



**UIMP**  
Universidad  
Internacional  
Menéndez Pelayo

# Spanish Courses



## Student Guide

**Santander**





*On this guide you will find an overview of our University, its student services, and practical tips that we hope will be useful to prepare your stay and your studies with us.*



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# >>1

## Introduction, History, and Location

### Brief history and Introduction



The Menéndez Pelayo International University (UIMP) was created in 1932 by a decree of the Spanish Second Republic, initially named the “International Summer University of Santander.” Its headquarters were established in the Palacio de la Magdalena, which had served as the summer residence of the Spanish royal family from 1913 to 1930, donated by the Santander City Council to King Alfonso XIII.

The first courses were held in the summer of 1933 under the direction of historian and philologist Ramón Menéndez Pidal as Rector and poet and professor Pedro Salinas as Secretary General. During the summers of 1933–1936, a wide range of courses were organized at the palace, attracting distinguished national and international figures. This was also when the Spanish language and literature courses for foreign students began.

These activities were interrupted by the Spanish Civil War and resumed in 1945 when the UIMP was officially reestablished, with its headquarters in the former San Rafael Hospital in Santander. In the summer of 1949, the University returned to the Palacio de la Magdalena as its main site.



Due to the increasing demand for its academic programs, the university built the Las Llamas Campus in Santander, with modern facilities including classrooms and accommodation for international students attending Spanish language, literature, and humanities courses.

Today, in addition to its traditional academic activities in Santander (Cantabria), UIMP also offers accredited postgraduate education within the European Higher Education Area.

The university organizes non-formal and continuing education programs across its academic centers in various cities including Barcelona, Valencia, Seville, Santa Cruz de Tenerife, A Coruña, Cuenca, La Línea de la Concepción, the Pyrenees, and Cartagena.

### Courses in Santander

The city of Santander is the capital of Cantabria, a region that is one of the most popular destinations for Spanish tourism due to its natural and scenic wealth and landscape that combines sea and mountains, its diverse ecosystems, excellent gastronomy and a wide range of sports, cultural and leisure activities for all types of visitors. Our Spanish courses are held at the Campus de las Llamas, which is the University's permanent headquarters in Santander. The Center of the Campus de las Llamas is labelled Accredited Center by the Instituto Cervantes for the teaching of Spanish as a foreign language, since 2014.



# >>2

## Before You Arrive: Practical Information

### 2.1. Enrollment Process

The minimum age required to enroll is 18. Students aged 16 or 17 may also apply, provided they submit a [completed Parental Authorization form](#) (available on our website), signed by their parents or legal guardians, along with the pre-registration form.

**Application and Required Documents:** Students wishing to enroll must complete the [pre-registration form](#) available on our website and submit it to the Student Office along with the following:

- A copy of a valid ID or passport
- If underage, the signed Parental Authorization form

Once the pre-registration form is received, the Student Office will send the student a cost estimate and payment instructions for both the course and accommodation, if booked through UIMP.

**How to Pay:** After the spot is confirmed, students have **10 days** to complete the payment.

If registration is completed **less than 21 days** before the course starts, payment must be made immediately after confirmation.

#### Payment Methods:

##### ≡ Bank transfer:

*Bank:* BANCO DE SANTANDER

*Address:* Paseo de Pereda, 9-12 (39004 – Santander).

*Account Holder:* UIMP - Student Office

*IBAN:* ES90 0049 5400 4027 1622 5281

*BIC/Swift:* BSCHEMMXXX

(All bank charges incurred must be borne by the student)

≡ **Credit card.** Students must notify the Student Office if they wish to pay by card to receive access to the online payment system.

### 2.2 Accommodation

Students enrolled in the courses may request accommodation either in UIMP university residences or with a host family.

## Las Llamas Residence – Las Llamas Campus



The residence is located on the Campus of Las Llamas, near the Spanish Language Courses, and Training Courses for ELE Teachers.

Rooms: Single or double with private bathroom, with accessible options available.

Facilities: Library, cafeteria, dining hall, study rooms, computer rooms, kitchen, laundry and self-service washing machines, parking, green areas, and sports facilities. 24-hour reception.

