

Public universities

The amount to be paid each year is fixed by the Autonomous Community itself, within the limits proposed by the Conferencia General de Política Universitaria (the General Assembly for University Policy).

The universities must not raise the public prices for the Spanish students or students from the European Union. However, the legislation allows the universities to increase the public prices for the non European Union students.

On the other hand, the price of the non-official degrees are decided by the university itself that offer the degree and there is no limit to the cost.

In the academic year 2014-2015, tuition costs for a Bachelor's degree in the Spanish public universities ranged approximately from 700 and 3,700 euros per year.

The prices of enrolment in the Master's programs and the Doctorate programs in public universities are within a fixed rate of 17 and 65 euros per credit.

How much does living in Spain cost?

This is a subjective concept but studies have estimated that students and researchers in Spain spend an average of 900 and 1100€ per month on living expenses, depending on the city.

The differences are due mainly to the cost of accommodation (renting a flat, living in a university residence, etc.), which tends to be higher in the larger cities.

Although the cost of accommodation between cities can be important, food prices and the cost of other services tend to be quite similar all over Spain.

How many languages are spoken in Spain?

Spanish is the official language of Spain, but it is not the only language spoken.

The other official languages spoken in Spain are Catalan (in Catalonia), Majorcan (in the Balearics), Valencian (in the Community of Valencia), Galician (in Galicia), and Euskera (in the Basque Country).

In these Autonomous Communities that have a language of their own, classes are taught both in Spanish and in the co-official language, besides in English in those universities where available.

Practically all the universities in these regions offer a wide range of courses for international students wishing to learn the language and to become more familiar with the culture and history of the place where they are studying.

Many of these courses in Catalan, Galician and Euskera are taught for free at the universities.

What paperwork do I need to study in Spain?

BASED ON THE DURATION

Study periods lasting longer than three months.

For international students coming to Spain to study for 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.

Study periods between three and six months.

International students coming to Spain to study for periods between three and six months must apply for a student visa that will include the authorization of residency in Spain. This application must be done in the Spanish Embassy or Consulate of the student's country of origin or legal residence.

Study periods lasting more than 6 months.

International students coming to Spain to study for periods lasting more than 6 months 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.

BASED ON NATIONALITY

Nationals of European Union countries do not require a visa. Nevertheless, they should apply 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 health services.

LIVING IN SPAIN

Estudiantes no comunitarios europeos

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.

The following documents are needed to process the study visa:

- 1.** Valid passport.
- 2.** A document certifying admission to an officially recognized public or private teaching centre for the purposes of study, research or training.
- 3.** The contents of the study, training or research syllabus that the applicant intends to pursue.
- 4.** 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.
- 5.** A medical certificate specifying that the applicant does not suffer an illness requiring quarantine in accordance with international health regulations.
- 6.** A certificate of solvency for the period in question, if necessary to cover the cost of returning to the country of origin.
- 7.** 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.

EU students

Nationals of European Union countries or other countries that are in accordance to the European Economic Area, whose studies have a duration of less than three months, would be sufficient with having a Passport or valid identification document showing the dates of entry into Spain.

Nationals of European Union countries or other countries that are in accordance to the European Economic Area, whose studies have a duration of more than three months, in addition to having a valid Passport or identification document that shows the date of entry into Spain, are also obligated to personally request in the Foreign Nationals Office of the province where they will live, or before the local police station, their inscription in the Central Registry for Foreign Nationals.

You may consult the current laws (Ley Orgánica 4/2000, about rights and liberties of foreigners in Spain and the Royal Legislative Decree 557/2011) in the webpage www.boe.es.

IMPORTANT NOTE: It is not possible to enter Spain with a Tourist Visa and then solicit a Student Visa. In this case, it would be necessary to return to the country of residence and obtain a new Visa from there.

LIVING IN SPAIN

Is it possible to work in Spain during an academic stay?

An academic stay permits the student to work part time as long as the working hours are compatible with class and research hours. The employer that wants to hire a person that is studying must solicit a work authorization or permit from the Foreign Nationals office. The duration of the contract may not, without exception, be superior to the duration of the Student Visa.

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