

WELCOME GUIDE



Universidad
Francisco de Vitoria
UFV Madrid



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WELCOME TO UFV-MADRID



WELCOME FROM THE VICE RECTOR

UFV was founded in **October 1993** and is part of an international network of universities, which includes 11 higher education institutions in Mexico, Chile, Italy and Spain. UFV is an open, international university inspired by Christian and person-centric values.

UFV is an increasingly international university committed **to preparing its students for the global world** they must live in: UFV is especially international thanks to its agreements with other universities worldwide, its international exchange programs, its bilingual programs, the international full-degree students and internationalisation at home activities.

I hope you find this information helpful and that we will be **welcoming you to Universidad Francisco de Vitoria** in the near future.

Juan Pérez-Miranda
Vice-Rector for Internationalisation

WELCOME TO UFV-MADRID



UNIVERSIDAD FRANCISCO DE VITORIA

Universidad Francisco de Vitoria (UFV) is a **private, non-profit Catholic university** located in metropolitan Madrid, Spain. Founded in 1993, it has since become a fastgrowing institution of higher education with a student body of over 6500 undergraduate students and 6000 postgraduate students. Today the campus houses six faculties, including a prestigious school of Culinary Arts (Le Cordon Bleu), a Vocational Training Center (CETYS), a Postgraduate Studies Center, an Executive Consulting and Coaching Center (IDDI), an International Business School and a Medical Simulation Center, which collectively cover the full spectrum of training, research and education.

Founded: 1993

Motto and seal: Vince in bono malum
(Defeat evil with good); Rm 12, 21

Number of students: 12500

Number of staff: 1000

WELCOME TO UFV-MADRID

WHO WAS FRANCISCO DE VITORIA?

The University is named after Francisco de Vitoria, a Dominican scholar born at the end of the fifteenth century. He was given **the Chair of Theology** at the University of Salamanca after a prolific teaching career at Paris and Valladolid. He held this position for twenty years and was responsible for **important educational innovations in the University**, such as the study of theology through the «**Summa Tomista**» and allowing students to take notes during his lectures. It was thanks to these notes that a large portion of his teachings have been recovered, since he always preferred teaching to publishing. His lectures bear witness to the Christian humanism that inspired him, his cultural wealth and his **extraordinary teaching capacity**. They reveal a deep and precise thinker, **a man immersed in the problems surrounding him**. He is considered the **founder of international law**.



WHY STUDY WITH US? AN APPROACH TO OUR EDUCATIONAL PROJECT

With a student-centered and comprehensive educational approach, at UFV **we aim to accompany and guide each of our students** throughout his or her time **at the university**, providing the necessary support for them not only to become outstanding professionals in their respective disciplines, but also **to be well-rounded thinkers and leaders** able to make significant contributions to society. The main characteristics of our educational project are the following:

1. DEMANDING

The UFV educational curriculum provides the student with the necessary theoretical knowledge in order to effectively carry out their profession, **training them in the essential skills**, key competences and talents needed while transmitting the necessary values and attitudes in order **to become a great professional in tomorrow's world**.

In this undertaking, the lecturers play a fundamental role, as a large part of the students' educational experience will depend on the Faculty members that accompany them throughout their studies.

- At UFV, they will be able to count on excellent lecturers, many of them active professionals who teach them how to get the most out of every subject taught and even open the door to the professional world.
- All lecturers provide an hour of tutoring for every three hours of class and are available in their offices to meet the needs of the students.
- Every student has a mentor who will accompany and advise them throughout the first year of their studies. Through mentoring, the lecturer will observe the student's evolution and will strive to bring out their very best.

WELCOME TO UFV-MADRID

2. PRACTICAL

The **theoretical content** taught in class **is complemented with dynamic work** placements which train the students in the skills and competences specific to the degree course.

- **Practical classes, group dynamics, the virtual classroom and installations prepared** so that they may apply what has been learned from the very first day of class (television and radio studios, dissection rooms for Medicine, bone museum, Biotechnology labs, projection rooms, debating salas, computing and digital manipulation labs...).
- An ambitious programme of **obligatory practice sessions** that **ensure** that a great percentage of our students **receive an offer of employment** in the very same places they are carrying out their work placements.



3. COMPREHENSIVE

In order to be a great professional, it is vital that the student is fully aware of the values inherent to the profession and the meaning of the work to be undertaken. In addition, at UFV **they learn to put themselves to the service of others** through their professional activity.

- **Humanistic classes** applied to every one of our degree courses
- **Seminaries and leadership workshops** that enhance key competences and develop the students' critical thinking skills.
- The students help others, find meaning in their profession and are the driving force through the subject **Education for social responsibility**.
- **UFV is a social, Catholic non-profit foundation** which reinvests its profits in the training and education of its students and in the constant improvement of its facilities and installations.

