

Universidad de
Salamanca

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The University

In the year 1218 king Alfonso IX of Leon founded **the University of Salamanca**, which is considered to be the oldest Spanish universities in existence.

The University of Salamanca is of medium size with 26,746 registered students in the first and second cycles of the 2006/07 course and 26,828 in the 2007/2008 course, (in nineteenth position among public universities (UUPP) according to the publication of CRUE, The Spanish University in Figures 2008). If we add to this figure the number of registered students in, University Masters, doctorate programmes and further studies, the figure surpasses 30,000 students.

The university is made up of 9 teaching and administrative campuses in Ávila, Zamora, Béjar y Salamanca. Therefore, it is characterised by its widely dispersed geography. In the city of Salamanca, the educational centres are grouped into six campuses: the Historical campus, Campus of Sciences, Campus de Canalejas, Campus Miguel de Unamuno (Campus of Bio(health/Sciences? and Campus of FES-Law), Campus Ciudad Jardín and Campus Villamayor.

The university offers 81 courses in the first and second cycles spread throughout the five branches of knowledge. Like the majority of Spanish universities, the branch of Social and Legal Sciences is where the largest percentage of students are registered. However, there is also a large number of students specialising in Humanities and Experimental Sciences, which account for 15.31% and 13.82% respectively, well above those of Media and Spanish UU PP. (Source: The Spanish University in Figures 2008.).

From the perspective of offers, the conclusions are similar, the faculty of Humanities offers 77% of the courses contained in the branch catalogue (the same level as UCM and only behind that of the UAB and UB) (Source: The Spanish University in Figures 2008).

International Relations

The International Relations office is the equivalent to UCC's International Education Office. Their job is to help international students with any enquiries they may have. Please go there if you need any assistance.

Servicio de Relaciones Internacionales
Universidad de Salamanca
C/ Escoto, 13-15
37009 Salamanca, Spain
923 29 44 26
usal.es

Contact Information

Head of Service

M. Teresa Hernandez Gallego

Phone: 923 294400 Ext. 1025 Email: mthg@usal.es

Head of Section

Pedro Manuel Garcia Calvo

Phone: 923 294400 Ext. 1171 Email: pmgc@usal.es

Chief of Bureau

Adelaide Maria Arevalo Silva

Phone: 923 294400 Ext. 1169 Email: maas@usal.es

Monica Herrero Ruiz

Phone: 923 294400 Ext. 1228 Email: moherrero@usal.es

Departmental Contacts

In each faculty or study centre you will find an Erasmus Officer who will provide you with any academic information about subjects, study programmes, and exams you may need.

International Co-Ordinators

Geography and History:

Prof^a. Dr^a. D^a. Izaskun Álvarez Cuartero

Tel.: +34 923 294550 Ext. 1428 // Fax: +34 923 294512

E-mail: socgh@usal.es

Social Studies:

Prof^a. Dr^a. D^a. M^a José Sánchez García

Tel.: +34 923 294400 Ext. 3136 // Fax: +34 923 294573

E-mail: socratesccss@usal.es

Location



The university is made up of **9 teaching and administrative campuses** in Ávila, Zamora, Béjar and Salamanca. Therefore, it is characterised by its widely dispersed geography. In the city of Salamanca, the educational centres are grouped into six campuses: the Historical campus, Campus of Sciences, Campus de Canalejas, Campus Miguel de Unamuno (Campus of Bio(health/Sciences? and Campus of FES-Law), Campus Ciudad Jardín and Campus Villamayor.

Address:

Building Rectory

School Yard, 1. Ground floor

Phone:

+34 923 294 400 - Ext 1044, Ext

1124; **Fax:** **Postal:** informacion@usal.es **Website:** <http://www.usal.es/webusal/node/628>

Travel

You can come to Spain by plane to Madrid or Barcelona and then travel to Salamanca. The most common way to come is through Madrid, although you might also come through Irun on the French border or from Barcelona. You can get to Salamanca by train from all of these points. Information on train schedules and prices can be found at <http://www.renfe.es> and by calling +34 902 320320. You can also fly to Salamanca from Barcelona and Paris and this gives you access from many international connections. Salamanca Airport has daily flights to

and from Barcelona and twice weekly to Paris-Orly, operated by Air Nostrum. Up to date information can be obtained at:

http://www.aena.es/csee/Satellite?pagename=Aeropuerto_SLM

However, the most common way of coming to Salamanca is through Madrid. There are several ways to get to Salamanca from Madrid. If you arrive at Madrid-Barajas airport, to get to the bus or railway station, you can take one of the following:

Taxi: To the Chamartín railway station: (approximate price €25) or the Sur – Méndez Álvaro Bus Station (approximate price €25).

