



UNIVERSIDAD DE CÓRDOBA

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS
FROM FOREIGN EDUCATIONAL SYSTEMS





UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS PROCEEDING FROM FOREIGN EDUCATIONAL SYSTEMS

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1.1. Applicable regulations

- **Royal Decree 1393/2007** ([29 October](#)), establishing official university education guidelines.
- **Royal Decree 412/2014, of June 6** ([BOE of 7](#)), which establishes the basic regulations governing admission procedures to official university degree programs.
- **Resolution of December 11, 2018** ([BOJA of the 21st](#)) by the General Directorate of Universities, which made public the Agreement dated November 30, 2018 of the Single University District of Andalusia Commission, which established the Admissions procedures for the 2019-2020 academic year for undergraduate university studies.
- **Resolution of June 11, 2018** ([BOJA of the 15th](#)) by the General Directorate of Universities, by which the Agreement of June 4, 2018 of the **Single University District of Andalusia Commission** was made public, establishing the list of degrees, diplomas and studies; and the formulas for the conversion of grades from the respective educational systems to the Spanish grading scale, for those who are in possession of a European Baccalaureate degree or the International Baccalaureate diploma; or of Bachelor's degrees, diplomas or studies from educational systems of EU Member States, or from other States with which applicable international agreements have been signed in this regard, on a reciprocal basis, provided that said students meet the academic requirements at their educational systems to access its universities.
- **Regulation 24/2019 of the Governing Council of July 19, 2019**, ([BOUCO of the 23rd](#)) governing the Academic System of the University of Cordoba's Official Undergraduate Studies.

The procedure for access to official Spanish undergraduate studies by students proceeding from foreign educational systems depends on their level of studies in their respective countries and educational systems.

We must first distinguish the case of students who have initiated, or completed, official university studies in their home systems, from those who have not begun.

2.- Students who have commenced official university studies in their home country's educational systems

Article 3.1.l) of Royal Decree 412/2014, states that students who have *completed partial university studies, Spanish or foreign, or who have completed foreign university studies, but not had them all homologated in Spain, and who wish to continue their undergraduate studies at a Spanish university, may be admitted for undergraduate (grado) studies. In this case, it will be an essential requirement that the corresponding university have granted the student at least 30 ECTS credits.*

Article 30 of this Royal Decree indicates that applications by students with foreign university studies, partial or complete, who have not obtained homologation or recognition of equivalence for their degrees, diplomas or studies in Spain, will be decided by the Rector of the University, in accordance with the following rules:

- a) Applications from students with foreign university studies, with at least 30 ECTS credits having been recognised, will be decided by the Rector of the University, who will act in accordance with the criteria established by the Governing Council, in any case taking into account the student's university transcript.



- b) Recognised courses will be worth the equivalent number of points based on the grade obtained at the student's home university, in accordance with the equivalence system established by the Minister of Education, Culture and Sports, between the grades of said foreign systems and those of the Spanish Educational System. The recognition of ECTS credits in which there are no grades will not be taken into account for weighting purposes.

Students who do not obtain recognition of at least 30 ECTS credits may access the Spanish university in accordance with this Royal Decree.

Regulation 24/2019 of the Board of Governors, of July 19, 2019, governing the Academic System for Official Undergraduate Studies at the University of Cordoba devotes Chapter II of Section II to the rules for admission based on the recognition of credits for students with partial official university studies, whether they proceed from Spanish universities or foreign higher education institutions.

In accord with the above, students with partial official university studies, in Spain or abroad, and foreigners with complete official university studies, who wish to pursue an undergraduate degree at the University of Cordoba, must observe the admission procedures based on the recognition of credits, as established in Section II of the University of Cordoba's Academic Regime governing its Official Undergraduate Studies.

Deadlines for admission based on credit recognition

The application deadlines for students seeking the recognition of credits shall depend on whether the degree program for which the student is applying has limited slots for the academic year in question; or whether slots are offered without any limitation on the number of students admitted.

For degree programs with limited slots, the application period usually begins in the first half of April of the academic year immediately prior to that for which one is applying.

In the case of degree programs without enrolment limitations, the application period commences in the month of June.

In any case, to confirm the exact dates of the application periods for applicants requesting credit recognition, it is necessary to consult the calendar of the academic year in question, and, specifically, the resolution stipulating the admission procedure for students requesting credit recognition.

Documentation to be submitted together with the application for admission based on credit recognition.

Along with the application, it is necessary to provide copies of the following documentation:

1. Academic certificate certifying one's studies, issued by the competent authority, in accordance with the legislation of the country in question, which must include:
 - a. Grades in of the classes taken, whether they were passed not at the home university, and a specification of the hours each class entailed in those cases in which their number of ECTS credits is not indicated.