3. INTERNATIONAL

Languages and international experience play a fundamental role in personal and professional development.

- We include **English classes** in all our degree study plans. Moreover, our **Language Centre** offers classes in French, German and Italian, among others.
- UFV has signed many **agreements** with universities **in Europe, Asia and America** so that students interested in taking part may enjoy half-yearly or yearly academic stays abroad.



4. PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

UFV has agreements with more than 2,800 companies, thanks to which our students obtain employment more easily after completing their studies.

Moreover, by means of an ambitious obligatory work placement programme, they also gain practical experience in work related to their degree course, with **80% receiving a job offer** or a work placement renewal offer from the very same company they are working in.

OUR FACULTIES



FACULTY OF COMMUNICATION, MEDIA AND DESIGN: ADVERTISING AUDIOVISUAL COMMUNICATION

- Journalism
- International Relations
- Audiovisual Communication
- Design
- Advertising
- Fine Arts
- Video Game Design



FACULTY OF EDUCATION AND HUMANITIES

- Physical Education and Sport Sciences
- Childhood Education
- Primary Education
- Humanities
- Philosophy, Politics and Economics



POLYTECHNIC SCHOOL

- Architecture
- Computer Engineering
- Industrial Systems Engineering



FACULTY OF HEALTH SCIENCES

- Medicine
- Nursing
- Physiotherapy
- Psychology



FACULTY OF SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND JURIDICAL SCIENCES

- Business Administration
- Marketing
- Law
- Criminology
- Gastronomy
- Business Analytics



FACULTY OF EXPERIMENTAL SCIENCES

- Biomedicine
- Biotechnology
- Pharmacy

More than
20 DOUBLE DEGREES

OUR CENTRES

INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS SCHOOL

Universidad Francisco de Vitoria - **ADEN Business School** aims to shape the new generation of professional leaders by enabling them to unlock their potential through academic knowledge, project management as well as the perfection of personal and practical skills.

Its academic strength is based on **empowering people** by providing them with cutting-edge decision making tools and innovative methodologies. www.ufvaden.es

IDDI (executive consulting and coaching center)

IDDI (Instituto de Desarrollo Directivo Integral) at UFV is an executive **consulting and coaching** centre that belongs to an international network composed of 17 institutions of higher education worldwide. IDDI differentiates itself by its pioneering products and innovative methodologies in Executive Education, Coaching and InCompany Programs. www.iddiufv.edu.es

LE CORDON BLEU (academy of culinary arts)

Le Cordon Bleu is a world renowned network of educational institutions dedicated to **providing the highest level of culinary and hospitality** instruction through world class programs. The opening of Le Cordon Bleu Madrid at UFV offers the opportunity to be trained in Spanish, with the outstanding quality and assurance that has always distinguished Le Cordon Bleu.

Programmes: e Grand Diplôme, Cuisine Programs, Pastry Programs, Spanish Cuisine Programs, High Bakery programs, Gourmet & Short Courses.

www.lcbmadrid.com

MEDICAL SIMULATION CENTER

The UFV Medical Simulation Centre is a state-of-the-art medical training facility that incorporates among others standardized human patient simulation, virtual reality, as well as computerized simulation. The Simulation Centre aims at improving a **person-centered relationship between health care professionals and patients**, including an emphasis on communication skills, clinical reasoning and the natural integration of social and ethical aspects of the medical profession, as well as the recovery of a properly humanistic vision of medicine.



OTHERS

VOCATIONAL TRAINING CENTER

The Higher Vocational Training Centre (CETYS) provides an effective training and education service to meet the increasing demand for **technically proficient professionals** in the international job market. Our teaching is renowned for its person-centric approach by means of its Higher Vocational Training schemes. Among many others, we offer official title courses in the audiovisual field, administration and finance, gastronomy, the health sciences and education.

POSTGRADUATE STUDIES

The UFV's Department of Postgraduate Studies and Consultancy carries out various different activities in postgraduate education, offering **Master's, doctorate and UFV-awarded programmes, academic training weeks, in-company training...** Always with a global and international perspective, which is reflected in the many different nationalities found in the lecturers and students taking part in our courses. In addition, we have many collaboration agreements with education centres from all around the world. Our success is also due to the innovative programmes we offer which constantly seek out, analyse and make use of new international training tendencies adapted to our person-centric mission.



CAMPUS SERVICES & FACILITIES

Universidad Francisco de Vitoria offers a supportive and caring campus environment which provides a wide range of **extracurricular activities and services**. In this way, students can get involved in an active campus life, building a strong community, meaningful friendships and having fun. We regard this as a fundamental part of a comprehensive education, ensuring a positive impact on the students' personal development and wellbeing.

