

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT GUIDE (Non European)

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ABOUT THIS GUIDE

This Guide is an abstract of those academic aspects of the European Higher Education Area¹ which might not be so well known by students outside this system. You will find clarification on our degree structure, European Credit System, assessment criteria, grading system, etc. Nevertheless, the information here contained must be completed with the extended "Information Guide", available on the section "International Students" on our website: www.unex.es/relint.

1. THE UNIVERSITY OF EXTREMADURA

The University of Extremadura (UEX) is a Higher Education Institution. It is divided into four campuses, located in the cities of Badajoz, Cáceres, Mérida and Plasencia.

UEX is organized into 17 University Centres which can be either *Facultades* or *Escuelas Universitarias*. The naming has a mere legal nature, as in both entities, Higher Education level is delivered.

The list of *Facultades* and *Escuelas Universitarias* available at:
<http://www.unex.es/conoce-la-uex/estructura-academica/centros>

2. ACADEMIC SYSTEM

a) Types of Degrees

In 2009, in the frame of the European Higher Education Area the University of Extremadura starts the implementation of the popularly known as "Bologna System". From that moment on, traditional degrees (*Licenciaturas*, *Diplomaturas* and *Carreras Técnicas*) are progressively replaced by **the Grados**. This is a change affecting the whole European University System which needs to converge into a homogeneous, comparable system among Universities, to reach the European Higher Education Area. As a general rule, the actual *Grados* have a duration of four years, in which students need to complete 240 credits. There degrees such as Medicine (6 year degree, 360 credits and Veterinary (5 year degree, 300 credits) with specific regulations or regulated by EU law.

Students willing to continue postgraduate education at UEX have a range of Official Masters (60 or 120 credit); Doctorate programmes are also available at UEX in diverse areas of knowledge for students with a research vocation.

¹ <http://www.ehea.info/>

b) Course categories

The course categories you will find when drawing up your course schedule are:

- ✓ *Formación Básica*
- ✓ *Obligatoria*
- ✓ *Optativa*
- ✓ **Proyecto Fin de Grado**

This distinction does not apply to International students, who are allowed pick the subjects which better meet their interests and home Universities requirements.

c) Workload

A regular/full time student is expected to complete:

Academic Year= 60 credits

1 Semester= 30 credits

An academic year is usually made of 10 subjects of 6 credits each.

1 credit is equivalent to 25 working hours (which includes lectures, home work, revision, tutorials).

d) Duration of the courses

All the subjects are semestral except for the *Proyecto Fin de Grado* (Final Projects) as well as internships/training periods in medical and teaching related degrees.

3. ACADEMIC OFFER

The complete list of *Grados* can be found at:

<http://www.unex.es/estudiar-en-la-uex/estudios-oficiales/grados>

Information on *Grados's* contents can be found at each Faculty or School:

<http://www.unex.es/conoce-la-uex/estructura-academica/centros>

Complete list of Masters can be found at:

http://www.unex.es/organizacion/servicios/servicio_becas/funciones/Masteres

Masters' actual delivery is subject to a minimum number of registrations; there are a limited number of seats, so international students willing to register in a Master must apply as soon as possible and consider admission will be conditioned by the factors referred before.

4. ASSESSMENT AND GRADING SYSTEM

Written exams are the most common assessment method. Technical and experimental knowledge is assessed in labs and computer rooms. Assessment criteria are established by teachers.

The Spanish grading system ranges from 0 (minimum) to 10 (Honors) according to the following table:

The Spanish grading system
From 0-4: <i>Suspenso</i> /Fail (insufficient results)
5: <i>Aprobado</i> /Pass (Poor pass)
6: <i>Aprobado</i> /Pass + (fair but with significant shortcomings)
7: <i>Notable</i> (generally sound work with a number of errors)
8: <i>Notable alto</i> (above the average standard with only minor errors)
9: <i>Sobresaliente</i> (outstanding performance)
10: <i>Matricula de Honor</i> /Honors (excellent)

5. ACADEMIC CALENDAR.

The academic year is split in two semesters ("cuatrimestre" is the Spanish naming) as follows:

1st "cuatrimestre": September-December

2nd "cuatrimestre": January-May.

Students will be informed well in advance on exact dates of beginning and end of lectures.

Exams

- January (for 1st cuatrimestre courses)
- End of May-Beginning of June (for 2nd cuatrimestre courses)
- Mid June/July (Extraordinary call for subjects failed)

6. HOW TO APPLY

Students willing to come to University of Extremadura must have been officially appointed by their home University as exchange/international students. They should have a good command of Spanish language. Please notice that tuition language is Spanish, except for Language studies. You are not asked to prove language proficiency by official certifications but are expected to be skilled enough to manage in academic and daily life.

[The International Office](#) at UEx is responsible for international mobility and assists candidates in general aspects concerning academic and daily life in Extremadura. The International Office also liaises with Faculties and Schools where academic competence rests. The [Academic Coordinators](#) in each Faculty and School are the specialist in the different fields of knowledge and will offer advice to the student on the curriculum to follow according to his/her previous studies and home University requirements.

Officially appointed students can apply by filling in the [Online Application Form](#)

REMEMBER: academic information (courses and contents) can be found at:

<http://www.unex.es/conoce-la-uex/estructura-academica/centros> (click on your selected Faculty or School web site)

The University of Extremadura offers to the international student its whole academic offer. However, **medical and sanitary degrees are limited to availability, very especially with regard to internships or training periods.**

Applications must be completed in Spanish and include:

1. Printed copy of your online application form
2. Academic Program Form
3. Internship application form (only Medical degrees)
4. Transcript of Records with a brief description of home grading system.
5. Copy of your passport
6. Motivation Letter
7. **A copy of your Medical Insurance will be asked upon arrival.**

Scanned copies of documents 1, 2 and 3 (if applicable) can be emailed to dplasenc@unex.es to speed up the admission process. If you are doing so, please send us pdf format and just one file per applicant.