Under-ground (“Metro”) - To go from Madrid-Barajas Airport to the Sur – Méndez Álvaro Bus Station: take line 8 to “Nuevos Ministerios,” then change to line 6 and get off at the bus station.

To go from Madrid-Barajas Airport to Chamartín railway station: take line 8 to “Nuevos Ministerios,” then change to line 10 and get off at Chamartín.

An underground ticket costs approximately €2 from the airport. Information about the Madrid underground can be found at:

<http://www.metromadrid.es>

Train:

Trains for Salamanca leave from the Chamartin Railway Station in Madrid. There are 7 trains a day to Salamanca. The first train of the day leaves at 8:45 a.m. and the last one at 9:13 p.m. Tickets cost approximately €20. The journey takes approximately 2 hours and 40 minutes. More information can be found at: [http:// www.renfe.es](http://www.renfe.es)
Tel.: +34 902 320320

Bus:

There is an Express Bus Service from Madrid-Barajas Airport to Salamanca (approximately price €23). Further information at: <http://www.avanzabus.com>
There are many daily buses from the “Estación de Autobuses Sur – Méndez Álvaro” to Salamanca. There are frequent coaches between Madrid and Salamanca. The first leaves at 07:00 a.m. and the last at 10:30 p.m.; the journey takes about 2½ hours (Express Service), price: €22,35.

More information at:

<http://www.avanzabus.com/web/>

Tel.: +34 902 020999 // +34 902 020052

Estación Sur de Autobuses de Madrid (Madrid Bus Station)

Avda. Méndez Álvaro, 83 Madrid

Tel.: +34 91 5396302

Estación de Autobuses de Salamanca:

Avda. Filiberto Villalobos, 71-85, 37007 Salamanca - Spain
Tel.: +34 923 236717

In Salamanca, metropolitan bus number 4 takes you from the Bus Station to the city centre.

Accommodation

The Universidad de Salamanca does not have a single location specifically reserved for incoming Erasmus students. Rather, you may reserve lodgings before your arrival or after you have reached the city. The deadline for reserving a place is usually June. For more information, please go to <http://campus.usal.es/~residen/>.

For information regarding accommodation in shared flats, with a host family, or in private student resident halls, please go to <http://websou.usal.es/vivienda/presenta.asp>.

The Universidad de Salamanca offers an intergenerational living program, in which an elderly person rents to students at a low rate in exchange for help at home. For more information, please go to <http://www.usal.es/webusal/node/3516>.

Cost of Living

The University does not provide information regarding common, day-to-day costs of various items or services in Salamanca. It does, however, suggest that all students have approximately €800 a month to cover basic expenses such as rent, food, travel, etc.

Admissions

Admission is decided by the Office of the Vice-Rector for International and Institutional Relations after consultation with the International Coordinators of the different Centres and after having verified that the mobility is in accordance with the established agreements.

Below is a list of steps to follow when you first arrive in Salamanca:

1. Presentation at the Office of International Relations and Cooperation
Here you will be given information.
Open Monday to Friday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
2. International Coordinator of the Centre
You should contact the International Coordinator of the Centre where you are going to study to discuss topics related to your enrolment and choice of subjects. All academic questions should be addressed to this person (See the list of International Coordinators on pages 17- 20).
3. Enrolment in the University of Salamanca
After speaking to the Coordinator, you should go to the Administration Office of the Centre (Secretaría) to enrol, after which you will be given a receipt. Any certificates you need can also be obtained there. Any change in address, e-mail or telephone

number during your stay in Salamanca must be reported to the Administration of the Centre and to the Office of International Relations and Cooperation.

4. Student Card

Once you have enrolled at the Centre, the Office of International Relations and Cooperation will give you a multi-purpose student card which gives access to libraries, computer rooms, physical education and sports activities, cultural activities, and other university services.