1. SOCIAL AND CULTURAL LIFE

■ Social responsibility department

The *Voluntarios por la Acción Social* (VAS) department coordinates approximately 200 national NGO volunteering programs in 74 centres in Madrid and also international service-learning and humanitarian project in countries such as Ethiopia, Mexico, Brazil, India, and Equatorial Guinea.

Contact: accionsocial@ufv.es, voluntariosporlaaccionsocial@ufv.es

■ Cultural activities

The *Actividades Culturales* (AACC) department offers and arranges a variety of different social and cultural activities including journeys, conferences, concerts, guided exhibition tours, workshops, drama plays, movies, etc.

Contact: aculturales@ufv.es

■ Debate Club

The *Sociedad de Debates* teaches you to overcome stage fright, learn to speak in public, make an impact with your message and above all, discover, study and analyze the key issues of political, social and economic discourses.

Contact: sociedad.debates@ufv.es

■ Newman Institute

This department's aim is to address those subjects that really matter to us all but that we don't usually take time to consider, such as the desire that relations last forever, death, suffering, what God has to do with our daily lives, etc. Once a month we organise the 'Café Newman', where we discuss a different academic subject. There are also 2-hour mini-courses to look further into these questions, always based on a literary or artistic piece, guided by one of our lecturers. As culture is the expression of man and his drama, we like to move in it, to understand what our nature is a little better and what we really should wish for.

Contact: <http://web.elsentidobuscaalhombre.com>

2. EMPLOYABILITY & ENTREPRENEURSHIP

■ Job and Work Placement Centre

If you are interested in doing an internship, this is the right place. Moreover, this department (*Prácticas y Empleo*) helps with your CV and organises workshops, seminars, lectures and other projects which help to improve your employability.

Contact: practicas@ufv.es, bolsaempleo@ufv.es



CAMPUS SERVICES & FACILITIES



■ Business Generation

This student society (Generación Empresarial) is an organization made by and for young people who are passionately engaged in fostering entrepreneurship among young people. If you have a creative business idea, dream or entrepreneurial concerns, this is your place.

Contact: ge@ufv.es

■ Alumni Society "Be the Change"

This society seeks, through training and networking in international organizations, to influence the spheres of decision-making in order to make social change happen, particularly with respect to women's discrimination, poverty and human rights.

Contact: becomethechange@ufv.es

3. EUROPEAN SCOPE

Robert Schuman Institute for European Studies

The aim of the Robert Schuman Institute for European Studies at UFV is to be the gateway to training and understanding of the EU that every university should have. It also supports and encourages research activities in this area. To this end, the Institute publishes various articles every year and organises academic and cultural activities in which you are warmly invited to participate.

Contact: instituto.schuman@ufv.es

■ European Documentation Centre

UFV's European Documentation Centre (CDE) was founded in 1997 and is part of the Europe Direct Information Network formed by the European Commission in 1963. We are an active member of the Spanish European Information Network set up by the Representation of the European Commission in Spain. The aim of the CDE is to encourage and support studies and research on European integration, facilitate the access to information about the EU and its politics and participate in the debate about the EU along with other information networks.

Contact: cde@ufv.es

4. STUDENT SUPPORT & COUNSELLING

■ Educational Orientation Office

UFV wants its students to take the maximum advantage possible of their studies. This is why, through the Educational Orientation Office (Gabinete de Orientación Educativa - GOE), we show them how to better organise themselves, optimise both their study and spare time and overcome the difficulties they may find on their way. We also help them to develop their cognitive, emotional and social abilities integrally. This is a personal attention service, apart from seminars and workshops where one can participate by applying online.

Contact: maria.garciaarias@ufv.es

CAMPUS SERVICES & FACILITIES



■ Pastoral Care

As a Catholic university, UFV is very much concerned with providing for all those who wish for Pastoral Care (Pastoral Universitaria). E.g. receiving sacraments, devotional exercise, prayer meetings, pilgrimages (Holy Land, St. James Walk to Santiago, Rome and Medjugorje) and humanitarian missions. There is a Catholic chapel where mass is celebrated daily.

Contact: Father Justo Gómez: p.justo@ufv.es

5. ARTS & COMMUNICATION

■ Drama Group

Open to everyone, this group comprises 40 students proceeding from all UFV degrees. The training (comedies, dramas, classic and contemporary pieces) is enriched by activities such as cultural trips, the participation in other universities' contests and the organisation of the UFV Scenic Arts Week. Students can join the group for acting, but also for taking care of the staging, atrezzo, clothing, make-up, lights, sound and so on, so that each production may be carried out professionally.

Contact: aculturales@ufv.es

■ Choir

If you like singing, this is your place. No need to have a perfect voice, only a passion for music! The repertoire includes various styles, offering a wide range of possibilities to all voices. Meet new people, have a good time and get to know the most beautiful masterpieces.