## Host Family Accommodation



Host Family Accommodation is a fantastic way to immerse yourself in Spanish language and culture in everyday situations.

(Note: You must be enrolled on a course to book accommodation.)

For more info, contact the Student Office at: [esp.santander@uimp.es](mailto:esp.santander@uimp.es)

## 2.3 Visas

### For EU students:

No visa is required. A valid passport or national ID is sufficient for all administrative and daily activities in Spain.

### For Non-EU Students:

You must apply for a student visa through the Spanish Embassy or Consulate in your country. An official admission letter is required to apply for the visa. You can request it from: [esp.santander@uimp.es](mailto:esp.santander@uimp.es)

More info: [www.interior.gob.es](http://www.interior.gob.es)

Students must complete full payment to receive the official admission document, which will include their personal info, passport number, course dates, and accommodation address (if applicable).

### In case of visa denial:

If your visa is denied, UIMP will refund the payment, provided you notify them in writing **before the course starts**, and submit the official refusal document issued by the Embassy or Consulate. (Administrative fees of €22.50 are non-refundable).

## 2.4 Health Insurance

Health insurance is not included in the tuition fee.

### 1. EU, UK, or Swiss Students:

We recommend bringing the **European Health Insurance Card (EHIC)** to access public health services during your stay. Request the card from your home country's healthcare provider before traveling.

In case of needing medical attention, students are recommended to go to a Health Center of the Cantabrian Health System or to the Marqués de Valdecilla University Hospital:

- Centro de Salud Sardinero: C/ Alcalde Vega Lamera, 6 — Tel. +34 942 39 30 06
- Centro de Salud Dávila: Paseo del General Dávila, 71 — Tel. +34 942 22 87 70
- Hospital Universitario Marqués de Valdecilla: Avda. de Valdecilla s/n — Tel. +34 942 20 25 20

### 2. Non-EU Students:

Make sure your private or national health insurance covers you in Spain. If not, we recommend purchasing **private health insurance** before your trip.

## 2.5 Getting to Santander

### By Plane – Santander Airport

Located 5 km from the city.

**Tel:** +34 942 202 100

[www.aena.es](http://www.aena.es)

### **Taxi to the airport:**

Approx. €25

### **Bus to City Bus Station:**

Every 30 min from 8:30 AM to 8:30 PM

Duration: 15 min

Price: Approx. €2.90

Info: +34 942 211 995 — [www.alsa.es](http://www.alsa.es)

### By Plane – Bilbao Airport

Located 108 km from Santander (~1h 15 min)

**Tel:** +34 944 869 664 — [www.aena.es](http://www.aena.es)



**Bus to Bilbao Station (Termibús):**

Every 30 min from 6:00 AM to midnight

Price: Approx. €3.00

**Bus Bilbao–Santander (ALSA):**

Duration: 1 hr 30 min

Price: Approx. €7.00

Tel: 902 42 22 42 [www.alsa.es](http://www.alsa.es)

➤ **From Madrid**

**By Plane:**

Flight time: Approx. 55 min

Madrid Barajas Airport — Tel: 902 404 704 / 91 321 10 00 — [www.aena.es](http://www.aena.es)

**By Train (RENFE):**

Duration: Approx. 4 hrs 15 min

Price: ~€50

Trains depart from Chamartín Station — [www.renfe.es](http://www.renfe.es)

**By Bus (ALSA):**

Duration: Approx. 5 hrs 30 min

Price: ~€35

Buses leave from Avenida de América Bus Station — [www.alsa.es](http://www.alsa.es)

**Map of Santander**



# >>3

## Academic Information

Enrolment for the Spanish as a Foreign Language Courses includes:

1. Teaching material
2. A guided tour of Santander
3. Placement test
4. The student card for the use of all UIMP facilities

### 3.1 Your first days at UIMP

Before arriving at UIMP, all students can take an **online placement test** to determine their approximate level of Spanish. Based on the results, students will be temporarily assigned to a group.

#### Monday – First Day of Class:

**From 8:45 AM:** Students can collect their ID and documentation at the Student Office.

**At 9:00 AM:** General course orientation in the Emilio Alarcos Room (2nd Floor, Central Building). Attendance is mandatory.

