Universidad de Burgos
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The University

Since the first half of the 20th Century, the Castilian city of Burgos has welcomed European students over the summer months, drawn there by the language, the city's historic buildings and leafy tree-lined avenues, and the scenic beauty of its province.

The University of Burgos, since its recent self-governing status, has offered Spanish language courses throughout the entire year directed, by preference, at specific groups who are seeking courses that take account of their own educational needs. Figuring among these groups are teachers of Spanish in secondary education from educational centres in Europe and the United States of America, students from European and U.S. universities, Erasmus students and executives of international companies.

Classes in Spanish language and culture are taught in a modern, functional building situated in the area surrounding the Hospital del Rey, now home to the University of Burgos and formerly a hospital for pilgrims, ever since it was founded by King Alfonso VIII, in 1195, to care for those in mid-pilgrimage along the Camino de Santiago who fell sick.

Excursions and theatre, culinary arts, or dance workshops all serve as learning situations to complement the Spanish language classes, which are taught by qualified teachers with experience in the teaching of Spanish to foreigners, developed with the aim of attaining acceptable levels of communicative competence. Furthermore, students studying Spanish will be able to access the internet, practice sports and enjoy the leisure activities organised by the University.

The University of Burgos currently has almost 10,000 students studying at 5 centres: the Science Faculties, the Faculty of Economics and Business Studies, the Faculty of Humanities and Education, the Faculty of Law, and the Higher Polytechnic School, as well as at three associated schools, the School of Nursing, the School of Labour Relations and the School of Tourism. It currently offers over 30 different undergraduate degrees and, in addition, over 20 PhD Programmes, as well as several Official Masters and other graduate courses.
Contact Information

The International Office
The International 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.

Address:
Plaza de la Infanta Doña Elena, s/n
09001 (Burgos)

Phone: +34 947 25 88 40
Fax: +34 947 25 87 54
Email: ubu@ubu.es

Travel

How to get to Burgos
Presently you can only fly directly from Ireland to Madrid with Ryanair or Aerlingus.

How to get to University of Burgos
University of Burgos can be reached easily from Madrid by bus or train.

Madrid to Burgos by Bus
There are regular buses throughout the day between Madrid and Burgos. The journey takes 2h30 and costs about €15. The train takes a similar amount of time but is more expensive. Trains from Madrid to Burgos depart from Chamartin train station. To find out more information about trains and buses from Madrid, please follow the link provided:

http://gospain.about.com/od/bustravelinspain/a/madrid_bustrain.htm

Madrid to Burgos by Car
Take the A-1 for almost the whole 250km journey from Madrid to Burgos. It should take about 2h45.

Accommodation
Students can choose find accommodation at:

1. **The "Residencia Camino de Santiago"**, the university halls of residence situated on the "San Amaro" campus. Information on the different types of rooms available, and on their prices and conditions of use may be found at Residencia Camino de Santiago: http://www.ubu.es/es/rucaminosantiago

2. **Accommodation with selected families**, full board with a single room including laundry.

3. **Flat sharing with Spanish students**. Prices vary according to residential areas and type of accommodation. Payment for accommodation should be made promptly by the student at the start of his or her stay, except under exceptional cases.

**Cost of Living**

As a rough guide, the monthly cost of living for a student in Burgos is as follows:

- **Accommodation**: between about €150 and €250
- **Transport**: approximately €60 (dependent on the amount of travelling you intend to do)
- **Other**: (food, other bills, socialising, incidentals, etc.) : €200 (depending on the individual).

**Registration and enrolment**
Fees cover:

- Course enrolment
- Teaching materials for each course
- Cultural activities featured on the programme for each course
- Pre-course test and end-of-course certificate
- Access to university services: library, computer room, sports and leisure facilities...
- Accommodation service

Procedure:

- Fill in and forward the registration form by internet:
  

Following confirmation of a place on the course, the following documents must be sent by post as soon as possible:

- Photocopy of your passport or identity card
- Details of the payment made to cover the enrolment fees

Important Observations:

- Full payment for the course must be made by bank transfer to the following account:
  University of Burgos, Spanish Courses
  Account Number: 2018-0000-67-1120000601 (Caja de Burgos, main office).
  Swift Code: CECA ES MM018 IBAN???
- The name of the student should appear on the bank order.
- Prices are exclusive of any additional bank fees.
- Payment from outside Spain may also be sent by cheque made out to the Universidad de Burgos- Cursos de Español.
- Places will not be held if the University of Burgos has not received payment of the enrolment fee one week prior to the start of the course.
- Whoever, for reasons beyond their control, cannot follow the course will have the right to a refund of the amount paid, 10% being withheld if cancellation takes place within 15 days prior to the start of the course, and 40% if cancellation is made between 15 and 5 days prior to the start of the course. None of the enrolment fee will be refunded if cancellation occurs outside of these periods.
- Students who cancel their place before the start of their course will be able to
transfer the enrolment fee to another course of the same cost and during the same academic year, at an administrative charge of €25. Transfer of enrolments to alternative courses may only be done once.

- If a course is cancelled due to insufficient student numbers, the full cost of the course will be refunded.
- Minimum and maximum class size for the Spanish Courses: 6-12
- Minimum and maximum class size for the Spanish Language Courses for teachers of Spanish as a foreign language: 10-18
- The duration of each class is 50 minutes.
Academics

Teaching Staff

Our Spanish Courses for foreign students are taught by specialists in the teaching of Spanish as a foreign language and by prestigious university lectures in the fields of art, history and literature, amongst others.

Methodology

Teaching methods on our courses are totally active and participatory, as verbal interaction is constantly stimulated between teachers and pupils in the classroom.

Teachers employ communicative approaches in the teaching of Spanish as a foreign language, placing special emphasis on the development of the student's ability to make appropriate use of the language so as to ensure effective communication.

Classes are given in small groups of 6 to 12 students, allowing students numerous opportunities to practice language in the classroom. Such small groups enable the teacher to provide on-going, personal attention to the student. Our teaching is essentially student-centred.

Levels

The University of Burgos has adapted its levels to the common European Framework of Reference for Languages and offers all levels: A1, A2, B1, B2, C1 and C2. Each student's level is determined by an entry test that may be taken over the internet before the start of the course.

Diploma

The University of Burgos awards a course certificate to all participants who have attended at least 85% of the programmed classes.

Student identity card

Students on the Spanish courses are each provided with a visiting student identity card giving them access to all university services, libraries and Internet rooms. It also allows the holder to participate in all university activities under the same conditions and with the same advantages as full-time university students.

Access to the Wi-Fi zones of the University of Burgos is available to all students on request.
Practical Matters

Medical Insurance
All course participants should hold travel insurance (including full medical and emergency cover), which may be purchased through the University. It is essential for them to have the European Health Insurance Card. The card gives the holder the right to medical treatment, taking into account the duration of their planned stay and the type of treatment needed, while they are in any EU country. Make sure your European Health Insurance Card is current before you leave Ireland. The health care received will be the same as that received by nationals of the country visited.

Student Matters

Culture and Sports
The University of Burgos invites students attending the Spanish Courses to participate in the different activities offered by the Sports Department, the Cinema and Audiovisual workshop, the Theatre Club, the Peace and Development Association and the University Choir, among others.

Student Tips
Erasmus is full of excitement and adventure, but also uncertainty and nerves. Although the International Education Office in UCC and the Vice Rectorate of International Relation in Burgos 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 Burgos.

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 newspapers 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.
• Brings 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.