Contact: aculturales@ufv.es

■ Grupo Mirada 21

The UFV media group is basically managed and run by Communication students. Among others it includes a digital newspaper (Mirada21.es), a radio that broadcasts via internet (www.ondauniversitaria.es), TV channel broadcasting on campus and through the YouTube platform (Mirada21.TV); film production (students can shoot their first short films) and an advertising and design agency where you can launch your first campaigns (Up Mk & Com).

Contact: j.delarosa@ufv.es



CAMPUS SERVICES & FACILITIES

6. SPORTS

■ Sports department

We encourage the practice of physical and sports activity orientated to the physical, mental and social wellbeing of the university's community. Moreover, we like to contribute to the improvement and upkeep of one's health, life quality and personal development, transmitting educational values through the promotion, organisation, dissemination and development of physical-sports activities – be it for competition, training or leisure. The many facilities we have include a football pitch, five a side football pitch, basketball court, paddle and tennis courts, running track, volley and beachball courts. UFV teams: football, five-a-side football, basketball, rugby, volleyball and handball.
Contact: deportes@ufv.es

■ Sports centre

In 2016 the building of our sports centre was completed, in which all of our students and staff can enjoy a discount. You can benefit from this centre with the latest-generation technical equipment and a great team of professionals for a very reasonable monthly fee that includes the possibility of doing machine exercises, but also spinning, crossfit, pilates, yoga, zumba, step, aerodance, hit tabata, combat, aeropump, stretching, TRX, GAP, queenax... and swimming in a 25-metre pool.

Contact: www.centrodeportivoufv.com

■ Library

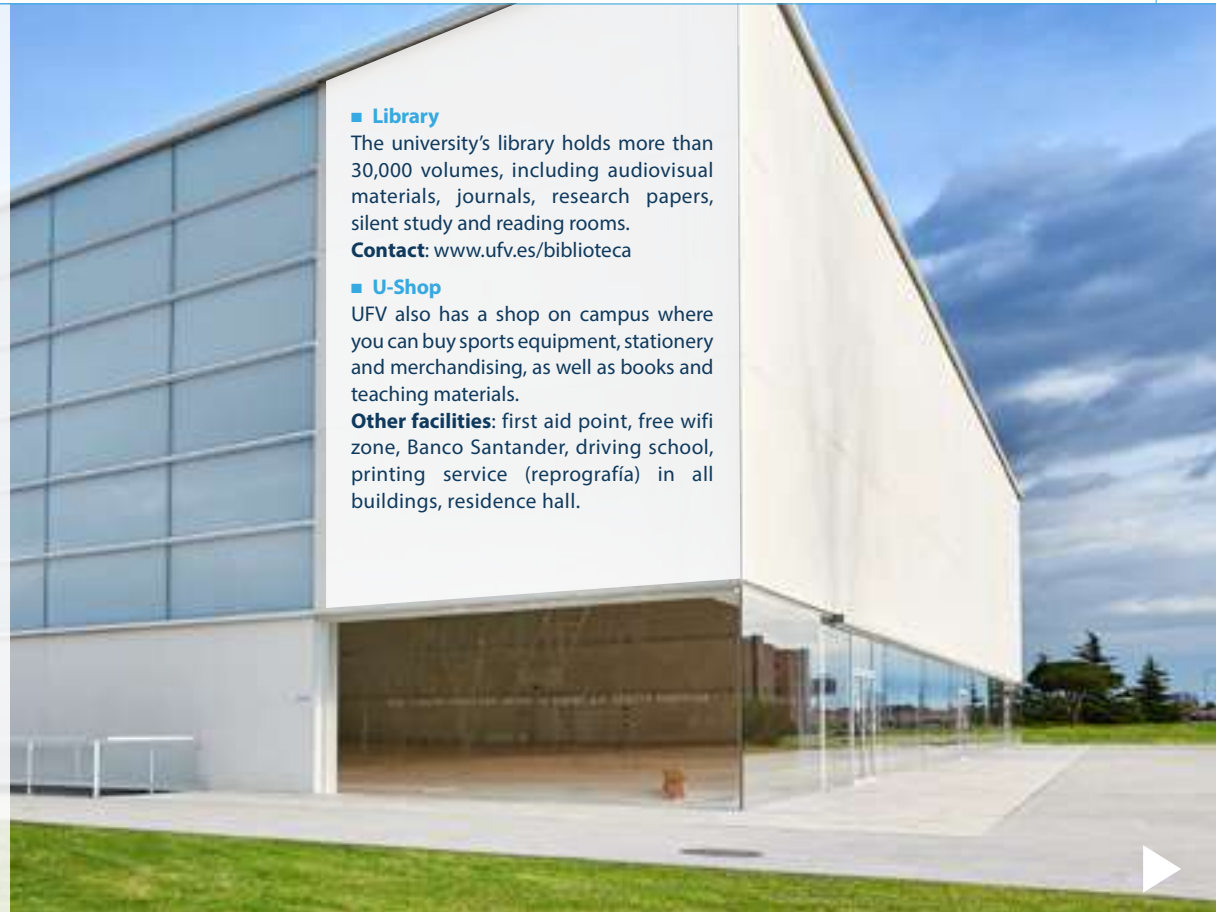
The university's library holds more than 30,000 volumes, including audiovisual materials, journals, research papers, silent study and reading rooms.