**At 9:30 AM:** Students who did *not* complete the online placement test must take the mandatory in-person test. Locations will be posted on the information board.

Students who already completed the online test will go directly to their assigned class with their teacher.

#### Monday Afternoon:

After reviewing placement test results and in-class performance, final group assignments will be posted on the information boards. This list will include the student's name, assigned classroom, and instructor.

Each teacher will hand out a **course selection form** for optional complementary subjects. Students must complete and return the form, selecting electives suited to their level.

**To receive a certificate**, students must attend at least **85%** of language and culture classes. Attendance must be signed on the official attendance sheet for each course.

Distribution of subjects, according to the type of course and level:

### ⇒ Spanish Language and Culture Courses

| Courses / weeks | Levels  | Hours            |                 |                        |        |
|-----------------|---------|------------------|-----------------|------------------------|--------|
|                 |         | Spanish language | Spanish Culture | Complementary Subjects | Total  |
| 1 week          | A1 – A2 | 20 h.            | 5 h.            | -                      | 25 h.  |
|                 | B1 – B2 | 15 h.            | 5 h.            | 5 h.                   | 25 h.  |
|                 | C1 – C2 | 15 h.            | 5 h.            | 5 h.                   | 25 h.  |
| 2 weeks         | A1 – A2 | 40 h.            | 10 h.           | -                      | 50 h.  |
|                 | B1 – B2 | 30 h.            | 10 h.           | 10 h.                  | 50 h.  |
|                 | C1 – C2 | 30 h.            | 10 h.           | 10 h.                  | 50 h.  |
| 3 weeks         | A1 – A2 | 60 h.            | 15 h.           | -                      | 75 h.  |
|                 | B1 – B2 | 45 h.            | 10 h.           | 20 h.                  | 75 h.  |
|                 | C1 – C2 | 45 h.            | 10 h.           | 20 h.                  | 75 h.  |
| 4 weeks         | A1 – A2 | 80 h.            | 20 h.           | -                      | 100 h. |
|                 | B1 – B2 | 60 h.            | 20 h.           | 20 h.                  | 100 h. |
|                 | C1 – C2 | 60 h.            | 20 h.           | 20 h.                  | 100 h. |

**Class schedule:** from 09:00 to 14:00 h.

The class schedule may vary depending on the selected complementary subjects.

### ⇒ Workshops and other courses



For those students who are interested in Spanish life and culture, there are also workshops on cooking, dancing, and other extracurricular activities available. A minimum number of participants is required to carry out these activities.

Workshops (cooking, dance and Spanish music): 53 € (10 hours)

## 3.2 Attendance Certificates and Diplomas

### Attendance Certificate:

All students who attend at least 85% of classes will receive a certificate issued by UIMP according to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR).

For groups from universities or international institutions, UIMP can issue **custom reports or credit certificates** upon request (e.g., US system credits, academic evaluations).

**Diplomas:**

Students may take an exam to obtain a **UIMP Spanish Diploma**, certifying their language proficiency. Interested students must register at the Course Office and pay the exam fee.

**3.3 ECTS Accreditation Program**

Students requiring ECTS (European Credit Transfer System) certification must inform UIMP during enrollment and meet these conditions:

- Attend at least 85% of registered classes
- Complete class activities and pass the final exam

Table of equivalences for course duration / teaching load / ECTS

| Course Duration<br>Weeks | Teaching load<br>Face-to-face (hours) | Certification<br>ECTS* |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------|
| 4 weeks                  | 100 h                                 | 5 ECTS                 |
| 4 weeks                  | 80 h                                  | 4 ECTS                 |
| 3 weeks                  | 75 h                                  | 4 ECTS                 |
| 3 weeks                  | 60 h                                  | 3 ECTS                 |
| 2 weeks                  | 50 h                                  | 2.5 ECTS               |
| 2 weeks                  | 40 h                                  | 2 ECTS                 |

Additional **supervised ECTS work modules** may be available (1 ECTS = 25 hours), depending on course length.

*Note:* These are **non-degree academic programs**, so ECTS recognition must be granted by the student's home institution.

