



UNIVERSITY OF ALCALÁ

WORLD HERITAGE SITE



Universidad
de Alcalá

ABOUT UAH

The University of Alcalá (UAH) is one of Europe's oldest. Its origins can be traced as far back as the [Studium Generale](#), or programme of university studies, that was instituted on 20 May 1293 under the protection of King Sancho IV of Castile. In 1499, Cardinal Cisneros founded the Colegio Mayor de San Ildefonso or University, thus converting Alcalá into the first university town of the modern era, which earned it in 1998 the accolade of UNESCO World Heritage Site, a distinction shared with only four other universities worldwide.

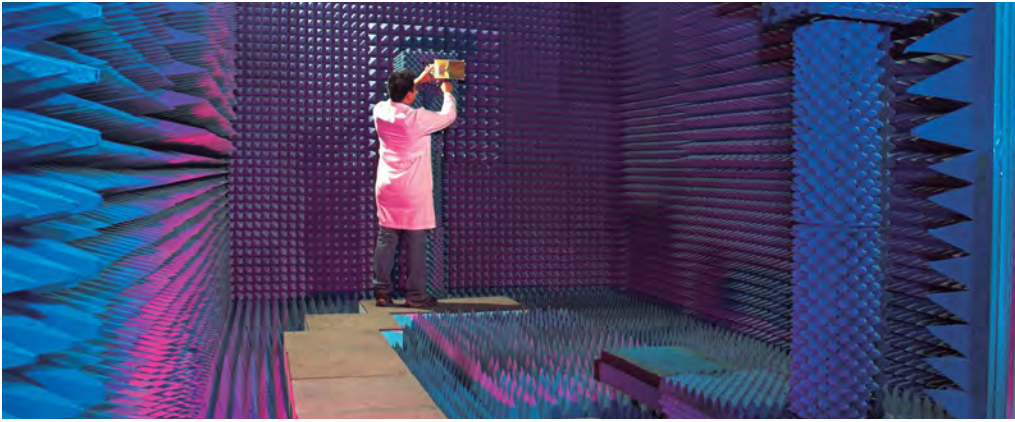
The UAH is a modern, medium-sized institution, recognised as a trend-setter in Europe and America. Traditional humanities and social science degrees sit side by side with cutting-edge programmes in scientific fields such as Health Sciences and Engineering, one reason for its high international profile and for its dynamic role in regional activity.

Some of its main strengths are friendliness, quality international outlook and social commitment. Its goal is to be a leading university globally, socially committed, inclusive and open to the world. Moreover, it seeks to contribute to the advancement of knowledge and the education of men and women through quality teaching, research excellence and the fostering of ethical, socially responsible attitudes.

As a benchmark centre for the teaching of Spanish, the UAH welcomes over 1,000 students from 50 countries who get to know our language and culture through Alcalingua, our Centre for Teaching Spanish as a Foreign Language, which is authorised by the Cervantes Institute to award the Diploma in Spanish as a Foreign Language (DELE).



FACTS AND FIGURES



- Around 17,000 undergraduate students
- 12,000 postgraduate and ongoing education students
- 2,500 teachers and researchers
- 10 students per teacher
- 6,300 international students
- 40 undergraduate programmes
- 70 master's and doctoral degrees and 360 specialist training programmes
- 7 libraries and one Learning and Research Resource Centre (CRAI), with European 400+ Seal of Excellence
 - * 1,200 work stations, 24-hour study room, 20 rooms for group work, 5 multimedia rooms - all in a space of 9,000 m² and fully adapted to the needs of disabled users, as well as being environmentally friendly and sustainable.
- Accommodation for 1,300 in seven halls of residence
- 180 research groups
- 20 sponsored research chairs
- 160 doctoral theses examined annually
- Work placement agreements with over 4,000 companies, leaders in their respective sectors
- 4 Research Support Centres: for Medicine and Biology, for Chemistry, for Applied Chemistry and Biotechnology, and for High Technology and Official Approval (CATECHOM)
- 1 Teaching Support Centre for Health Sciences
- 3 University Research Institutes: the Benjamin Franklin University Research Institute of North American Studies, the University Research Institute of Police Sciences, and the University Institute of Economic and Social Analysis
- 5 associated teaching hospitals and cutting-edge centres for biomedical research

GENERAL FACTS AND FIGURES

29,000

STUDENTS

6,300

INTERNATIONAL
STUDENTS



1 / 3

(12,000)

PURSUING POSTGRADUATE
OR ONGOING EDUCATION
PROGRAMMES

750

ADMINISTRATION
AND SERVICE STAFF



2,500

TEACHING AND
RESEARCH STAFF



LEARNING AND RESEARCH RESOURCE CENTRE

+1,200 workstations

24-hour study room

400+ EUROPEAN EXCELLENCE SEAL



5 ASSOCIATED TEACHING
HOSPITALS

1,300 PLACES

IN HALLS
OF RESIDENCE



TEACHING

40

UNDERGRADUATE
DEGREES

70

MASTERS and
DOCTORAL
DEGREES

360

ONGOING
EDUCATION
PROGRAMMES

Teaching and
research in all
branches of
knowledge:

- ARTS AND HUMANITIES
- SCIENCES
- HEALTH SCIENCES
- SOCIAL AND LEGAL SCIENCES
- ENGINEERING AND ARCHITECTURE

Approximate figures

THE UAH IS AMONG THE WORLD'S BEST 650 UNIVERSITIES, ACCORDING TO THE QS WORLD UNIVERSITY RANKING

Around 3,500 universities from 60 countries evaluated.