Contact: www.ufv.es/biblioteca

■ U-Shop

UFV also has a shop on campus where you can buy sports equipment, stationery and merchandising, as well as books and teaching materials.

Other facilities: first aid point, free wifi zone, Banco Santander, driving school, printing service (reprografia) in all buildings, residence hall.



CAMPUS SERVICES & FACILITIES



SPECIAL PROGRAMS FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS



“The mentorships were an opportunity for me to get to know more about myself and reflect on my personality. Also, it helped me to cope with different personal challenges that occurred during my Erasmus time.”

“Thanks to the Buddy Program, I found friends from all around the world really fast and it even felt like a family in the end of my stay. With many of them I am still in contact after my exchange semester.”

Julia Wendy, Austria ▶

SPECIAL PROGRAMS FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS



■ Buddy Program

This is a program with our incoming students in mind, in order **to help them adapt to our university**. We put each participant in touch with a Spanish student and invite all of them to join the activities we hold every 2-3 weeks (hiking, canoeing, visiting museums, cooking competitions, etc.).

■ Monthly trips

To help our incoming students **meet each other** and to show them a little of Spain, we organise monthly trips to cities near Madrid (e.g. Ávila, Toledo and Segovia).

■ Twin program

We **put new international full-degree-students in touch with an older Spanish students** from their same degree course so that they can be helped to get adapted to their new environment: university, city, people, way of studying and living.

■ Mentoring program

Our mentoring service constitutes one of the main differentiating elements of our educational model and one of the most highly valued by the students and their families. For this reason, our international students are also provided with the possibility of taking advantage of this service. **A mentor accompanies you** and helps you out in all manner of aspects during your time here, helping you to **develop both personally and professionally**.

Contact: c.vilallonga@ufv.es



More information about these 4 programs:
www.ufvinternational.com

LANGUAGE CENTRE



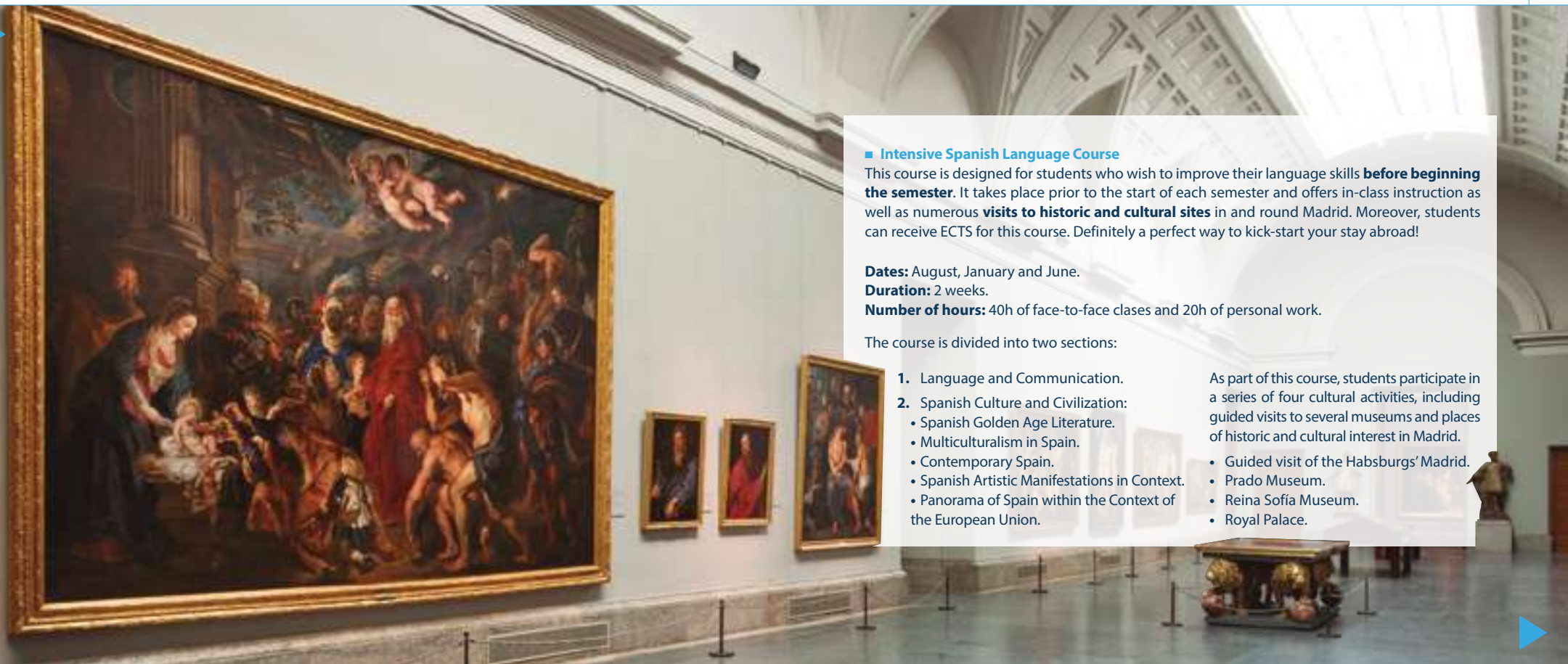
International students may improve their Spanish language skills at our Language Centre (Centro de Idiomas).

