

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT GUIDE (International Agreements)

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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.

The UEX is organized into 17 University Centres which can be either *Facultades* or *Escuelas Universitarias*. The naming has a mere legal nature, since the level of Education at both is Higher or University level.

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

2. DEGREE STRUCTURE

a) Types of Degrees

In 2009 in the frame of the European Higher Education System the University of Extremadura starts the implementation of the popularly known as "Bologna System". From that moment on, two systems are taking place simultaneously at UEX:

- **Traditional (also known as LRU):** according to which studies were/are classified in Licenciaturas, Diplomaturas, Ingenierías, Ingenierías Técnicas y Arquitectura.
- **Bologna System:** according to which studies are classified in Grades (4 year degree), Master (1 o 2 year degree) and Doctorate.

As the Bologna System is implemented, the Traditional LRU System expires, such as indicated in the table below:

<i>Academic Year</i>	<i>Traditional System (LRU)</i>	<i>Bologna Sytem (Grade)</i>
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

Note: Although International Student are allowed to register in both systems simultaneously, they are recommended to follow a full programme within just one system, due to the differences on teaching methodologies and assessment criteria..

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 subject to a minimum number of students enrolled.

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

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

The above distinctions are **not** relevant for Exchange students who are allowed to pick the courses 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:** offered during the first two years.
- ✓ **Obligatoria:** offered during the third year.
- ✓ **Optativa:** final projects and dissertations. Carried out during the fourth year.

c) Work load: a regular/full time student is expected to 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 = 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 (*cuatrimestral*).

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 on 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 method. Technical and experimental knowledge is assessed in labs and computer rooms. Assessment criteria are established by teachers.

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 alto* (above the average standard with only minor errors)

9: *Sobresaliente* (outstanding performance)

10: *Matrícula de Honor*/Honours (excellent)

4. ACADEMIC CALENDAR.

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

1st "cuatrimestre": last week of September till mid February

2nd "cuatrimestre": mid February till first week of July.

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

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

▪ 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 gets up to 40° C, while winter temperatures very 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>

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 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 € 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 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 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 socialize 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 sets 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 socialize with other local and international students.

7. 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.

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>

8. 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.

9. OTHER SERVICES OF INTEREST

- 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

10. HOW TO APPLY

Students willing to come to University of Extremadura must have been officially appointed by their home University as exchange/international students.

The International Office at UEx is responsible for international mobility and assists candidates in general aspects concerning academic and ordinary life in Extremadura.

Academic advice is provided by the Faculties where each study programme is supervised by an Academic Coordinator or specialist in the different fields. They offer advice to the student according to his/her previous studies and future interests.

Officially appointed international students should apply to UEx by filling in the forms at the end of these guidelines:

1. Online Application Form
2. Academic Programme Form

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)

Please notice that tuition language is Spanish, except for Language studies. You are not asked to prove language proficiency but are expected to be skilled enough to manage in academic and daily life.

Applications must be completed in Spanish and include:

1. Printed copy of your online application form
2. Transcript of Records with a brief description of home grading system.
3. Passport copy
4. Motivation Letter

A copy of your Medical Insurance will be asked upon arrival.

Application deadlines:
April 2011- for September-February term
October 2011- for February-July term

Your Home Institution should forward your application materials to:

CAMUS BADAJOZ Y MÉRIDA	CAMPUS CÁCERES Y PLASENCIA
David Plasencia Fragoso Secretariado de Relaciones Internacionales Edif. Antiguo Comedor. Campus Universitario Avda. de Elvas s/n 06071 Badajoz. SPAIN	Esmeralda Folleco Caballero Secretariado de Relaciones Internacionales Edif. Usos Múltiples Campus Universitario 10003 Cáceres SPAIN