

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT GUIDE (International Agreements)

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1. THE UNIVERSITY OF EXTREMADURA

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

The Uex is organized into 17 University Centers. The Centers have the denomination of either *Facultades* or *Escuelas Universitarias*. This denomination has a mere legal nature, since the level of Education in both centers is Higher or University level.

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

2. DEGREE STRUCTURE

a) Types of Degrees

Until the present academic year 2010/11 in Spain, we can find the following types of Degrees or Studies

1. Grade: 4 year degree
2. Master: 2 year degree
3. Doctorate

Note: From last September 2009 on and because of the "Bologna Process" implementation the academic structure will be gradually converging into a unique system, the "Grades", 4 year long (except for medical degrees and engineering degrees".

The two academic systems will be simultaneously taking place as follows:

Academic Year	Traditional System (LRU)	Bologna Sytem (Grade)
2009/10	1 st year expires	1 st year implemented
2010/2011	2 nd year expires	2 nd year is implemented
2011/12	3 rd year expires	3 rd year is implemented
2012/13	4 th year expires	4 th year is implemented

b) Types of courses:

- According to the "Traditional" system, courses classification is as follows:

✓ **Troncales:** Established at national level by the Ministry of Education enrolled in the same field of study.

✓ **Obligatorias:** established by each Spanish University, they are usually common to the rest of Spanish Universities.

✓ **Optativas:** related to the student field of knowledge, but with a complementary rather than basic character. The student picks among a wide offer of courses, however, teaching is conditioned to a minimum number of registrations produced.

✓ **Libre elección:** complementary character, the student will select from the whole academic offer, in order to refine his/her studies. Teaching also conditioned to a minimum number of registrations.

Quality standards and level of expectations are equally applied whatever the course type.

This above type distinctions are **not** relevant for Exchange students, since they can pick any course best meeting either own academic profile or home institution requirements.

- The new course classification within the frame of the “Bologna” system, will be as follows:
 - ✓ Fundamental: two first years.
 - ✓ Compulsory: third year
 - ✓ Optional: final projects and dissertations: fourth year

c) Work load: a regular/full time student will complete:

- “Traditional system”: between 60/70 local credits a year, depending on the level and field of studies. 1 credit UEx is equal to 10 contact hours.
- “Bologna” system: 60 ECTS credits (European Credit Transfer System). 1 ECTS credit is equal to 25 working hours (including home work, revision, tutorials).

d) Course schedule:

- According to the “traditional” system, the subjects are:
 - ✓ Cuatrimestral: 4’5 month courses starting beginning October to mid January and mid February to end of June (see *academic calendar* on page 4)
 - ✓ Anual: 9 month courses starting October ending June.

- According to “Bologna” system:

All the subjects will have semester character.

LIST OF DEGREES:

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

COURSE CONTENTS:

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

Please click your Faculty or School web site and within them, your selected degree/s.

3. ASSESSMENT AND GRADING SYSTEM

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

The Spanish grading system ranges as follows:

- From 0-4: Suspenso /Fail (insufficient results)
- 5: Aprobado/Pass (Poor pass)
- 6: Aprobado/Pass ⁺ (fair but with significant shortcomings)
- 7: Notable (generally sound work with a number of errors)
- 8: Notable (above the average standard with only minor errors)
- 9: Sobresaliente (outstanding performance)
- 10: Matrícula de Honor/Honours (brilliant)

4. ACADEMIC CALENDAR.

The academic year is split into two semesters (we call them "cuatrimestres"):

1st "cuatrimestre": October 2011 to February 2012

2nd "cuatrimestre": February 2012 to June 2012

Exams take place the first fortnight of February (for "cuatrimestral" courses) and all along June/beginning of July (for second "cuatrimestre" and annual courses).

5. LIVING IN EXTREMADURA

BADAJOS

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 gets up to 44° C, while winter temperatures are very rarely below 10°C. It is a peaceful town where most of the population works in the Service Sector. Most of the places are at a walking distance. More info on Badajoz at <http://badajozjoven.com>.

Transport: Badajoz Campus is 3 km away from downtown. Most of the students live in town and get the campus by bus. Students may also find accommodation in

the campus nearby. There is a reasonable offer of apartments. Info on bus lines at: <http://www.gruporuiz.com/plantillas/badajoz/index.php>

Accommodation in Badajoz: most students prefer to live in shared apartments with other students. There is a reasonable wide offer of furnished apartments and prizes range between 130€/150€ a month, bills non included. Linen are not

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included. International students are recommended to stay in a provisional accommodation while searching for a permanent one. Two, three nights are the estimated time to find an apartment. Hotels and hostals in Badajoz at: <http://www.badajozjoven.com>.

The International Office will assist students in finding accommodation by providing contact details and arranging appointments with house owners.

Canteens: There are canteens in every Faculty. 4 € is the prize of a three course menu. Many students prefer to cook their own food. Apartments 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 150.000 inhabitants. Climate is warm and dry with four well distinguished seasons.

Summer usually gets up to 44° C, while winter temperatures are very rarely below 10°C. It is a quiet city where most of the population works in the Service Sector. Most of the places are at a walking distance. More info on Cáceres at: <http://www.caceresjoven.com/>

Transport: the Campus is 5 km away from downtown. There are student apartments on Campus itself, but most of the students usually 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 130€/150€ per month, plus bills (water, electricity, etc). Linen are not included. International students are recommended to stay in a provisional accommodation while searching for a permanent one. Two, three nights are the estimated time to find an apartment.. Hotels and hostals in Cáceres on: <http://www.caceresjoven.com/>.

The International Office will assist students in finding accommodation by providing contact details and arranging appointments with house owners.

Canteens: There are canteens in every Faculty. 4 € is the prize 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/estructura-academica/campus/caceres>

MÉRIDA Y PLASENCIA

Mérida and Plasencia are minor 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 socialise and practice Spanish from the start.

Climate, accommodation and transport on: <http://www.meridajoven.com> and <http://www.plasenciajoven.com>

6. ORIENTATION DAY

The International Office set up an Orientation Day at the beginning of each semester. Students will be informed early enough on the exact dates. Attendance is very important as students are provided with relevant info and advice to adapt and settle down more easily. Students also have the chance to meet and socialise with other local and international students.

7. SPANISH FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

International students can follow Spanish courses on language and culture during their whole stay at UEx. These courses are tuition free and attended by most European students. The level is intermediate and the focus is very general.

8. OTHER SERVICES OF INTEREST

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