Grammar, conversation and cultural courses are offered through intensive Spanish courses, tailor-made courses and semester and year-long courses.

Contact: www.ufv.es/centro-de-idiomas, idiomas@ufv.es.



LANGUAGE CENTRE



■ Intensive Spanish Language Course

This course is designed for students who wish to improve their language skills **before beginning the semester**. It takes place prior to the start of each semester and offers in-class instruction as well as numerous **visits to historic and cultural sites** in and round Madrid. Moreover, students can receive ECTS for this course. Definitely a perfect way to kick-start your stay abroad!

Dates: August, January and June.

Duration: 2 weeks.

Number of hours: 40h of face-to-face classes and 20h of personal work.

The course is divided into two sections:

1. Language and Communication.
2. Spanish Culture and Civilization:
 - Spanish Golden Age Literature.
 - Multiculturalism in Spain.
 - Contemporary Spain.
 - Spanish Artistic Manifestations in Context.
 - Panorama of Spain within the Context of the European Union.

As part of this course, students participate in a series of four cultural activities, including guided visits to several museums and places of historic and cultural interest in Madrid.

- Guided visit of the Habsburgs' Madrid.
- Prado Museum.
- Reina Sofia Museum.
- Royal Palace.

LANGUAGE CENTRE

■ Semester-long Spanish Course

International students can also take advantage of free semester-long Spanish courses (with ECTS credits). **These classes** are held twice a week for 90 minutes and **cover all aspects, from grammar, vocabulary, pronunciation** to oral and written communication. Students are divided into groups according to their individual levels.



■ Spanish courses for full-degree-students

Those **students who intend to study the whole degree at the UFV** will have acquired a minimum Spanish level before starting their studies with us. However, in order to help them integrate in their new environment as soon as possible and follow the classes with greater ease, **we offer a special Spanish course** for them throughout the academic year which takes place twice a week (30 hours per semester).

■ DELE preparation course

Why not make your Spanish level official by obtaining the DELE? Universidad Francisco de Vitoria is proud of being an official testing site for the DELE exam (Spanish as a Foreign Language certificate, issued by the Instituto Cervantes). **The DELE diploma** is the most prestigious official accreditation of a student's degree of fluency in the Spanish language and **is recognised internationally** among multinationals, chambers of commerce and educational institutions. **At UFV, students may prepare for the exam in private classes.** Upon passing the DELE exam, students have tangible evidence of their language skills.



■ Language Exchange Program

Many of our students are interested in taking part in this program, as it puts them in touch with people from all around the world and allows them to **practise the languages** they are most passionate about.



DINING



- **Main cafeteria, "The Market"**

Breakfast, snacks, coffee, soft drinks, sandwiches, "platos combinados", etc.

Simple student menu (1 course, bread, dessert): 3.85€.

Complete student menu (2 courses, 1 soft drink, dessert, bread, coffee): 6.20€.

- **Residence hall cafeteria, "The Home"**

The offer and prices are the same as the ones in the main cafeteria.

- **Rodilla coffee shop**

It offers a wide variety of cold and hot sandwiches, snacks, coffee and salads.

- **Centro deportivo's coffee shop, "The Club"**

It also offers a wide variety of cold and hot sandwiches, snacks, coffee and salads.

- **Telepizza**



GETTING TO UFV



■ By public transport

To and From UFV (Zone B1). General information on www.empresallorente.com

From Moncloa: bus 657.

From Aluche: bus 561, 561-A o 561-B.

From Majadahonda / Pozuelo: bus 650, 561, 561-A or 561-B.

■ By bus shuttle

The UFV offers its students a private bus shuttle service (for free), so that students can reach the university from three strategic key points (Moncloa, Aluche and Plaza Castilla) in approximately 20 min. depending on the traffic. There are also rides back to these points in the afternoon.