For academic program content, contact: [esp.santander@uimp.es](mailto:esp.santander@uimp.es)

**Fees:**

| Certificates and Diplomas                      | Amount |
|--|--------|
| ECTS Module (0.5–1 ECTS)                       | 24 €   |
| Individualized Certificate Report (for groups) | 32 €   |
| UIMP Spanish Diploma Exam                      | 53 €   |
| Certificate Duplicate                          | 32 €   |

### 3.4 DELE and CCSE Exams and Sessions



The **Las Llamas Campus** of UIMP is an **official examination center accredited by the Instituto Cervantes** for the following:

- **DELE:** Diploma of Spanish as a Foreign Language
- **CCSE:** Constitutional and Sociocultural Knowledge of Spain test

#### How to Register:

All exam registration must be completed **online** at: <https://examen.es/cervantes.es>

#### Schedules:

- DELE dates: <https://examen.es/cervantes.es/es/dele/cuando>
- CCSE dates: <https://examen.es/cervantes.es/es/ccse/cuando>

#### Contact – Student Office:

UIMP – Las Llamas Campus

Avda. de los Castros, 42 (39005 – Santander)

Tel: (+34) 942 298 721 / 942 298 700

- DELE info: [dele@uimp.es](mailto:dele@uimp.es)
- CCSE info: [ccse@uimp.es](mailto:ccse@uimp.es)

#### DELE preparation courses:

UIMP has scheduled a calendar of DELE preparation courses, aimed at students who wish to take a preparation course with the DELE exam.

**Information:** Student Office – Spanish Courses

Telephone: (34) 942 29 87 00

Email: [esp.santander@uimp.es](mailto:esp.santander@uimp.es)

### Other Academic Information of Interest



#### “Hablamos” Program:

This is a **language exchange** activity between UIMP students and students from the Official School of Languages. It's held on **the first Thursday of each summer month** to encourage conversation between Spanish and international students. Interested students can sign up at the Student Office.

# >>4

## University Services

### 4.1 Student Support Services

The **Student Information Office**, located in the Student Office, helps students with day-to-day questions and provides additional information about cultural activities, workshops, and elective courses.

**Office hours:**

Monday to Friday — 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM

### 4.2 Computer Rooms

**Wi-Fi** is available throughout the Las Llamas Campus.

Students can also use the designated **computer rooms**:

- **Room 1 – Universia Room:** Services Pavilion (next to the dining hall)
- **Room 2:** Central Pavilion, Room 2.1
- **Room 3 – Conference Room:** Services Pavilion (*except during teaching use*)

Important: Students may not install software or modify system settings. Maximum usage time per session is 30 minutes (unless no one is waiting). A waitlist will be established during busy periods

### 4.3 Library



**Location:** Central Classrooms Pavilion (above the cafeteria)

**Hours:** Monday to Friday — 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM

**Features:**

- 90% of the collection is free access
- Materials include books on Spanish language, linguistics, art, geography, history, and literature (Spain and Latin America)
- Audiovisual resources: language learning audio tapes and Spanish films/documentaries
- Free access with your UIMP student ID



- Books, tapes, and videos available for loan

#### 4.4 Dining Services and Cafeteria



##### University Dining Hall

**Location:** Services Pavilion

**Meals:** Lunch and dinner include two courses (or buffet) and dessert.  
Students can buy meal tickets at the dining hall entrance.

##### **Dining Hours:**

|                  |                 |                 |
|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| <b>Breakfast</b> | Monday - Friday | 7:30 – 9:30 AM  |
|                  | Saturday        | 8:30 – 10:00 AM |
|                  | Sunday          | 9:00 – 10:30 AM |
| <b>Lunch</b>     | Every day       | 1:30 – 3:30 PM  |
| <b>Dinner</b>    | Every day       | 8:15 – 10:15 PM |

##### Cafeteria

**Location:** Central Pavilion, Las Llamas Campus



#### 4.5 Other services

##### Reception / Administration Hours:

Monday to Friday — 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM

### Common Areas:

The student residence at Las Llamas Campus includes shared study and recreational areas. Residents have access to: Kitchen (with prior request at reception), Gym, Study rooms and computer labs (Pavilion 4) and TV rooms (Services Pavilion)