Home Institutions should forward a hard copy of application materials to:

David Plasencia Fragoso
Secretariado de Relaciones Internacionales
Edif. Antiguo Comedor.
Campus Universitario
Avda. de Elvas s/n 06006 Badajoz. SPAIN

7. APPLICATIONS DEADLINES:

April - September-December term

October - January-May term

8. LIVING IN EXTREMADURA

▪ BADAJOZ

Badajoz is a medium-size city (considering European standards) of 150.000 inhabitants. Climate is warm and dry with four well distinguished seasons. Summer usually reaches 40° C, while winter temperatures rarely get lower than 10° C. Most of the places are at a walking distance.

For more info on Badajoz at <http://www.badajozjoven.com/>

Transport: Badajoz Campus is 3 km away from the town centre. Most of the students either walk, cycle or take city bus to get the campus. Info on bus lines at: <http://www.gruporuiz.com/plantillas/badajoz/index.php>

Biking is becoming more and more popular in Badajoz. Its use is promoted by the local government with a really affordable “rent a bike” system of public bikes. All information available at: <http://www.aytobadajoz.es/es/ayto/especiales/especial/12710/biba-bicicleta-publica-de-badajoz/#.UmYx0VMsDw8>

Accommodation in Badajoz: most students prefer to live in shared apartments with room-mates. There is a reasonable wide offer of furnished apartments and prizes range between 130€/150€ a month, bills not included. Linen is not included. International students are recommended to overnight in a provisional accommodation while searching for a permanent one. Two, three nights are the estimated time to find an apartment. Hotels and hostels in Badajoz at: <http://www.badajozjoven.com>.

Social networks such as www.erasmusu.com, [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com), can also be helpful.

The International Office also assists students providing contact details and arranging appointments with landlords.

Canteens: There are canteens in every Faculty. 4'50 € is the price of a three course menu. Many students prefer to cook their own food. Apartments off campus are equipped with all the necessary.

Getting around in campus: <http://www.unex.es/conoce-la-uex/estructura-academica/campus/badajoz>

▪ CÁCERES

Cáceres is a medium-size city (considering European standards) of 90.000 inhabitants. Climate is warm and dry with four well distinguished seasons.

Summer usually gets up to 40° C, while winter temperatures are very rarely go lower than 10°C. It is lively city with a strong presence of University live. Most of the places are at a walking distance. More info on Cáceres at: <http://www.caceresjoven.com/>

Transport: Campus is 5 km away from the town centre. There are student apartments in Campus, but most of the students prefer to live in town and get the Campus by bus. More info on transport in Cáceres at: <http://www.caceresjoven.com/paginas/transportes/transportes.asp>.

Accommodation in Cáceres: most students prefer to live in shared apartments with other students. There is a reasonable range of furnished apartments and the prize ranges 140€/150€ per month, plus bills (water, electricity, etc). Linen is not included. International students are recommended to overnight in a provisional accommodation while searching for a permanent one. Two, three nights are the estimated time to find a permanent accommodation. Hotels and hostels in Cáceres on: <http://www.caceresjoven.com/>.

Social networks such as www.erasmusu.com, [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com), can also be helpful.

The International Office also assists students in finding accommodation by providing contact details and arranging appointments with landlords.

Canteens: There are canteens in every Faculty. 4 € is the price of a three course menu. Many students prefer to cook their own food. Apartments are equipped with all the necessary.

Getting around on campus: <http://www.unex.es/conoce-la-uex/conoce-extremadura/campus/caceres>

▪ MÉRIDA AND PLASENCIA

Mérida and Plasencia are smaller cities (around 50.000 inhabitants) but they have a very interesting, well-regarded cultural and architectural heritage.

The number of international students is lower and so international students socialize and practice Spanish from the start.

Life in this campuses is not very different as it is for students in Badajoz and Cáceres. If you want to know more about life in Mérida and Plasencia, please visit: <http://www.meridajoven.com> and <http://www.plasenciajoven.com>

9. ORIENTATION DAY

The International Office sets up an Orientation Day at the beginning of each semester. Students will be informed well in advance on the exact dates. Attendance is very important as students are provided with relevant information and advice to minimize the cultural shock and settle down more easily. Students also have the chance to meet and socialize with other local and international students. It is also a good opportunity to find room-mates provided you haven't found a place yet.

10. MEDICAL INSURANCE AND VISA

International students are required to have a medical insurance with international coverage for the whole stay at the University of Extremadura. It should include, at least, primary attention, hospitalization and repatriation.

Remember, a copy of your Medical Insurance will be asked upon arrival.

For **Visa** requirements, please contact Spanish Consular Offices or Embassies at your home country. Contact details at: <http://www.embajada-online.com/embajadas-de-Espana-en-otros-paises-P166.htm>

11. SPANISH FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

International students can follow Spanish courses on language and culture during their whole stay at UEx. The Institute of Modern Languages (ILM) at UEx is the responsible for the teaching of Spanish as a Second Language. Students will be informed upon arrival on the details of the courses, which are tuition free and attended by most European students. The level is intermediate and the focus is very general.

12. OTHER SERVICES

- Administrative and Attention Information Service: <http://www.unex.es/siaa>
- Library Services: <http://biblioteca.unex.es>
- Sports Service: <http://www.unex.es/safyde>
- Cultural Activities: http://www.unex.es/organizacion/secretariados/sec_act_culturales

Hope to see you soon at UEx!!