More information: www.ufv.es/como-llegar



LIVING IN MADRID



With a population of over 4 million, Madrid is the 4th largest city in the European Union. Due to the lively Spanish people and the wonderful 2.800 hours of sun per year, the streets of Madrid are full of people at all hours of the day and there is always something exciting to do.

ACCOMODATION AND HOUSING

Flats or rooms to rent in shared apartments through trustworthy companies:

www.citylifemadrid.com/housing, www.helpmadrid.com, www.aluni.net, www.spotahome.com

Staying in a dormitory: www.residenciaestudiantes-madrid.es, www.palaciodebarradas.com, www.residencialaluna.com

Hostels for temporary accommodation: www.catshostel.com, www.room007.com

The UFV does not have a hosting service. However, the International Relations Office has useful information that could help you to locate housing. The most economical option is to rent a flat shared with other students (between 500 and 700 euros excluding expenses – water, electricity, etc.). The options are diverse: single rooms with or without ensuite bathroom, full-floor rental, families, student residences, etc.

Our recommendation is to contact Citylife Madrid (www.citylifemadrid.com) that will help you in everything related to your stay, even before arriving in Madrid (accommodation, bank account, transportation, mobile hiring, Internet, etc.)

Before signing a contract, check what expenses are included (heating, water, telephone, electricity, community, etc.). Normally the community and heating costs are included, whereas the cost of electricity, telephone and water will be paid by the renter. Always sign a lease that describes these conditions including whether a previous deposit is required or not.

- citylifemadrid.com
- housinganywhere.com
- helpmadrid.com
- aluni.net
- spotahome.com
- beroomers.com
- uniplaces.com
- erasmusu.com

The UFV recommends renting through specialized agencies who charge a small commission but guarantee you the security of having a signed contract and be able to claim in case of any problems:

The best areas for students are: *Argüelles, Moncloa, Alonso Martínez, Gran Vía, Bilbao* and the surrounding areas. The areas of *Aluche* and *Plaza de Castilla* are also very well connected with the university.

- If you need to locate temporary housing, here are good links for hotels, hostels, etc.: www.catshostel.com, www.room007.com
- Housing in a dormitory: www.residenciaestudiantes-madrid.es, www.estuhome.com, www.palaciodebarradas.com

LIVING IN MADRID

■ Things to take into account when renting

- Make sure **everything works properly**: water, kitchen, heating system, lights, etc.
- You also need to **be aware of all existing damage** before moving in.
- **Telephone**: Is there a telephone line in the house? It is recommended to have your own cell phone, especially if you share an apartment with people you don't know.
- Upon paying, **ask for a receipt and the key** to the apartment.
- You also need to make sure **what is included in the rent**: are electricity and hot water included?
- **Everything should be in writing.**

Regarding signing a contract, before doing so we suggest students take it to Citylife Madrid office for review.

TRANSPORT IN MADRID

■ Monthly Travel Card

The cheapest and most convenient way is to get your monthly transportation pass, which gives you full access to all Madrid public transportation. The first step is to apply for your transportation card. Once you have it, you can top it up with a monthly credit called "abono" (valid for 30 days).

More information: www.crtm.es

■ Bicycle

BiciMAD is Madrid's new public transport service. It is supplied by 100% electric bicycles: clean, healthy and sustainable method of transport. This service is available for all citizens and visitors to the city of Madrid. It includes 1.560 electric bikes distributed among 123 stations.

More information: www.bicimad.com

■ Taxi

With over 15.600 taxis in Madrid, finding a free one on any of the city's main thoroughfares is rarely difficult. The fare is based on a price per kilometre and a price per hour, which is applied alternately depending on the speed of traffic. Journeys between the airport and the inner M30 area, or vice versa, including those reserved electronically, are subject to a fixed rate of 30€.

More information: www.radiotelefono-taxi.com, www.tele-taxi.es

■ Metro

The Metro is the fastest and most efficient and affordable way of getting around Madrid. The city boasts one of the largest metropolitan networks in Europe, serving the whole city and some of the suburbs. There are currently twelve metro lines, three light rail lines and a special line connecting the Ópera and Principe Pío stations.

More information: www.metromadrid.es

■ Urban buses

Madrid has a large bus network operated by the Empresa Municipal de Transportes – EMT, whose services travel across the city. Buses go to places the underground doesn't reach. Although main streets have dedicated lanes, buses can be slower than the tube during rush hours.

More information: www.emtmadrid.es

■ Train

This service, operated by the company Renfe, consists of 9 railway lines covering all the Autonomous Region of Madrid. They all depart from or stop at Atocha. In some zones you can use the same ticket as for the metro and buses.

