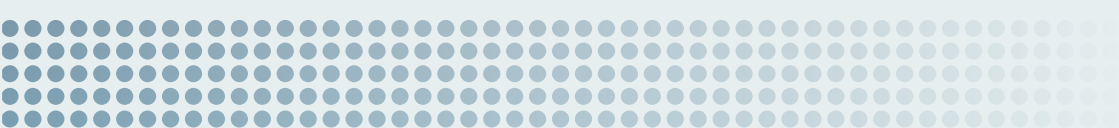


UNIVERSITY OF CANTABRIA

International Student's Guide





International Student's Guide

University of Cantabria

Vice-rectorate for International Relations



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Universidad de Cantabria

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University of Cantabria Vice-rectorate for International Relations

Dear student,

The University of Cantabria, via its International Relations Office, sees the internationalisation of the entire university community as one of its main goals and mobility as the essential requirement to successfully achieve this international objective.

In an attempt to further improve services for students we have prepared this complete Exchange Students' Guide, which will hopefully be a very useful tool for rapid consultation as to what studies our university has to offer, thereby allowing you to better understand its academic system, the conditions and processes of admission and to know where the Office for International Relations is and what activities it carries out.

You will also find in this guide a description of the most relevant aspects of the city of Santander and its region, as well as practical information on accommodation, medical assistance or the cost of living in Cantabria.

We trust that the information offered in this guide will help to make your stay here at the university fulfilling, both academically and personally, and that you will enjoy the many attractions of this pleasant city and this beautiful region.



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1

The University of Cantabria

1.1. General description

1.2. The UC in figures

1.3. Academic offer

- Regular programmes and courses
- Non-regular courses

1.4. General Services



1.1 General description

The University of Cantabria (UC) is the only on-site public institution to offer official university study courses in the self-governed region of Cantabria. It is a young, dynamic public university, founded in 1972, whose main objective is to contribute to social progress via its commitment to teaching and scientific excellence. To achieve these goals, it aims at constant quality control of its work, which means that all its teaching, research and administrative activities continually undergo review and improvement processes. It is precisely this demanding nature that has led it to be considered as one of the ten best universities in the country for quality and scientific productivity.

The University of Cantabria is one of the first nine Spanish universities that have been awarded as "International Excellence Campus" by the Ministry of Education. This award recognizes the quality of the UC concerning teaching, research and knowledge transfer within the regional community. This International Excellence Campus, entitled Cantabria International Campus, involves the starting and developing of several initiatives aiming at strengthening the UC excellence and at sharing it with the most important private and public agents in the region and with the Cantabrian society as a whole.

The University of Cantabria offers its students all the necessary resources for a well-rounded education. In the academic area, the study plans strive to find the perfect balance between practice and theory, and which the student can further enrich through several different complementary activities: work placement programmes, language courses, ac-

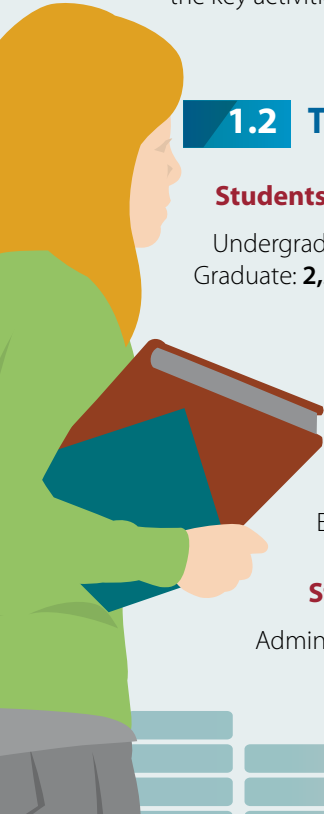




cess to new technologies, orientation and tutoring activities and exchange programmes with universities of other countries are to mention but a few.

In this sense, the UC has clearly made a great effort over the last few years to promote itself internationally. At the present moment it is both a member of national university networks such as *Grupo 9 de Universidades*, and of such international networks as the *Compostela Group* and the *Santander Group*, it being a founder member of the latter. Likewise, it has signed more than 300 bilateral agreements with European universities in the LLP-ERASMUS Programme Framework. Beyond Europe the UC has established co-operation links with US, Australian and Canadian universities and has furthered its relations with Asia and Latin America through bilateral agreements and under the auspices of collaboration programmes established not only by UNESCO (*UNITWIN* Chairs), but also through the European Union (*ALFA*, *Erasmus Mundus* and *ATLANTIS* Programmes) and other institutions like the *Carolina Foundation* or the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation (*MAEC-AECID* Grants).

Within this general performance framework, the mobility of students, academic staff, and administration and service staff is considered to be one of the key activities in its internationalisation process.



1.2 The UC in figures (academic year 2009-2010)

Students

Undergraduate Cycle: **10,196**

Graduate: **2,293**

- Official Masters: **573**
- University Own Studies: **1,020**
- Doctorate: **700**

Teaching staff

Lecturers and Researchers: **1,218**

External Researchers: **323**

Staff

Administration and Services Staff: **574**



Programmes and Centres of Study

Degrees awarded: **36**

Degrees (Bologna Process): **27**

Faculties and Schools and 3 associate schools: **11**

Departments: **31**

Official Masters: **31**

Official Doctorate Programmes: **22**

Library

Number of books: **399,372**

Journal collections: **7,036**

Electronic journals available on-line: **23,764**

Language Courses

Students in general courses of Spanish as a Foreign Language: **555**

Students in German, Chinese, French, English, Italian and Portuguese regular courses: **683**

Students in tailor-made Spanish Language and Culture Programmes: **214**

Mobility Programmes (academic year 2009-2010)

National students: **62**

Outgoing: **31**

Incoming: **31**

International students: **811**

Outgoing: **314**

Incoming: **497**

Exchange students: **371**

Other programmes: **126**

Work Placements (academic year 2009-2010)

Agreements: **1,055**

Placement Internships: **1,900**

Employment offers: **244**





Sports (academic year 2009-2010)

Number of activities: **33**

Applications for leisure and recreational courses and activities: **3,019**

Summer Courses

Number of Courses: **101**

Organising centres: **16**

1.3 Academic offer

• Regular programmes and courses

Degrees (Bologna Process)

Faculty of Sciences

- Degree in Computer Science Engineering
- Degree in Physical Sciences
- Degree in Mathematics

Faculty of Economics and Business Studies

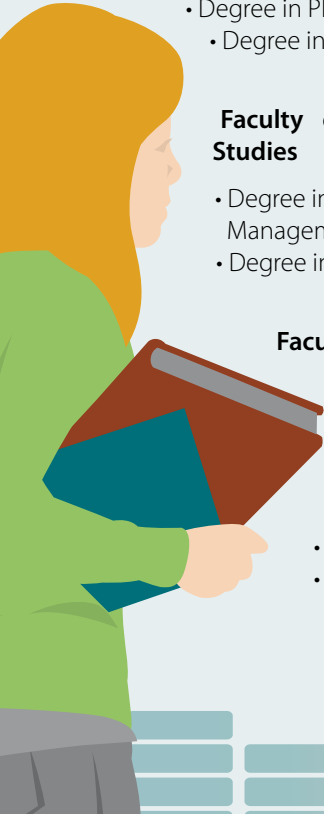
- Degree in Business Administration and Management
- Degree in Economics

Faculty of Law

- Degree in Labour Relations
- Degree in Law

School of Teacher Training

- Degree in Children's Education Teaching
- Degree in Primary Education Teaching





Faculty of Humanities

- Degree in Geography and Land Planning
- Degree in History

Faculty of Medicine

- Degree in Medicine

School of Civil Engineering

- Degree in Civil Engineering



School of Industrial Engineering and Telecommunications

- Degree in Electrical Engineering
- Degree in Chemical Engineering
- Degree in Mechanical Engineering
- Degree in Automatic and Electronic Industrial Engineering
- Degree in Technical Industrial Engineering
- Degree in Technical Telecommunications Engineering

School of Nautical Studies

- Degree in Marine Engineering
- Degree in Maritime Engineering
- Degree in Naval Engineering and Maritime Transportation

School of Nursing 'Casa de Salud Valdecilla'

- Degree in Nursing

School of Technical Mining Engineering

- Degree in Energetic Resources Engineering
- Degree in Mining Resources Engineering





“Gimbernat Cantabria” School of Physiotherapy (Associate School)

- Degree in Physiotherapy

“Altamira” School of Tourism (ascribed institution)

- Degree in Tourism

Courses in English

The UC offers as well courses taught in English by UC faculty staff with wide teaching and research experience. These courses are organised in five different one-semester programmes of between 25 and 30 ECTS credits:

- *Diploma in European Business and Economics.*
- *Diploma in Advanced Applied Technologies for Industry.*
- *Diploma in Experimental Physics.*
- *Civil Engineering Programme with the University of Cornell.*
- *Diploma in Spanish History and Culture.*

Teaching is carried out in small groups. It is possible to register for individual courses but, in order to obtain a Diploma, students need to successfully complete all the courses that make up the Diploma.