To do this you need to hand in:

- A copy of your enrolment form.
- A copy of the proof of identity you presented at the Administration of the Centre when you enrolled.

Academics

The Spanish grade scale is from 1-10, and 5, or *aprobado*, is the minimum passing grade.

Grades are awarded on a scale from 1-10, as follows:

10 *Matrícula de Honor* (Distinction) (limited to 5%)

9-10 *Sobresaliente* (outstanding)

7-8.5 *Notable* (credit)

5-6.5 *Aprobado* (pass)

0-4.5 *Suspense* (fail)

Libraries

The University of Salamanca has a General Historical Library, of which the Old Library forms part. It is the main university library in Europe, founded by King Alphonse X in 1254. Among its holdings are 2,279 manuscripts, 483 incunabula and 62,500 works printed prior to 1801. The Library has a reading room for researchers and book loan limited to the 20th century holdings, as well as inter-library loan, bibliographical information, bibliographical acquisitions, and photocopying and microfilm services. Further information may be found at: <http://www.usal.es/~bgh/1152/index.htm>

The University of Salamanca has an extensive network of libraries and resources belonging to the Office of Archives and Libraries. <http://sabus.usal.es/>
Catalogue access: <http://brumario.usal.es/>

Each Faculty and many Departments have their own library. For information on these, see the list of University of Salamanca libraries at: <http://sabus.usal.es/biblioteca/estructura.html>

International students can use the libraries by showing their student card.

University of Salamanca libraries have the following opening hours:

- Monday to Friday: 8:30 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.

— Saturdays: 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Most books can be taken out on loan.

Computer Rooms and Use

The University of Salamanca has a computer network distributed among the following Centres: (<http://www.usal.es/aulas/aulas.html>)

- Faculty of Biology.
- Faculty of Sciences.
- Faculty of Agricultural Sciences.
- F.E.S. Building.
- Faculty of Law.
- Faculty of Education.
- Faculty of Geography and History.
- Faculty of Medicine.
- Building of the Faculties of Fine Arts and Psychology.
- Faculty of Translation and Information Science.
- Higher Technical School for Industrial Engineering, Bejar.
- Higher Polytechnic of Avila.
- Higher Polytechnic of Zamora.

If you wish to open an e-mail account, the computer room technician can inform you about the procedure to follow. You can also find complete information at: <http://lazarillo.usal.es>

WiFi internet access is available for students at different general spaces in the university (classrooms, libraries, study halls, laboratories, etc.). You need a University of Salamanca e-mail address to be able to log on.

<http://lazarillo.usal.es/nportal/components/wifi/wifi.jsp>

A student card is necessary for using computer rooms and opening an e-mail account.

Practical Matters

Health and Insurance

Foreign students must have full health-care coverage and repatriation insurance throughout their entire stay in Spain.

- Students from the EU and Switzerland are entitled to medical care in the medical centres and hospitals that form part of or have agreements with the Spanish National Health System (Seguridad Social). To be able to use these services, students must apply for the European Health Card at the health service offices in their country of origin.

- Other non-EU countries with which Spain has an agreement regarding the Spanish National Health System are Andorra, Brazil, Chile, Ecuador, Peru, Tunisia and Morocco (ask in the country of origin about the conditions and documents necessary to be able to use the Spanish National Health system). Further information at:

http://www.seg-social.es/Internet_1/Internacional/Conveniosbilaterales/index.htm

- Foreign students not included in the sections above, as well as those European citizens or citizens of countries with a bilateral agreement who are not covered by national health plans, must have private health insurance or must obtain it in Spain. In both cases they should consult their insurance company about the conditions and requirements for use in Spain.

Acclimation and Immersion

Office of Cultural Activities

Hospedería Fonseca, 2ª planta
37002 Salamanca, Spain
Tel.: +34 923 294480 Fax: +34 923 294696
E-mail: accult@usal.es // <http://sac.usal.es>

This office is responsible for organizing a constant stream of cultural activities throughout the year, with three-month programming that includes all kinds of artistic manifestations: music, theatre, dance, lectures, exhibition, etc., as well as courses in these areas. University music groups also pertain to this Office (Big Band, Choruses, Baroque Orchestra, etc.). The program of cultural activities for each trimester is available at our office and on our web site.