More information: www.esmadrid.com

LIVING IN MADRID

HEALTH

■ European Health

Insurance Card

All incoming students should have the European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) or private health insurance that covers their stay in Spain. The EHIC covers any medical treatment that becomes necessary during your stay, because of either illness or accident. The card gives access to state-provided medical treatment only and you'll be treated on the same basis as an 'insured' person living in the country you are visiting.

More information: www.euhealthcard.org.

■ Private clinics

If you need to see a doctor, you can go to any private clinic close to your house and receive treatment. In most cases, you will need to pay up front, and file with your insurance company to be reimbursed.

■ Accidents and emergencies

In case of an emergency, you can go to any Accident and Emergency at any public hospital in Spain and you will be attended. Billing can be handled following treatment, giving you time to contact your insurance company find out how to proceed.

SAFETY

Fortunately, Madrid poses no particular safety or health hazards. However, as in any large city, it is important to take some general precautions.

Always keep a close eye on where your personal belongings are – especially handbags, phones and wallets. Metros and city buses, especially during rush hour, are places where it is not uncommon for people to get their wallets or other belongings stolen. Be aware of the people who are around you on the metro, always have your bag close to you and watch out for people who get very close to you. In the area around Puerta del Sol, at pretty much any time of day or night you should be extra careful and aware of what is going on around you. Avoid taking money out at an ATM machine in areas like Sol, Ópera, Callao late at night. Don't ever leave any belongings unattended in bars, restaurants, or clubs.

In case of emergency call these numbers:

Police attention, Ambulance, Emergency:

112/061

Fire Brigade:

080

Policía Municipal:

092

Guardia Civil:

062



LIVING IN MADRID



Madrid is the capital **city of the Kingdom** of Spain and the largest municipality in both the Community of Madrid and Spain as a whole. The city has a population of almost 3.2 million with a metropolitan area population of approximately 6.5 million. It is the **third-largest city in the European Union** (EU) after London and Berlin, and its metropolitan area is the third-largest in the EU after those of London and Paris. The municipality itself covers an area of 604.3 km².

■ Weather

Madrid will surprise you with its intense, enveloping blue sky. With a **dry climate and little rainfall**, the city has **hot summers** - the daytime temperature will sometimes get above 35 °C (95 °F)- and **cold winters** - 6 °C (43 °F) of average -. No matter what time of the year you choose to come, you're very likely to see with your own eyes the deep blue sky Velázquez loved to paint.

■ Strategic location to travel around Spain and beyond

With **Spain's biggest international airport**, Madrid is probably the most common arrival point for most people visiting Spain. It's no wonder then, that there are so many tours of Spain that depart from Madrid. The most popular tours from Madrid are the four- and five-day tours of **Andalusia**. They take in the most famous cities of the region - **Seville, Granada,** and **Córdoba** - and usually fit in **Toledo** and **Ronda** too! One can also very easily find tours going not only to all corners of the country, but also beyond **borders to Portugal, Morocco...** and even further afield to just about any country in Europe.



HISTORIC MADRID

BRIEF HISTORICAL ACCOUNT OF MADRID

Founded at the end of the ninth century by **Emir Muhammad I** (852-886) as a fortress, Madrid was already ranked as a city in the tenth century, standing out for the quality of its fortifications. In 932, **Ramiro II** sacked the city with five hundred horsemen. Two years later, **Abderrahmán II** reconstructed the fortification, inaugurating an era of great cultural flourishing. Around 1080-1090, **Alfonso VI** entered the city, according to the popular tradition, climbing up the walls (thus the nickname «gatos» or cats, applied to the inhabitants of Madrid today).

On November 9, 1085, according to legend the image of **Our Lady of the Almudena** was found in the outer wall of the city, where it had been hidden before the arrival of the Muslims. The **Virgin of the Almudena** was to become the patron of the city, along with **San Isidro Labrador**, a great devotee of her (born 1082, died 1172).

From shortly thereafter, in the thirteenth century, dates the symbolism of Madrid as the «**Town of the Bear and the Strawberry Tree**», which is popularly attributed to the abundance of both in the surrounding forests.

In 1561, Felipe II moved the royal court from Toledo to Madrid, and from the seventeenth century on, because of its central location, it definitively became

the political and administrative capital of Spain. The eighteenth century began with **the War of Succession to the Spanish crown**, which punished Madrid severely.

The nineteenth century also began amid upheaval with the political crises that gave way to the **Napoleonic invasion** and to the later popular reaction that sparked the **War of Independence**, started by the revolts of May 2, 1808 in the center of Madrid. The nineteenth century was characterized by a myriad of social and political convulsions that had, for the most part, the streets of Madrid as their center stage.

The urban development of the city and the permanent growth of its population, belong to the twentieth century. Madrid received an massive influx from the whole country in the years following the Civil War (1936-1939).



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