More information:

http://www.unican.es/WebUC/Unidades/relin-teng/catalogue/offer_in_english.htm



Postgraduate Studies

The UC offers a broad range of postgraduate studies aimed at responding to the current needs of society. Their objective is, on the one hand, to train professionals capable of accepting and overcoming the contemporary socio-economic challenges and, on the other hand, of creating an entire generation of top-rate researchers.





The UC postgraduate courses consist on masters, doctorates and continuing education.

Official Masters

The official masters have been adapted to the New European Higher Education Area. Courses offered by the UC provide advanced training that facilitates academic or professional specialization, or else which foster initiating a research career. These studies carry between 60 and 120 ECTS credits and may be applied for by anyone holding an official university degree.

Continuing Education

The University of Cantabria offers other postgraduate studies which provide further preparation in many different areas of specialization and which are directly focused on the professional applications of the disciplines being taught.

Doctorate

Doctoral studies are aimed at training academics and researchers of the very highest level. They combine specialization within a scientific and technical area with training in research techniques.

Further information in UC regular courses:

Servicio de Gestión Académica

Pabellón de Gobierno. Avda. de los Castros s/n

Tel. 34-942 201055

Fax: 34-942 201060

E-mail: gestion.academica@gestion.unican.es

<http://www.unican.es/infoacademica>

• Non-regular Courses

Courses in Spanish Language and Culture

The University of Cantabria Language Centre (CIUC) organises two types of programmes: general courses and those specially tailored to meet specific requirements.

Within the first category, there exist two different types of course: summer courses (60-80 hours of class, with four hours per day over a 3-4 weeks period) and intensive courses throughout the year (a total of 40





hours are given in daily 2-hour sessions). As regards the specific requirement courses, regular courses at the university are combined with the CIUC Spanish courses. When a foreign university so requires, there also exists the possibility of exchange programmes of varying length and which can include teaching staff both from the UC and the CIUC itself or the Department of Philology.

Also, those students that reach the highest learning level of those offered by the CIUC are perfectly capable of successfully passing the exams to obtain the "Diploma de Español" (DELE) awarded by the Cervantes Institute, corresponding to the Ministry of Education, and which the Department of Philology of the University organises twice a year.

Summer Courses

The Vice-Rectorate for Knowledge Dissemination and Social Participation organises Summer Courses on monographic disciplines, which are, depending on the course, either general or specialized, and are of between 20 to 30 hours. Various institutions and firms collaborate in these courses which are held in several places all over Cantabria. Throughout the summer and in its different locations, the Summer Course Organisation programmes several activities such as conferences and concerts, all open to the general public.

Secretaría de los Cursos de Verano

Edificio de las Facultades de Derecho yEconómicas

Avda. de los Castros, s/n. 39005 Santander

Tel. +34 902 20 16 16

Fax: + 34 942 20 09 75

E-mail: cursos.verano@gestion.unican.es

<http://www.unican.es/WebUC/cverano>

1.3 General Services

These university services help students to find suitable tools to complement their studies and support in their academic and research work.

University Library (BUC)

The Library is the UC service that meets the needs of university teaching and research by means of scientific documents, and also



manages and circulates the University's bibliographic material. The main offices are located in the Interfaculty Building and there are nine divisions or service points in diverse University centres, which provide users with direct service and house collections relating to the specific nature of the centre where they are held.

Biblioteca de la Universidad de Cantabria

Avenida de Los Castros s/n. 39005 Santander

Tel. +34 942 20 11 98

Fax: + 34 942 20 11 83

<http://www.buc.unican.es/>

Extramural Services and Activities

The University Extramural Services are run directly by the Vice-Rectorate for Knowledge Dissemination and Social Participation. Their aim is to promote and spread activities on and off campus, in collaboration with public and private institutions. They also subsidise projects that emerge from the university community and put into circulation throughout the University all information on courses, competitions, prizes, seminars, meetings and all types of cultural activities, organised both in Spain and abroad.

More information:

<http://www.unican.es/Aulas/>

Physical Activities and Sports Service

This encourages physical education, promotes activities that include physical preparation, sports competition, self-expression through movement as well as outdoor activities. Most of these courses go on for three months (October to December and January to March and April to June). There are substantial discounts for UC students.

Servicio de Deportes

Pabellón Polideportivo

Avda. de los Castros s/n. 39005 Santander

Tel. +34 942 20 18 81

Fax: + 34 942 20 18 80

<http://www.unican.es/deportes/>



Language Centre

The "CIUC" is the UC's Language Centre. It aims at providing the university community with a foreign language teaching service. It also covers the need for Spanish teaching for students taking part in exchange programmes. The CIUC offers English, German, French, Italian and Chinese courses. In addition, Spanish courses are held during the summer months and throughout the academic year for foreign students on exchange programmes or bilateral agreements and provides tailor-made language and culture programmes for foreign universities.

Centro de Idiomas (CIUC)

Edificio Facultades de Derecho y Económicas, planta -1

Avda. de los Castros s/n, 39005 Santander

Tel: +34 942 20 13 13

Fax: +34 942 20 13 16

E-mail: ciuc@gestion.unican.es

<http://www.unican.es/ciuc/>

Information Technologies Service

This service provides students with an e-mail account. To be able to use this service, students must be holders of the University Student Card (TUI).

The UC's IT Service also enables students to look up marks, academic reports, class times and examination timetables on-line, and to find teaching materials. There is a space for private websites in addition to the ALUMNOS-i cordless network, which provides connection to portable equipment. For more information:

Servicio de informática

Edificio de Filología. Bajo.

Avda. de los Castros s/n. 39005 Santander.

Tel. +34 942 20 10 93

Fax: +34 942 20 10 83

E-mail: secretaria_sdi@gestion.unican.es

<http://www.unican.es/Sdel>

Counselling Psychologist and Orientation Service (SOUCAN)

This service gives out administrative and general information, organises Study Welcome and Personal Training Courses, and provides university students with counselling. There is also a Nor-



malisation Programme, which aims to support students who are undergoing academic difficulties or who have to deal with barriers of a physical (through disability) and social nature.

SOUCAN

Edificio Interfacultativo. 3ª planta.
Avda. de los Castros s/n. 39005 Santander.
Tel. +34 942 20 12 16
E-mail: soucan@unican.es
<http://www.unican.es/soucan/>

Careers and Employment Information Centre (COIE)

Its aims include that of adding work experience to the student's university training. To this end it develops different job experience programmes. It also administers collaboration awards at the UC as well as job offers outside the university ambit and provides training and careers advice.

Centro de Orientación e Información de Empleo (COIE)

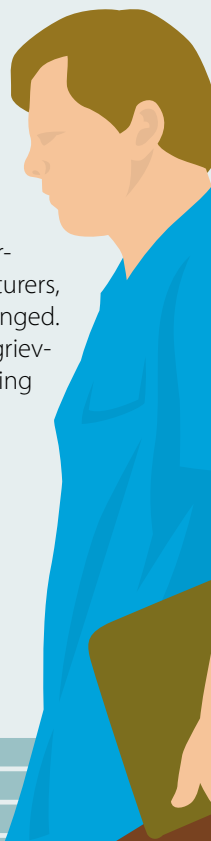
Facultad de Ciencias.
Avda. de los Castros s/n. 39005 Santander.
Tel. work experience and employment: +34 942 20 14 14
Tel. careers advice: +34 942 20 20 32
Tel. training: +34 942 20 09 60
E-mail: coie.uc@unican.es
<http://www.coie.unican.es/>

University Ombudsman

The Ombudsman ensures that the rights of all the members of the university are upheld and acts whenever any of these members (students, lecturers, clerical workers and maintenance staff) feel their rights have been infringed. The Ombudsman's responsibilities are: dealing with complaints and grievances, giving consultation, mediating between opposing parties, drawing up reports and making suggestions and recommendations.