INTERNATIONALIZATION

With a clearly international outlook, the UAH is one of Spain's most prestigious public universities.

AMONG THE WORLD'S TOP 200 UNIVERSITIES FOR ATTRACTING INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS AND FIRST SPANISH UNIVERSITY

QS World University Ranking.

AMONG THE WORLD'S BEST 350 UNIVERSITIES IN KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER AND IN INTERNATIONALIZATION

Times Higher Education World University Rankings.

MAXIMUM SCORE FOR INTERNATIONAL INCOMING-OUTGOING MOBILITY

U Multirank.

CERTIFICATE FOR VERY GOOD INTERNATIONAL STUDENT SATISFACTION

Study Portals.

TOP SPANISH UNIVERSITY FOR ATTRACTING INTERNATIONAL UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

Grup Survey (University of Shanghai).

TEACHING QUALITY

MAXIMUM SCORE (FIVE STARS) FOR TEACHING, INTERNATIONALIZATION, EQUIPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURES, INNOVATION AND SOCIAL COMMITMENT

QS Stars international quality accreditation system.

AMONG THE SPAIN'S TOP PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES FOR TEACHING QUALITY

CYD Foundation ranking.

1 OUT OF 3 UAH UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE PROGRAMMES IS TOP IN SPAIN IN ITS FIELD OF KNOWLEDGE.

The others are always among the top five BBVA-IVIE Foundation.

ONE OF THE SPANISH UNIVERSITIES WITH THE BIGGEST OFFER IN OFFICIAL POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMMES AND ONGOING TRAINING COURSES

Our doctoral programmes are among Spain's best for teaching quality.

EMPLOYABILITY

TOP SPANISH UNIVERSITY FOR EMPLOYABILITY. OUR STUDENTS ARE AMONG THE MOST SOUGHT AFTER

MECD Report on University Student Labour Insertion.

AMONG THE WORLD'S BEST 200 UNIVERSITIES IN THE WORLD. 21 IN THE WORLD IN CORPORATE PARTNERSHIP

QS Graduate Employability Ranking.

THIRD SPANISH UNIVERSITY IN EMPLOYABILITY RATE FOR HIGHER DEGREES

GRUP Survey, University of Shanghai.

RESEARCH

AMONG SPAIN'S TOP UNIVERSITIES IN TERMS OF NUMBER OF DOCTORAL THESES, PATENTS AND RESEARCH PRODUCTIVITY

8TH POSITION AMONG SPAIN'S 50 PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES FOR RESEARCH PRODUCTIVITY

BBVA-IVIE Foundation and National Research Activity Assessment Board (MECD) ranking.

MAXIMUM SCORE FOR SECURING EXTERNAL FINANCE FOR RESEARCH

U Multirank.



SUSTAINABILITY

AMONG THE TOP SPANISH UNIVERSITIES AND ONE OF WORLD'S LEADERS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Greenmetric international index,
which assesses universities' sustainability policies.

INTERNATIONAL EXCELLENCE CAMPUS FOR INTELLIGENT ENERGY: BIOENERGY & SMART CITIES

ALL ENERGY CONSUMED IN THE UAH COMES FROM RENEWABLE SOURCES

Certified by National Energy Board.

SPANISH UNIVERSITY WITH LOWEST RATE OF CO₂ EMISSIONS PER CAPITA

3RD MOST SUSTAINABLE UNIVERSITY IN THE WORLD

More than 300 universities evaluated.
According to non-profit organisation Coolmyplanet,
based in San Francisco.

SPANISH FIRST RECHARGE POINT FOR SOLAR POWERED ELECTRIC VEHICLES

Juan Carlos I Royal Botanical Garden.

MADRID REGION AWARD FOR BEST GEOTHERMAL INSTALLATION IN INDUSTRIAL AND SERVICES SECTOR

For our contribution to energy saving thanks to the installation on our Science and Technology Campus of the largest infrastructure of its kind of any European university.

MAXIMUM SCORE (FIVE STARS) FOR TEACHING, INTERNATIONALIZATION, EQUIPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURES, INNOVATION AND SOCIAL COMMITMENT

QS Stars.

EQUALITY

ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN FOR DIALOGUE AND EDUCATION PRIZE FOR INSTITUTION WITH GREATEST COMMITMENT TO WOMEN

In recognition of the University's record in gender issues and of its support for educational projects related to women.

TRANSPARENCY

MOST TRANSPARENT PUBLIC UNIVERSITY IN SPAIN

According to the Complutense University of Madrid (UCM)'s "Transparency, Good Governance and Communication" research group.

TOP SPANISH UNIVERSITY FOR TRANSPARENCY

Recognised in Spain and abroad by the Telescopi Network as University Management Good Practice.