### Laundry:

**Location:** Services Pavilion

**Hours:** Monday to Friday — 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM

- Sheets and towels changed weekly (included in price)
- Laundry service available for an extra fee — clothes must be labeled and delivered to the laundry
- Self-service laundry with washer and dryer also available

### Sports Facilities:

- Access to soccer, basketball, and tennis courts
- Gym (located in the basement of Pavilion 4)
- Sports equipment (balls, rackets, etc.) available at reception and must be returned after use

### Parking:

- Limited parking available for residents on campus
- RVs and similar vehicles are not allowed to park

### Code of Conduct:

**Smoking and alcohol are strictly prohibited**

UIMP reserves the right to **expel** students for poor attendance, misconduct, or failure to follow university regulations

## 4.6 Cultural Activities



All students have **free access** to UIMP's full calendar of cultural events, which includes:

- ✓ Classical Music Mondays
- ✓ Literary Tuesdays
- ✓ Theater performances
- ✓ Concerts
- ✓ Lectures
- ✓ Films and exhibitions

Weekly schedules for courses and cultural events are posted on **information boards** throughout the campus.



## Other Useful Information

### 5.1. Climate, Currency, Banks

#### Climate

Santander has a **humid oceanic climate**.

Humidity is generally high throughout the year, often exceeding 90%.

**Winter temperatures** average around 10°C (50°F), with lows around 6°C (43°F).

**Summer temperatures** are mild and rarely exceed 25°C (77°F).

#### Currency

The official currency is the **Euro (€)**.

Currency exchanges can be made at any bank or at the airport.

#### Banks

Open Monday to Friday, **8:30 AM – 2:30 PM**

During **Santander's local festival** ("Semana Grande", July 21–25, 2025), banks close at **12:00 PM**

### 5.2. Time Zone, Electricity, and Public Transport

#### Time Zone

Spain (mainland and Balearic Islands) is in the **Central European Time Zone (GMT+1)**.

#### Electricity

Voltage: **220V**

Frequency: **50Hz**

#### City Buses

A **single bus ticket** costs €1.30

You can buy a **rechargeable transport card** at tobacco shops (estancos) for €6.60 (10 rides)

#### Nearby Stops from Las Llamas Campus:

**Stop #7 (C1):** In front of campus — every 15 minutes

**Stop #6 (C1):** Left of campus, on the corner — every 30 minutes

### 5.3 Useful Addresses and Contacts

- Museums in Cantabria: [www.museosdecantabria.es](http://www.museosdecantabria.es)
- Menéndez Pelayo Library & House Museum: [www.bibliotecademenendezpelayo.org](http://www.bibliotecademenendezpelayo.org)
- Botín Foundation: [www.fundacionbotin.org](http://www.fundacionbotin.org)

#### Useful Contacts:

- **Tele-taxi:** +34 942 369 191
- **Radio Taxi Santander:** +34 942 333 333

- **Train Station:** Plaza de las Estaciones — Tel: 902 240 202
- **Bus Station:** C/ Navas de Tolosa, 1 — Tel: 942 21 19 95
- **Airport:** Avda. de Parayas, s/n (39600 Maliaño) — Tel: 942 202 100
- **City Hall of Santander:** Plaza del Ayuntamiento, s/n — Tel: 942 20 06 00
- **Post Office (near campus):** C/ Cruces, 6 — Tel: 942 277 060
- **Emergency Services:** Tel: 112
- **National Police (Downtown Station):** C/ José Ramón López Dóriga, 4 — Tel: 942 36 10 15
- **Tourist Information:** [www.turismodecantabria.com](http://www.turismodecantabria.com)



## Campus de Las Llamas

Avenida de los Castros nº42



1. Pabellón 1

2. Pabellón 2. Recepción Colegio Mayor Torres Quevedo

3. Pabellón 3

4. Pabellón 4. Gimnasio

5. Pabellón central

- Secretaría e información
- Paraninfo de las Llamas
- Biblioteca
- Cafetería
- Aulas

6. Pabellón de servicios

- Comedor
- Sala de ordenadores
- Lavandería

7. Instalaciones deportivas

8. Recepción y recogida de llaves



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