Defensor Universitario

Facultad de Derecho, 2ª planta, zona norte
Avda. de los Castros s/n. 39005 Santander
Tel. +34 942 20 20 22
Fax: +34 942 20 20 23
E-mail: defensor@unican.es
<http://www.unican.es/defensor>



2

Studying at the University of Cantabria

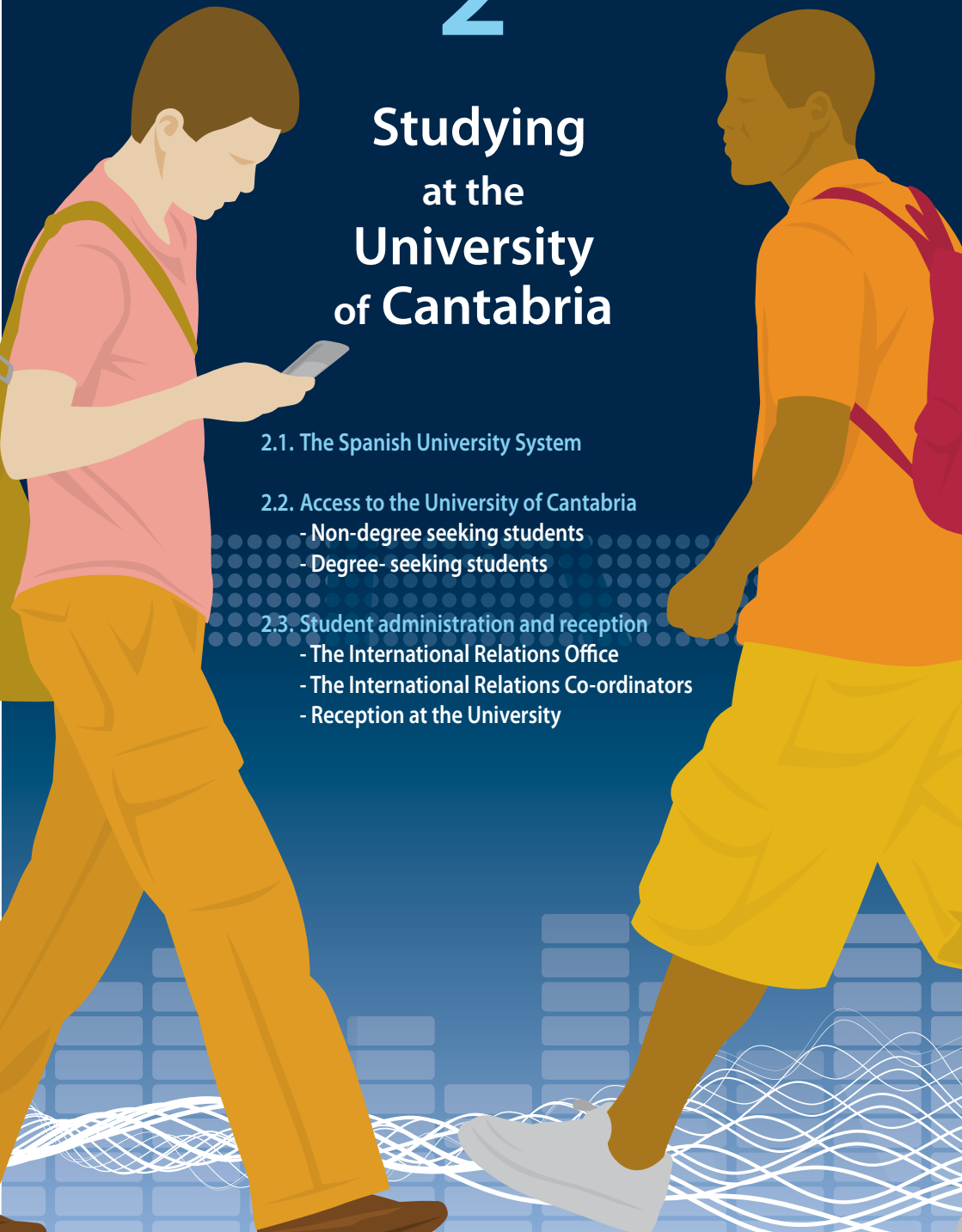
2.1. The Spanish University System

2.2. Access to the University of Cantabria

- Non-degree seeking students
- Degree- seeking students

2.3. Student administration and reception

- The International Relations Office
- The International Relations Co-ordinators
- Reception at the University





2.1 The Spanish University System

This organisation of degrees in Spain is currently undergoing revision due to the Bologna process and the setting-up of the European Higher Education Area. The new degrees will be easily comparable within Europe and will be divided in graduate and postgraduate degrees (Masters and Doctorates). In general, graduate degrees will last four years (240 ECTS credits) and master degrees, one or two years (between 60 and 120 ECTS credits). It will only be possible to study a doctorate having previously completed an official master.

The new system will co-exist for a few years with the previous one.

Universities are able, by law, to offer its own postgraduate and professional specialization degrees. These diplomas and qualifications do not have the value that is legally attached to official ones; however, they are of great importance with a view to completing one's academic curriculum and acquiring or completing a particular professional specialization.

2.2 Access to the University of Cantabria

Students coming from another university or country who are interested in pursuing studies at the University of Cantabria can apply for admission with the aim of spending either a study period that is recognised academically by their university of origin, or of obtaining a graduate, postgraduate or doctorate qualification. The admissions procedure is different for each of these categories.

• Non-degree seeking students

Exchange students within the framework of programmes and bilateral agreements

Exchange students are those students from other universities who come to the University of Cantabria to spend a study period within the framework of exchange programmes (ERASMUS, etc.) and bilateral agreements with foreign universities. These students are exempt from enrolment fees at the University of Cantabria and it is essential that they are nominated by their sending institution.





Visiting students

Visiting students are those students from a university institution of comparable level to a Spanish university with no bilateral agreement with the UC, who are spending a study period of not longer than one academic year and who must pay the fees corresponding to the credits they enrol for.



Exchange and Visiting Students' admissions and registration are carried out at the University of Cantabria IRO (ORI in Spanish) and it is different for the two groups. The complete application procedures, the required documents and forms and the established deadlines are included in the ORI's website.

Oficina de Relaciones Internacionales (ORI)

Edificio de las Facultades de Derecho y Económicas

Avda. de los Castros, s/n. 39005 Santander

Tel. + 34 942 20 10 18/52/38

Fax + 34 942 20 10 78

E-mail: relint@gestion.unican.es

<http://www.unican.es/WebUC/Unidades/relinteng/>

• Degree-seeking students

Degree-seeking students having completed secondary education abroad

If you have foreign qualification equivalent to the Bachiller or to advanced vocational qualification, you can apply for admission, however the procedure is different depending on the country of origin:

- a) **Students of the European Union, Switzerland, China, Iceland, Norway and Liechtenstein or students who have obtained a European or International Baccalaureate**



These students do not need to officially validate their degree nor do they need to sit for the university examination entrance. In this case, it is only necessary to check the requirements needed to apply to university established by the Universidad Nacional de Educación a Distancia (UNED): <http://www.uned.es/>

b) **Students coming from other countries must follow a two-part procedure:**

Obtain official approval of baccalaureate certificate or equivalent from the Spanish Ministry of Education.

Ministerio de Educación

Subdirección General de Títulos y Reconocimiento de Cualificaciones

Paseo del Prado, 28, 28014 Madrid

Tel. + 34 91 506 56 32

Fax + 34 91 506 57 06

E-mail: sgtris@educacion.es

<http://www.educacion.es/educacion/sistema-educativo/validaciones.html>

Register for the University examination. This examination, also known in Spain as “Selectividad” is administered by the Spanish Open University (UNED) and registration deadlines vary depending on country and examination dates.

Sección de Selectividad de la UNED

C/ Senda del Rey 11, 28040 Madrid

Tel. + 34 91 398 66 12 / 13 / 16

Fax + 34 91 398 66 79

E-mail: selectiv@adm.uned.es

<http://www.uned.es/>

For more information from outside Spain:

Consejerías de Educación y Ciencia de las Embajadas de España

<http://www.educacion.es/horizontales/ministerio/red-exterior/oficinas-educacion.html>

Oficinas Consulares de las Embajadas de España

<http://www.maec.es/es/EYC/Paginas/embajadasy-consulados.aspx>





For electronic information

infomae@mae.es

Once the legal requirements for university entrance are met, the students will have to pre-register at the University of Cantabria through the Servicio de Gestión Académica.

Servicio de Gestión Académica

Pabellón de Gobierno

Avda. de los Castros s/n. 39005 Santander

Tel. + 34 942 20 10 55

Fax + 34 942 20 09 84

E-mail: gestion.academica@unican.es

http://www.unican.es/WebUC/Unidades/Gestion_Academica/Informacion_academica/Futuros+Alumnos.htm

Degree-seeking students having started university education abroad

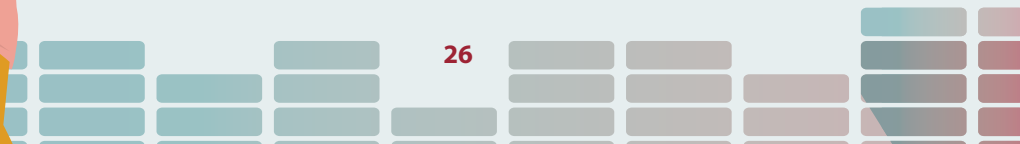
Students that have been rejected for official recognition of their degrees or have not applied for it, may use this procedure known as Partial Recognition so as to be able to continue the same or an equivalent programme at Spanish universities. If the admission is for degrees with place limit, the student will need to have completed at least 60 ECTS compulsory credits and have a favourable report from the Recognition Commission of the Faculty. If the admission is for degrees without admission restrictions, it is enough to have completed 15 compulsory credits or a subject.