Spanish Language Courses

The University of Salamanca offers an intensive course in Spanish to all those Erasmus students who wish to take it (fees are charged separately). Classes are held for two hours a day for three weeks. Any student who is interested in taking this course should indicate as such on the application form by marking the corresponding box when filling in their application form. This is a pre-registration only. Students must then formally enrol in the Spanish Course in the International Courses Office and pay the fee of 160€.

Cursos Internacionales de la Universidad de Salamanca

Patio de Escuelas Menores, s/n // 37008 Salamanca - Spain
Tel.: +34 923 294418 / Fax: +34 923 294504
E-mail: internat@usal.es, programa.pei@usal.es // <http://corintio.usal.es>
Open: 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Monday to Friday.

Students who wish to take the course in September should keep in mind that if the course fills up they can take it in October or November. Once enrolled, students will be given a placement test to determine their level of Spanish and thus organize the different groups. At the end of the course, the students will receive a certificate if they have attended at least 90% of the classes.

Sports Facilities

Office of Physical Education and Sports

SEFYD in Salamanca
Plaza de San Bartolomé, 1
37008 Salamanca - Spain
Tel.: +34 923 294419 // Fax: +34 923 294505
E-mail: sport@usal.es
<http://www.usal.es/deportes>

This Office fosters the practice of sports among the members of the university community by promoting, organizing, publicizing and developing physical and sports activities for learning, recreation and/or competition, and runs University of Salamanca's sports installations at the campuses in Ávila, Béjar, Salamanca and Zamora.

To attend to the demand for sports from the members of the university community, this Office has developed the following sports modalities:

a) Free Practice

Space for sports may be reserved by members of the University Community interested in the free and recreational practice of sports.

b) Directed Practice

Programming and direction of physical and sports activities for competition, learning and recreation through the following areas:

- 1) University sports ("Rector's Trophy", "University Championships" ...).
- 2) Recreational-educational sports (aerobic, step, Latin dancing, tennis courses, climbing ...).
- 3) Activities in nature (hiking, skiing, climbing ...).
- 4) Learning and seminars (courses related to physical activity and sports).
- 5) Federated sports (federated competitions at the regional and national levels).

At the Office you can obtain information about a wide range of programmed sports activities.

On Arrival

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Tips from UCC Students

UCC students who have travelled abroad for study in the past have given the International Education Office a collection of tips for students interested in studying abroad.

Erasmus is full of excitement and adventure, but also uncertainty and nerves. Although the International Education Office in UCC and the International Relations Office in Salamanca will help you as much as possible, nothing can beat the experience of being in your shoes. So here are some tips and tricks from UCC students who have studied in Salamanca.

Academic Matters:

- Take the chance to learn new things.
- Try and take some courses that allow you to learn more about Spanish life, culture, history, or literature. You'll never have quite the same opportunity in Ireland.
- Contact the Erasmus officers in your subject area if you have any questions about academics.
- Be aware that you are entering a new education system with different administration, course, and exam structures.
- Keep up with your reading.

Accommodation:

- Be aware that university residences are located outside the city centre. It's a good idea to find the location of your faculty before securing accommodation.
- Find out whether bed linen is included or if you have to buy it on arrival.
- When booking accommodation, ask about the times you will be able to collect your keys and access your residence so you can either arrive during these times or make alternative accommodation arrangements for the first night.
- Bring pictures of home to put on the walls.
- Bring a 2-pin plug for your Irish electrical products.

Travel:

- Remember generally the earlier you book the flights, the cheaper they are.
- Some clubs organise really cheap day and overnight trips.
- If you are coming home for Christmas, it is a good time to bring back excess luggage.

Bureaucracy:

- Bring multiple photocopies of any documentation you might need.
- EU citizens do not need a Residence Permit.
- It is a good idea to carry some sort of ID with you at all times.

Social:

- Buy local news papers and magazine, and listen to local TV, radio, and music.
- Immerse yourself in the culture.
- Try to interact with Spanish students and the local community.

General:

- Bring a good Spanish dictionary
- Unlock your mobile phone before you leave Ireland if you want to put a Spanish SIM card in it.
- Bring some books in English. Although you can buy some English-language books in Spain, they can be expensive, and it is handy to have some for travelling and for when you first arrive.
- Look into phone cards – they are one of the cheapest ways to phone home.
- If you have a laptop and internet access in your accommodation, look into getting Skype or other internet phone packages.