HISTORIC HERITAGE

"HISPANIA NOSTRA" AWARD FOR GOOD PRACTICE IN PRESERVATION OF CULTURAL HERITAGE (2013)

ROYAL ACADEMY OF FINE ARTS OF SAN FERNANDO MEDAL OF HONOUR (2013)

CITY OF ALCALÁ ARCHITECTURE PRIZE (2014) FOR RESTORATION OF HERITAGE

SOCIAL COMMITMENT

FIRST UNIVERSITY IN MADRID REGION TO EARN 'UNIVERSITY FOR FAIR TRADE' DISTINCTION

ALCALÁ DE HENARES, WORLD HERITAGE SITE

The City of Alcalá de Henares is in the Autonomous Region of Madrid, 30 km from Madrid on the Madrid-Barcelona motorway and 20 km from Madrid's international Adolfo Suarez-Barajas Airport. At present it has a population of 200,000.

Important archaeological remains have been found in Alcalá de Henares and stand as testimony to the presence in the city of different peoples and cultures. The first town on the site was the ancient Celtiberian settlement of "Kom lkesancom Buto". The Romans called it "Complutum", the origin of the name given to those born in the city, [Complutenses](#).

When the Moors invaded Alcalá, the old city was gradually abandoned and

became a fortress known as "Al Qal'at Wadi-I-Hiyara", which is the origin of its name today.

Once reconquered by the Christians in 1118, the city became the seat and residence of the Archbishops of Toledo, who built its defensive walls and oversaw its growth.

King Alfonso VII of Castile gave Alcalá and its land to the Archbishops of Toledo, who built an important castle which would later become the Archbishop's Palace, where monarchs and nobles resided. An emperor and a queen were born in the palace, and it was also the scene for the first interview between Christopher Columbus and the Catholic Kings, Fernando and Isabel.

In 1499, Cardinal Cisneros founded a university in the town, which would soon become one of the main centres of European renaissance culture. As building work intensified under the impulse of the Counter-Reformation, the city was transformed into a unique cultural model which would serve as a model for Spanish town-planning in the Modern Age.

During the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, the city underwent a progressive decline which meant the University's relocation to Madrid. It was not until 1977 that the University of Alcalá as we know it today came into being, in the process recovering and restoring the old college buildings so that they might once again





perform their original function of centres for teaching and research.

In 1998, UNESCO declared the University and the historic precinct of Alcalá de Henares a World Heritage Site in recognition of their being the best and most fully developed model of Renaissance town-planning, education and culture.

Alcalá de Henares is also the birthplace of one of Spanish literature's greatest writers. Miguel de Cervantes was born in the city 1547. He is universally renowned for his [Don Quijote](#), considered by many to be the first modern novel and one of the great works of literature. The Cervantes Institute was created in his honour as a public institution designed to promote and teach the Spanish language and to disseminate Spanish and Latin American culture.

The link between the city and the Spanish language became even closer with the creation in 1976 of the [Cervantes Prize for Spanish](#)



[Literature](#) which is awarded annually in the “Paraninfo” or Great Hall of the University. This prize is the most important award for creative writing in the Spanish language.

Among the city's monuments, particularly worth a visit are the Colegio Mayor de San Ildefonso, also known as the “Old University”, the cathedral, the Archbishop's Palace, the Miguel de Cervantes Birthplace Museum, the Calle Mayor, Cervantes Square and the ruins of the ancient Roman city of Complutum.

Alcala de Henares's transport network ensures frequent and fast, direct communications with Madrid by bus and train and with the Adolfo Suarez Madrid-Barajas Airport by bus.

All that, together with a wide range of hotels, eateries and leisure activities has made the city an emerging tourist destination, well positioned in the Spanish context of cultural tourism and congresses.

MADRID

Madrid lies at the geographical centre of the Iberian Peninsula and is strategically located for access to other tourist destinations such as Segovia, Toledo, Aranjuez, El Escorial and Cuenca.

True to its traditions, it is a cosmopolitan city blending culture, entertainment and business. Its university life is another of its attractions since it is home to students from Spain and abroad who choose to study at Madrid's universities because of their reputation and prestige.

Its historic part is a rival to that of any major European city. Its main thoroughfare is the Gran Vía, also known as "little Broadway". Also worth visiting are the "Barrio de las Letras" (Writers' Quarter), the Latina and Malasaña quarters, and the Madrid of the Austrias, where one can take a leisurely stroll and enjoy typical Madrilenian and Spanish cuisine.

Some of the city's principal architectural and artistic sites include the Royal Palace, the Almudena Cathedral, the Plaza Mayor, the Alcalá Gate, and the collections held by the Prado, Thyssen and Reina Sofía museums, among other.

Its magnificent facilities (the IFEMA Madrid Exhibition Centre, various conference halls), its excellent transport network (which boasts some of Europe's most important infrastructures, like the Adolfo Suárez Madrid-Barajas Airport or the Madrid underground system), its wide range of accommodation and services and its cutting-edge audiovisual and communications technology have transformed Madrid into an unbeatable business destination.





www.uah.es

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