The application procedure will be carried out by the corresponding faculty and decided upon by the Rector.

Postgraduate Degree-seeking students having started university education abroad

Foreign students who have a degree (or equivalent academic level) conferred by a university or higher education institution abroad can gain access to postgraduate studies at the University of Cantabria in two ways:

- Following official approval of the foreign degree at the Spanish Ministry of Education:





Ministerio de Educación

Subdirección General de Títulos y Reconocimiento de Cualificaciones

Paseo del Prado, 28, 28014 Madrid

Tel. + 34 91 506 56 32

Fax + 34 91 506 57 06

E-mail: sgtris@educacion.es

<http://www.educacion.es/educacion/sistema-educativo/convalidaciones.html>

- Without official approval of foreign degree or with the approval process in progress:

Students may apply for admission at the chosen study programme. This admission is considered provisional until authorization by the Rector or a positive resolution of the Ministry.

Servicio de Gestión Académica

Pabellón de Gobierno

Avda. de los Castros s/n. 39005 Santander

Tel. + 34 942 20 10 55

Fax + 34 942 20 09 84

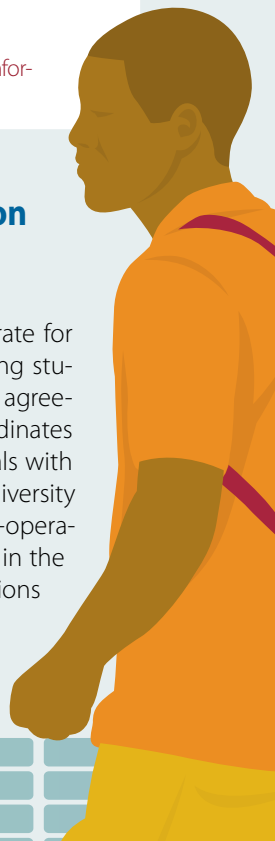
E-mail: gestion.academica@unican.es

http://www.unican.es/WebUC/Unidades/Gestion_Academica/Informacion_academica/Futuros+Alumnos.htm

2.3 Student Administration and Reception

• The UC International Relations Office

The International Relations Office dependent on the Vice-rectorate for International Relations, is the focal point for exchange and visiting students and also for the students received within the framework of agreements and European and International programmes. It co-ordinates the services for students coming from other universities and deals with student mobility programmes on an overall basis. It gives the university community information and advice on different international co-operation programmes in the Higher Education Area and collaborates in the setting-up and development of those international education actions in which the University takes part.





Oficina de Relaciones Internacionales (ORI)

Edificio de las Facultades de Derecho y Económicas
Avda. de los Castros s/n. 39005 Santander
Tel. + 34 942 20 10 18 / 52 / 38.
Fax + 34 942 20 10 78
E-mail: relint@gestion.unican.es
<http://www.unican.es/WebUC/Unidades/relinteng/>

• The International Relations Co-ordinators

The International Relations Co-ordinator at each university faculty or school acts as tutor to the students on the several degree and diploma courses who are taking part in the national and international exchange programmes.

They play an essential role in the academic organization and success of student mobility.

The names and contact details of the Faculty coordinators can be seen in the ORI's Website:

<http://www.unican.es/WebUC/Unidades/relinteng/students/-+Incoming+ERASMUS+Students.htm>

• Reception at the University

Welcome Programme

Through its International Relations Office, the University of Cantabria offers a Welcome Programme for exchange students before classes begin so as to



provide an initial contact with the University, the city of Santander and Spanish culture in general.

The programme includes a Welcoming Session at which students are given basic information regarding their stay and a presentation about the Spanish culture. The welcome sessions are also made up of a tour of the main university services, a buffet lunch offered by the Vice-rectorate and several excursions to the city and the region. Taking part in these activities is extremely helpful to exchange students as it facilitates integration and the subsequent stay.

<http://www.unican.es/WebUC/Unidades/reInteng/students/-+Orientation+Programme.htm>

Mentoring Programme

As a complement to the Welcome Programme, there is a Mentoring Programme so that exchange students who have just arrived can benefit from the support and experience of Spanish students. The advantages are twofold: exchange students can make use of the mentor's experience in finding solutions for the typical problems that can arise on arrival in a foreign country, and at the same time get to know Spanish students and become integrated more quickly within the university community.

Student Associations: Students' Council and AEGEE

The CEUC is the official student body for debate, consultation and representation. Its mission is to defend and uphold students' rights and obligations as well as to supervise that university services are working correctly. It is made up of all student members of Senate and the delegates from the various schools and faculties. It gives orientation material and sessions to new students, manage students' activities and provides accommodation databases and books.

The Student's Council and the European student association AEGEE through its antenna in Cantabria, prepare cultural leisure and sport activities for international students through the whole academic year. They also organize conversation exchanges to promote the learning of languages.





Consejo de Estudiantes (CEUC)

Edificio de Filología

Avda de los Castros, s/n. 39005 Santander

Tel. + 34 942 20 17 06

Fax + 34 942 20 12 06

E-mail: ceuc@alumnos.unican.es

<http://www.ceuc.unican.es>

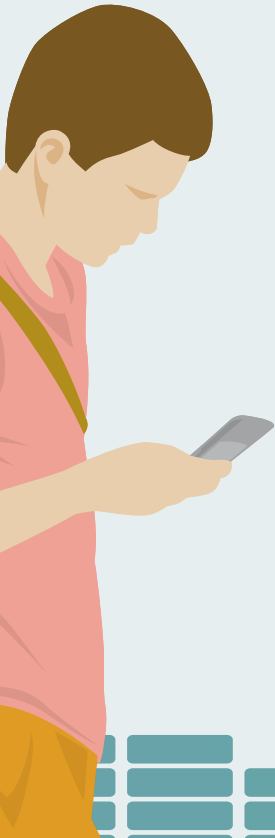
AEGEE - Santander

Edificio de las Facultades de Derecho y Económicas, planta 0

Avda de los Castros, s/n. 39005 Santander

E-mail: info@aegeesantander.org; erasmus@aegeesantander.org

<http://www.aegeesantander.org>



3

Academic aspects

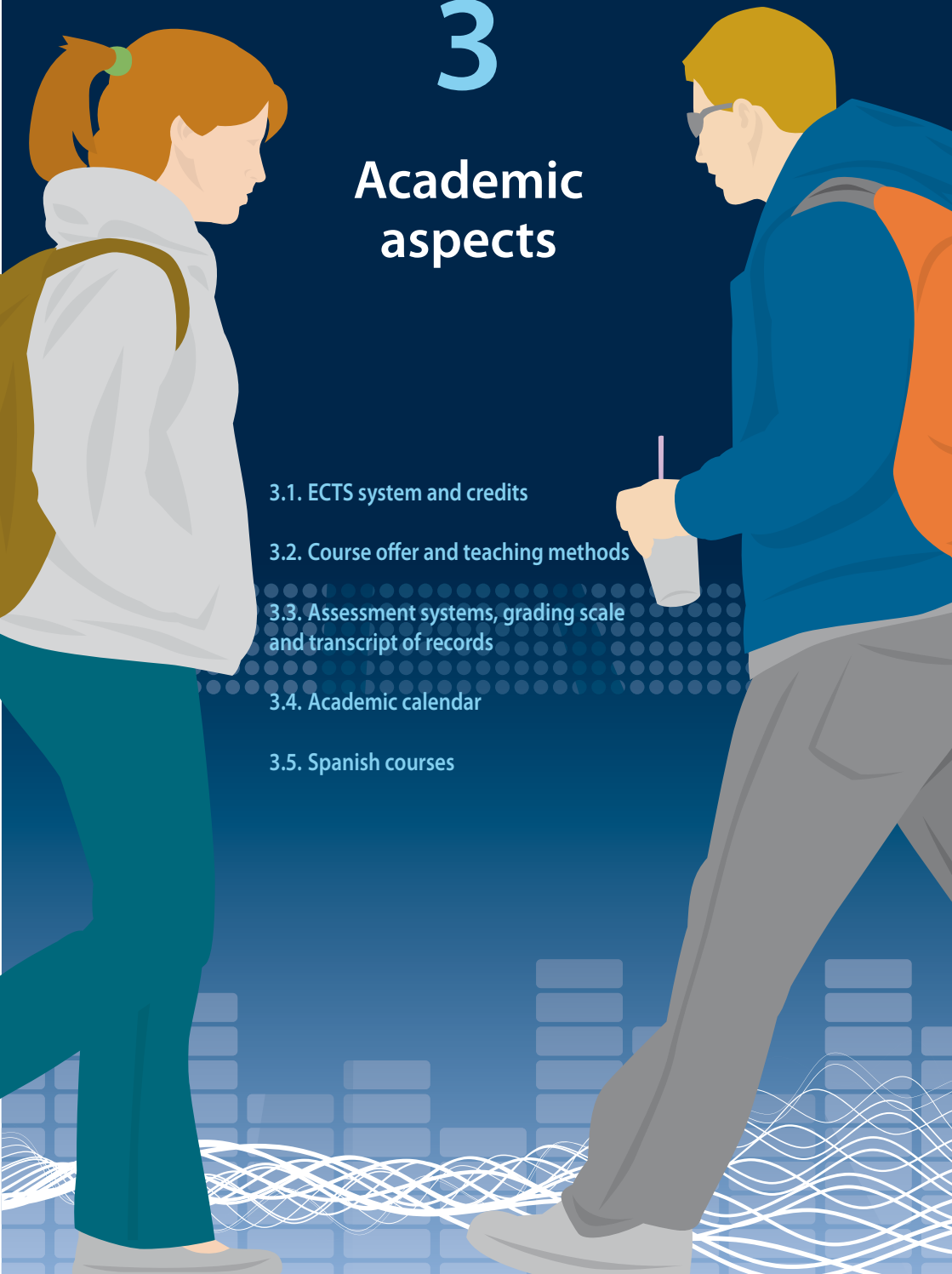
3.1. ECTS system and credits

3.2. Course offer and teaching methods

3.3. Assessment systems, grading scale and transcript of records

3.4. Academic calendar

3.5. Spanish courses





3.1 ECTS System and Credits

ECTS is the European Union's Credit Transfer and Accumulation System, which was introduced to set up common procedures that guarantee academic recognition of studies undertaken abroad. To this end, it provides a study assessment and comparison system, as well as a transfer system from one institution to another.

ECTS credits are a value allocated to course units to describe the student workload required to complete them. They reflect the quantity of work each course requires in relation to the workload of a full year of academic study at the institution; that is, lectures, practical work, seminars, private work –in the library or at home– and examinations or other assessment activities. In ECTS, 60 credits represent the workload of a year of study; normally 30 credits are given for a semester and 20 credits for a term. One ECTS credit is equivalent to 25 working hours.

Owing to the internal structure of some of the University of Cantabria's study plans which are still not adapted to Bologna, in some courses the number of ECTS credits does not coincide with the number of University of Cantabria credits. Therefore students should rely exclusively on the information given in the ECTS guide.

The ECTS grading scale is set as follows:

- A – Excellent**
- B – Very Good**
- C – Good**
- D – Satisfactory**
- E – Sufficient**
- FX – Fail**
- F – Fail**

3.2 Course Offer and Teaching Methods

Exchange and visiting students are to choose the courses they will be following during their exchange period within the academic offer taught at the University.





Course catalogue or ECTS Guide

<http://www.unican.es/WebUC/Unidades/relinteng/catalogue/default.htm>

Teaching methods effectively applied vary in accordance with the nature of the subject and the lecturer's preferences. Lectures accompanied by practical work or, where appropriate, work in laboratories and workshops, is the most usual procedure. The new degree programmes adapted to Bologna offer more practical and active methodologies including the participation in seminars, the production of written work or team project work may also be required. Lecturers have to set aside six hours' tutorial time a week from their usual class timetable in order to advise students and supervise their academic performance.

3.3 Assessment Systems, Grading Scale and Transcript of Records

The most commonly used system at the University of Cantabria to assess students' academic performance has been the written examination. However, once again, the new degree programmes use a continuous assessment system replacing or combining the written exam with other assessment procedures, such as an oral exam, the presentation of written work, etc. Students' active participation in class is generally valued positively in the final grade.

The national grading scale goes from 0 to 10. All subjects passed must be given a numerical grade to a decimal point, from 5.0 to 10 according to the following scale:

- a) **"Aprobado"**: from **5.0** to **6.9**
- b) **"Notable"**: from **7.0** to **8.9**
- c) **"Sobresaliente"**: from **9.0** to **10**

A failed subject is included as "Suspenso" ("Fail") on the report but is not given a numerical mark. Lecturers may award a distinction ("Matrícula de Honor") to students who have obtained a mark equal to or higher than 9.0. The number of distinctions may not exceed five per cent of the students enrolled on a subject in the same academic year.

Equivalence between the ECTS scale and the UC's grading scale, in accordance with exchange student guidelines, is as follows:



Sobresaliente (9-10.0)	A
Notable (7.0-8.9)	B
Aprobado (5-6.9)	C
Suspenseo	FX

Grades D, F and E do not have equivalence with the UC’s grading scale.

At the end of the stay, the University of Cantabria issues a transcript of records in duplicate, which shows the grades obtained on each course students have registered for.

Under no circumstances can the transcript be sent before August (March in the case of students staying at the UC only during the 1st semester) because of the UC’s grading administrative procedures. Home universities should be informed about these dates.

* This grading scale is in the process to be adapted to the new ECTS requirements.

3.4 Academic Calendar

Classes are held, save exceptions, from the last fortnight in September to the last week in May. During the academic year classes are suspended on two occasions for approximately two weeks at Christmas and one week at Easter. Similarly, there are no classes on national and local holidays and on each Faculty or School’s patron saint’s day.

Start of Academic Year: second fortnight of September.

End of classes: end of May.

First semester:
 Classes: Second fortnight of September – end of January.
 Exams: Last week of January – mid February.

Second semester:
 Classes: mid February – end of May or beginning of June.
 Exams: June.

Extraordinary examination session: first half of September.





3.5 Spanish courses

The CIUC (UC Language Centre) offers foreign students who have come to the University of Cantabria within the framework of European programmes and bilateral agreements the chance to attend Spanish courses during each of the two semesters in order to improve their command of Spanish. At the beginning of each semester students are given information on timetables and prices for 40 and 60-hour courses.

Centro de Idiomas de la Universidad de Cantabria (CIUC)

Edificio de las Facultades de Derecho y Económicas, planta -1

Avda. de los Castros s/n. 39005 Santander

Tfno.: + 34 942 20 13 13

Fax +34 942 20 13 16

E-mail: ciuc@gestion.unican.es

<http://www.unican.es/ciuc/>



4

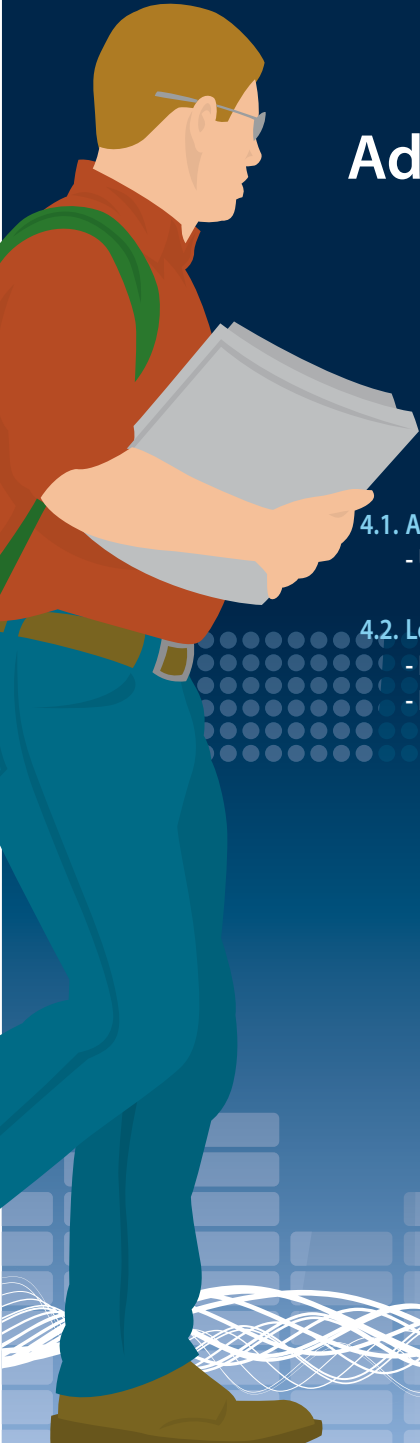
Administrative and Legal Aspects

4.1. Administration

- University Student Card (TUI)

4.2. Legalising the stay

- Residence Card
- NIE (Foreigner's Identity Number)





4.1 Administration

The ORI centralizes the administration of all documentation generated within the framework of the mobility programmes in which the UC participates.

• University Student Card (TUI)

TUI stands for “Tarjeta Universitaria Inteligente”. This card is issued by Banco Santander through the Students’ Services and the ORI. Its uses include:

- University accreditation: the card identifies the student as students from the University of Cantabria.
- Checking student marks.
- E-mail account application and use of university computers.
- Borrowing books from the library.
- Electronic purse: for paying for some university services. The card can be topped up with cash at cash point terminals placed around the campus.
- Discounts/special offers in shops: if you show your TUI when making purchases at certain shops and commercial centres in Cantabria you can get discounts, pay on credit or be entitled to other special offers.
- Bus Card.

More information: <http://www.unican.es/WebUC/Unidades/gerencia/servicios/tui/>





4.2 Legalising the Stay

• Residence Card

To enter Spanish territory it is required to produce a passport or, where appropriate, a valid identity card showing the holder's nationality. If the stay is to be for longer than three months, it is necessary to obtain a student visa from the Spanish Embassy in the country of origin. In these cases it is also necessary to apply for the Residence Card, except in the case of citizens of one of the Member States of the European Union, of other States that are part of the Agreement on the European Economic Area or

the Swiss Confederation, who are self-employed workers or employees, students or beneficiaries of the right to reside in Spain permanently.

The application is processed at the 'Oficina de Extranjeros de Santander' and should be started no later than a month after the entrance. It will not entail any obstacle for the provisional stay of the applicants or the development of their activities.

• NIE (Foreigner's Identity Number)

This number is obtained when applying for the Residence Card and it is required to open a bank account and for any banking operation.

For more information, both on the Residence Permit and the NIE:

Oficina de Extranjeros de Santander

C/ Vargas, 53. Planta Baja. 39010 Santander
Tel. + 34 942 99 93 80
Fax + 34 942 99 93 89

Opening hours: 9 am to 2 pm from Monday to Friday

http://www.mir.es/MIR/Directorio/Servicios_Perifericos/Cuerpo_Nacional_de_Policia/Oficinas_de_extranjeros/Cantabria/



5

Living in Cantabria and in Santander

5.1. The region of Cantabria and the city
of Santander

5.2. Leisure and Cultural Life





5.1 The region of Cantabria and the city of Santander

The city of Santander is located in the self-governed region of Cantabria, which lies on the northern coast of Spain between Asturias and the Basque Country. This region stands out because of the great diversity of its environment: the coastal landscape of beaches, bays and cliffs blends together with valleys and highland areas. The surrounding nature and the historical importance of many of its villages and buildings make this region very appealing for tourism, especially during the summer season.

Cantabria is a one-province region that is an excellent place to learn Spanish because this is the only official language spoken here.

It is very mild with moderate temperatures and rain throughout the year:

The average temperature in Cantabria (°C)

Winter	Spring	Summer	Autumn
9	14	22	11

The average pluviometry in Cantabria (mm)

Winter	Spring	Summer	Autumn
600	540	330	650

Santander is a coastal city that grew in 19th century thanks to a flourishing commercial activity and also throughout the 20th century thanks to tourist activity promoted by the Spanish Royal Family. It currently offers a friendly atmosphere within a very beautiful natural setting with large beaches and attractive promenades. All these features make Santander a comfortable city to live in, with a wide range of cultural and sport attractions.

More information:

<http://www.turismodecantabria.com>

<http://www.guiadecantabria.com>

5.2 Leisure and Cultural Life

Sports

Cantabria is endowed with facilities for sports, Santander, the capital, being the best equipped municipality. Football pitches and the outdoor



bowling areas (a local sport) are the most widespread sports facilities throughout the region. Several yacht harbours are located along the coast, providing facilities for sailing and surfing. In the mountainous areas, hill-walking, trekking, skiing and climbing can be practised. For the important sport events, Santander has the Palacio de Festivales and the "Racing" football ground, both of them located in the Sardinero area.

Exchange students have the same rights to use sports facilities and participate in the different activities organized by the UC Sport Service under the same conditions as the regular students.

<http://www.unican.es/deportes>

More information on sports:

<http://www.consejeriactdcantabria.com>

Active Tourism:

<http://www.cantabriarural.com/>

<http://turismoruralcantabria.com>

Activities for young people

Santander municipality, through its youth office, organizes every year two cycles of activities for young people between the ages of 15 and 30. The first cycle takes place from October to December and the second cycle from March to May. This leisure time programme is called "La noche es joven" (*The night is young*) and covers several types of activities and creative workshops free of charge.

Oficina de la Juventud

C/ Cuesta del Hospital, 10. 39008 Santander

Tel. + 34 942 20 30 28 / 29 - Fax: +34 942 22 72 32

<http://portal.ayto-santander.es/portal/page/portal/juventud-santander>

Other activities organized by the local government:

<http://www.jovenmania.com>

Cultural activities

The city of Santander offers several cultural and leisure facilities, among which the following are the most outstanding:

- 1. Palacio de Festivales.** It offers a broad programme of activities throughout the year: classical music concerts, opera, zarzuela, jazz, theatre, dance and other performing arts.



<http://www.palaciofestivales.com>

2. Centro Cultural Caja Cantabria (Cultural centre)

<http://www.obrasocial.cajacantabria.com>

3. Palacio de Congresos y Exposiciones, located at the Sardinero area where many events take place every year.

<http://www.palacioexposiciones.com>

4. Cinema and alternative cinema in original

version: information about films showing, times and addresses can be found on:

<http://www.santanderciudadviva.com/cartelera/>

<http://eldiariomontanes.hoycinema.com/>



The city and the region have a lot of museums, libraries, planetary, Roman ruins, prehistoric caves and galleries of art.

<http://www.guiadecantabria.com/cultura/cultura.htm>

<http://www.cantabriajuven.com/arte/>

It is possible to find all the information about concerts,

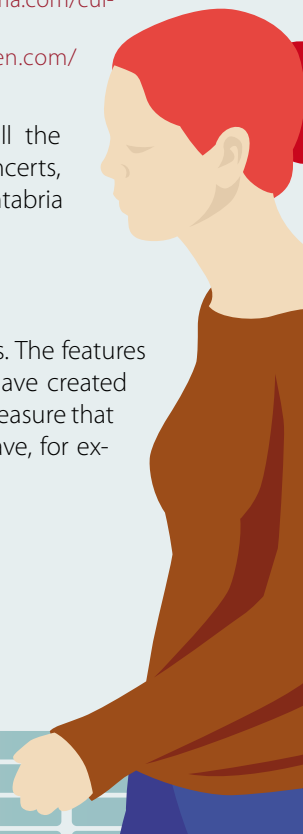
music, cinema, theatre, leisure, restaurants and pubs of Cantabria on the following site: <http://www.laguaiago.com/cantabria/>.

Nature

The region is known by its green open areas and natural parks. The features of Cantabrian orography together with the action of water have created impressive caves such as El Soplao Cave (an authentic natural treasure that used to be a mine in the past) or El Castillo Cave. Altamira Cave, for example, is declared World Heritage Site.

http://www.turismocantabria.net/info_arteycultura.htm

<http://www.cantabria102municipios.com/>





Night Life

Santander is a city well known for its pleasant and lively nightlife. Note should be made of the “wine bar areas”, where people have drinks both inside and outside the bars. The most popular are those of *Cañadío* and *Perines* at night and *Peña Herbosa* and *Vargas* at midday. There are all kinds of restaurants, including international cuisine.

There is a special city bus service ‘Nocturno 1, 2 and 3’ available at night. Information about schedules can be found in:

<http://www.tusantander.es/nocturno.php>

<http://www.tusantander.es/ESP/m/12/Usuarios/Red-de-lineas>

Popular celebrations:

There are celebrations throughout the year, although it is in summer when most of these take place.

More information:

http://www.welcometospain.net/fiestas/fiestas_cantabria.php



6

Practical Information

6.1. Getting to Santander

6.2. How to get around in Santander

6.3. Accommodation

- Private flats shared with other students
- University halls of residence
- Staying with a family
- The Students' Council (CEUC) housing list

6.4. Access to libraries and study rooms

6.5. Medical assistance

6.6. Cost of living

6.7. University dining halls

6.8. Bank and postal services

6.9. Telephone services





6.1 Getting to Santander

There are several ways of travelling to Santander:

Planetting to Santander

The airport, located 5 kilometres to the east of the city centre, has flights connecting Santander with several Spanish and European cities. There is a permanent bus service which connects Santander airport with the city centre bus station every 30 minutes. The bus fare is approximately 2 €.

<http://www.transportedecantabria.es/web/guest/aeropuerto>

Additionally, Bilbao Airport, located about 120 kms from Santander, operates international flights to and from the main European capitals. There are buses to and from Bilbao Airport to the city centre, where there is a coach service to Santander.

Spanish Airports

<http://www.aena.es>

Santander Airport

C/ Aeropuerto s/n. Camargo

Tfno.: +34 942 202 100

Information Iberia

Tel. + 34 902 40 05 00

<http://www.iberia.es>

Information Ryanair

<http://www.ryanair.com>

Information Alsa Bus

<http://www.alsa.es/portal/site/Alsa>

Ferry

A ferry links Santander with Plymouth/ Portsmouth (United Kingdom).

Brittany Ferries

Zona Marítima, s/n. Santander

Tel. + 34 942 36 06 11

<http://www.brittanyferries.es>





Train

Santander has two railway stations that correspond to two different railway companies (RENFE and FEVE) and they are situated at opposite ends of the same building.

RENFE Railway Station

Information and reservations: Tel. + 34 902 24 02 02

International information: Tel. + 34 902 24 34 02

<http://www.renfe.es>

FEVE Railway Station

Tel. + 34 942 20 95 66 / + 34 942 20 95 22

<http://www.feve.es>

Bus

There are coaches from the French border linking Irún with Santander several times a day. This is the easiest route for those who reach Hendaya by train. There are also coaches that operate the routes to France, Belgium, United Kingdom, Switzerland, Portugal and Moldova.

Information Alsa Bus

Tel. +34 902 422 242

<http://www.alsa.es>

Santander Bus Station

Tel. + 34 942 21 19 95

<http://www.santandereabus.com>

The City Bus Service links the University of Cantabria with the rest of the city.

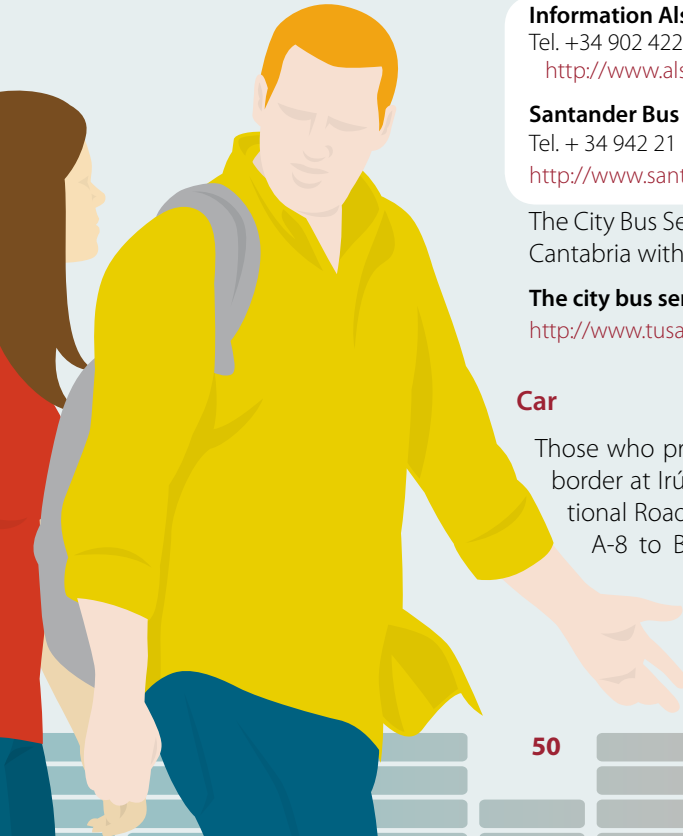
The city bus service

<http://www.tusantander.es/red-de-lineas.php>

Car

Those who prefer to drive can cross the border at Irún-Hendaya, taking the National Road 634, or the toll motorway A-8 to Bilbao, and then following directions for Santander.

Once here, the visitor will realise that the city's lay-out is along





three main roads: Avenida de los Castros (with the University campus in its northern part), Paseo de General Dávila, and the road which joins Cuatro Caminos with the city-centre and Sardinero.

Santander map: http://www.ayto-santander.es/Concejalias/Turismo/Turismo_cal-lejero_Santander.htm

Centro de información de la Dirección General de Tráfico:

Tel: +34 900 123 505

http://www.dgt.es/portal/es/informacion_carreteras/incidencias/

6.2 How to get around in Santander



The city of Santander is connected by an urban buses network. The price of the ticket is 1.10€. A rechargeable card that reduces the price of the ticket to 0.62 € can be bought at any tobacco shop when it is possible to recharge the TUI card too. There are also special night services:

<http://www.tusantander.es>

There is also a free service of bicycles for those students who prefer to use bicycle lanes, available in different points of the city.

<http://www.tusbic.es>

6.3 Accommodation



There are important changes since the publication of this guide. Please visit the IRO Website

Santander is a tourist city in the summer and offers a wide variety of flats for rent in the private sector, while the availability of places at University Halls of Residence, either public or private, is rather more lim-





ited. The International Relations Office does not accept responsibility for finding accommodation during the summer months (July, August and 1-15 September). It should also be borne in mind that there is a much greater selection of accommodation on offer in the first semester than in the second one.

To book accommodation, the corresponding form, available on its Web page, should be sent to the IRO, clearly marking the preferred option among the ones available: shared flats with other students, Halls of Residence or staying with a family.

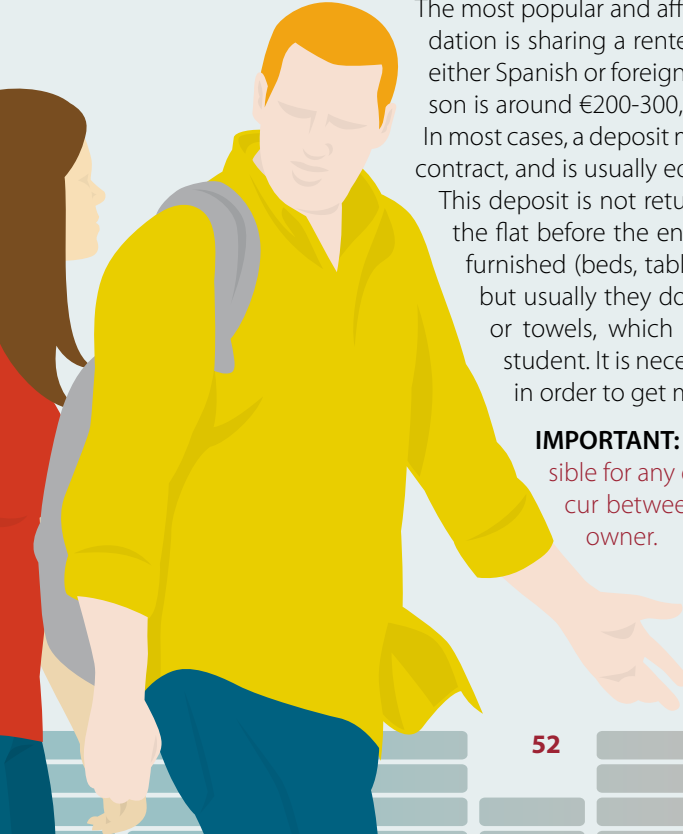
IMPORTANT: The IRO provides for the necessary information to the student in order to contact with the person or service in charge of the accommodation. However, the student will be responsible for flat renting procedure (procedure available at the International Relations Office).

It is possible to choose from the following options:

• Private Flats Shared with Other Students

The most popular and affordable type of accommodation is sharing a rented flat with other students, either Spanish or foreign. The monthly cost per person is around €200-300, without including utilities. In most cases, a deposit must be paid on signing the contract, and is usually equivalent to a month's rent. This deposit is not returnable if the tenant leaves the flat before the end of the contract. Flats are furnished (beds, tables, chairs and full kitchen), but usually they do not have either bed linen or towels, which must be provided by the student. It is necessary to contact the owner in order to get more detailed information.

IMPORTANT: The IRO will not be responsible for any disagreement that may occur between the student and the flat owner.





• University Halls of Residence

Colegio Mayor Torres Quevedo

Its facilities belong to the Universidad Internacional Menéndez Pelayo. Inquiries and the booking process should be made directly with the Hall of Residence.

Colegio Mayor "Torres Quevedo" (UIMP)

Avda. de los Castros, 42. 39005 Santander

Tel. + 34 942 29 87 00.

Fax. + 34 942 28 08 16

E-mail: ahontanon@uimp.es

<http://www.uimp.es/blogs/cmtq/>



• Staying with a Family

Students may live with a Spanish family, usually with full board (single room and three meals). The price may vary from 20 to 30 € per day.

The Office for Solidarity and Volunteering manages the programme known as Vivienda Compartida ("sharing accommodation"). This option offers the student the possibility of sharing an apartment with elderly people at a much reduced price in return of the student helping with some housework.

Oficina de Solidaridad y Voluntariado

Edificio Interfacultativo (Despacho 339)

Avda. de los Castros, s/n. 39005 Santander

Tel. + 34 942 20 08 86

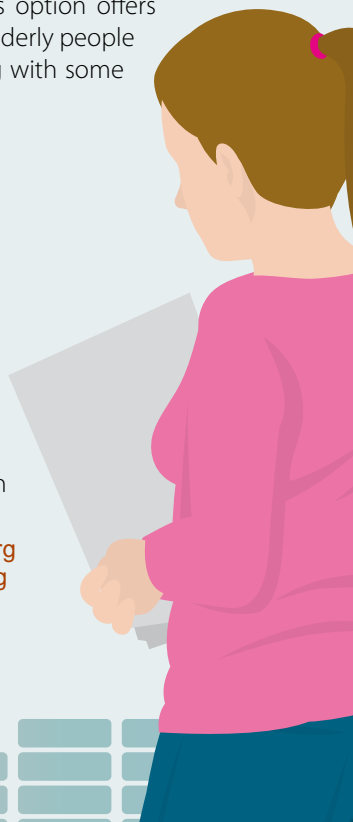
E-mail: solidaridadyvoluntariado@unican.es

• The Students' Council (CEUC) Housing List

The CEUC has its own housing list. A database of available flats and the contact details of the different flat owners are available on its Web page. It is the student's responsibility to make any arrangements via telephone with the owners.

E-mail: ceuc@alumnos.unican.es- info@bolsadepisosuc.org

<http://www.ceuc.unican.es/civ/> www.bolsadepisosuc.org





6.4 Access to Libraries and Study Rooms

Exchange students may use the study facilities at all Faculties and Schools which include computer and study rooms at the libraries.

<http://www.buc.unican.es>

Wi-Fi connexion is available throughout the campus. Every faculty has photocopying services to allow students to make copies or to buy academic and computer material at reduce prices. In order to have access to all the above mentioned facilities, it is necessary to activate the student card (T.U.I) in the computers available in any of the libraries, following the instructions indicated in the following link.

<http://campusvirtual.unican.es/tui2/>

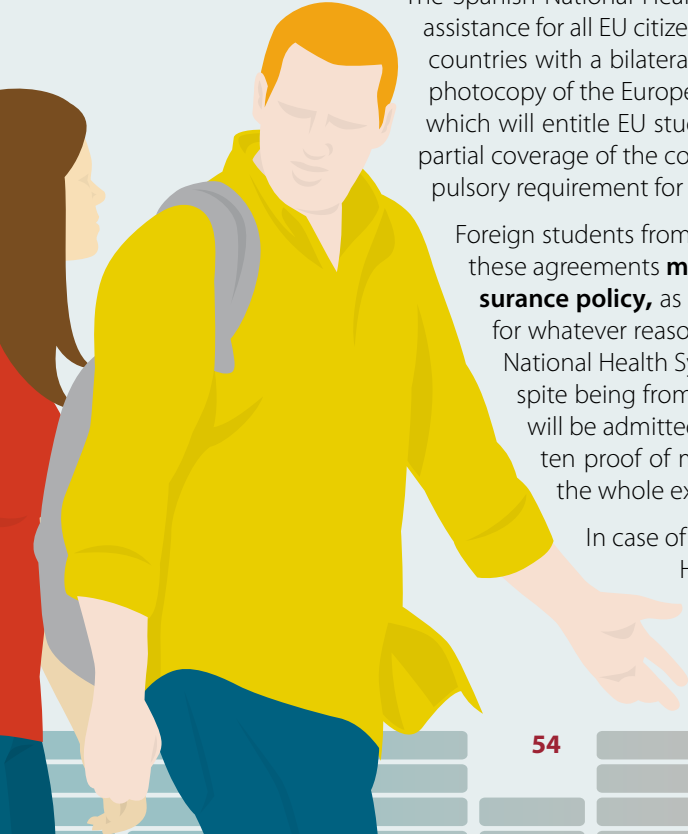
6.5 Medical Assistance

The Spanish National Health System covers medical assistance for all EU citizens and those coming from countries with a bilateral agreement with Spain. A photocopy of the European Health Insurance Card, which will entitle EU students to medical care and partial coverage of the costs of medicines, is a compulsory requirement for registration.

Foreign students from countries not included in these agreements **must take out a private insurance policy**, as must those students who, for whatever reasons, are not covered by the National Health System of their country, despite being from a EU country. No student will be admitted without submitting written proof of medical insurance valid for the whole exchange period.

In case of need, these are the Health Centres and Surgeries in Santander:

http://www.scsalud.es/mapa_sanitario/





Hospital Universitario Marqués de Valdecilla

Avda. Valdecilla, 25. 39008 Santander.
 Tel. Main office: + 34 942 20 25 20
 Tel. Emergencies: 061 (all around Cantabria)

6.6 Cost of Living

The following estimates have been made taking the academic year 2009-10 as a point of reference. Hence, the following information should only be used as a guideline.

Monthly Budget:

Accommodation + utilities	300 €
Maintenance costs	230 €
Transport	25 €
School equipment	40 €
Extra expenses	95 €
Total (monthly average)	690 €

Other examples:

1 loaf of bread	0.75 €
1 litre of milk	0.95 €
1.5 litre of mineral water	0.50 €
1 coffee at the university	0.85 €
1 haircut.....	30.00 €
1 newspaper:	1.10 €
1 book	20.00 €
1 cinema ticket.....	6.00 €
1 photocopy	0.05 €
1 city bus ticket	1.10 €



6.7 University Dining Halls

There are cafeterias in almost every building, with long opening hours available for students. Their prices are usually lower than at other restaurants. During the Welcome Programme, exchange students are shown the location of the different cafeterias and the specials areas with micro-waves for taking their own food.





More information:

<http://www.unican.es/Vicerrectorados/vcampus/comedores+Universitarios.htm>

Students need to take into account that most restaurants and pubs adapt their opening hours to the Spanish customs (meals are served at midday from 1 to 4 pm and at night from 9 pm to 12 am). However, it is possible to have a snack all throughout the day.

6.8 Bank and Postal Services

There are several Spanish and international bank offices available for students to open a bank account. This is a highly recommended procedure as utilities are usually paid for via bank accounts in Spain.

In order to open an account it is necessary to show the Foreigner Identification Number (NIE). Some banks and Cajas de Ahorros ask for a photocopy of the passport and proof of registration at the UC.

The opening hours of the bank offices on campus are: from 9:30 to 14:00 and from 17:00 to 18:30 for Caja Cantabria, and from 8:30 to 14:00 and from 16:00 to 18.30 for Banco Santander. In general the opening hours of Spanish business are from 10 to 13:30 and from 17 to 20.

The main Post Office is located at Plaza de Alfonso XIII. There are other offices all over the city, provided with fax services and postal transfer services. Information about the location and timetables of the main office can be found in the Post Office Web page.

Oficina de Correos

Plaza Alfonso XIII. 39002 Santander

Tel. + 34 942 36 55 19

<http://www.correos.es>



6.9 Telephone Services

• How to make a phone call

To make an international call it is necessary to dial the following codes:

00 + Country code + Local code + Phone number

For telephone calls in Cantabria:

942 + Phone number

Cantabria code Six digits

For telephone calls in Spain:

Province code + Phone number

2 or 3 digits 7 or 6 digits

For Telephone calls to mobile phone in Spain:

Phone number

9 digits

On campus, you can find public telephones which accept coins, though some of these telephones accept only phone cards. The minimum price for a local call is 30 cents.

• Useful Addresses and Telephone Numbers

Emergencies	112
Spanish Telephone numbers information	11818
International Telephone numbers information...	11825
Local Police	092
National Police	091
Guardia Civil (Spanish Civil Police).....	062
On-call pharmacy	
Información 24 horas:.....	+ 34 942 22 02 60
Firemen	080
Radio-Taxi	+ 34 942 33 33 33





Information on the state of roads

http://www.dgt.es/portal/es/information_carreteras

Tourist Office

Hernán Cortés, 4 (Mercado del Este). 39003 Santander

E-mail: ofitur@cantabria.org

+ 34 942 31 07 08

Local Tourist Office

Jardines de Pereda s/n. 39001 Santander

+ 34 942 203 000/ 001

E-mail: turismo@ayto-santander.es