- b. Name of the degree.
 - c. Statement by the competent authority in the country of origin affirming that it is an official university degree.
 - d. Duration, in years.
 - e. Academic validity of the same in the corresponding foreign university system.
2. Application for recognitions and transfers, along with the documentation of competences and knowledge associated with the classes passed by the student (syllabi, teaching guides, ...), duly certified by means of the home University, Centre or Department's seal.
 3. Only in the case of students with completed foreign studies, an affidavit by the applicant, in which he/she states:
 - a. That the studies cited have not yet been homologated in Spain, either because their homologation has never been requested, or because a request for homologation was denied.
 - b. That no other homologation procedure initiated by the interested party is currently underway.
 4. Spanish nationals, or nationals of EU Member States, or of other states with which applicable international agreements have been signed on a reciprocal basis, must provide documentation accrediting the average grade to access the University. Those who have taken the University entrance exam must present their grade on it. In all other cases they must provide documentation stating the grades received in their studies, and the university admissions procedures in their home countries, allowing for calculation of the grade for access to the Spanish university. Those who submit applications for admission to degree programs with unlimited slots are exempt from having to provide the documentation described in this section.
 5. The documentation specifically described for certain degree programs in Annex III of the resolution convoking the slots open to students applying for admission based on credit recognition.

Documentation issued in a language other than Spanish must be accompanied by a corresponding official translation.

Likewise, foreign documentation must be authenticated through diplomatic channels or, where applicable, the apostille of any of the agreements signed by the country issuing the documentation. This requirement will not be necessary for those documents issued by the member countries of the European Union, Switzerland, or the signatories of the Agreement on the European Economic Area (EEA).

Those students who are not admitted based on the credit recognition process may participate in the admission processes for students who have not yet initiated official studies in their home education system.

3.- Students who have initiated official university studies in the educational systems of their home countries.

Students from foreign systems that have not yet entered university in their home countries (or who have initiated or completed them, but have not obtained admission to the University of Cordoba based on credit recognition) may also be admitted to our university, although the admission procedure shall depend on the system according to which they completed their pre-university studies.



3.1.- Access by students from Member States of the European Union, or states with International Agreements, under reciprocity, signed by the Government of Spain, who meet the academic requirements in their educational systems to access its universities.

Students from these educational systems who have met the academic requirements required for admission to *their own* universities may access the Spanish university without taking the entrance exam, under the same conditions as those students who have passed it.

Students from the following countries may enter the university in this way: Germany, Andorra, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, China, Cyprus, Croatia, Denmark, Slovakia, Slovenia, Estonia, Finland, France, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Norway, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, United Kingdom, Romania, Sweden and Switzerland. Also falling into this group are students who have completed the International Baccalaureate¹ or who have studied in the "European Schools²" (*Schola Europaea*) network.

These students must complete the admission procedures for any Spanish university, but do not need to process the homologation of their pre-university studies. Rather, it is up to each university to verify that they meet the requirements for access to the university in their home countries, establishing the average grade for access to the Spanish university.

These students may opt to sit the admission-phase University Entrance Exam (PEvAU), in order to improve their chances for admission, especially in cases of students seeking to commence degree programs with limited slots, and those in high demand. The admission-phase exams must be taken at the Spanish university chosen by the student.

In the case of the public universities of Andalusia (Huelva, Seville, Cádiz, Málaga, Córdoba, Jaén, Granada, Almería and Pablo de Olavide), the undergraduate admission process is entrusted to an inter-university entity under the Regional Government (Junta de Andalucía), with universities not allowed to admit students outside the procedures established by it. This entity is the University District of Andalusia (DUA) Commission. There is an Internet address offering complete, detailed information on the admission procedures:

<https://www.juntadeandalucia.es/economiaconocimientoempresasyuniversidad/sguit/>

Students from non-Spanish-speaking countries or educational systems are required to prove minimum linguistic proficiency, level B1, in the Spanish language, in accordance with the provisions of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR). Those students that can certify Spanish nationality shall be exempt from this requirement.

¹ This is a two-year educational program taught in English, French and Spanish, supervised by the International Baccalaureate Organization, a private law entity based in Geneva. The Government of Spain has affiliated itself with the program, such that students who complete this education at any of the centres authorised to impart it can access any Spanish university without having to take the university entrance exam.

² The European Schools (*Schola Europaea*) are educational centres created jointly by the governments of the member states of the European Union in order to offer multicultural and multilingual education targeting the children of officials at European institutions. At the end of secondary school its students obtain the European Baccalaureate, which has the same legal validity as the official degrees and tests of the EU's member states.



3.2.- Access by students from Member States of the European Union with International Agreements signed by the Government of Spain, but who do not meet the requirements for access to the University; and students from countries that are not members of the European Union and with which no International Agreements have been signed.

These students must first secure homologation of their pre-university studies in their home educational system with the Spanish Baccalaureate.

This homologation must be processed by the Spanish Ministry of Education and Vocational Training, it being possible to carry out the process through Spain's embassies or consulates abroad, and even by telematic means. The following information is available at the Web address offered by the Ministry of Education and Vocational Training:

<http://www.educacionyfp.gob.es/servicios-al-ciudadano/catalogo/gestion-titulos/estudios-no-universitarios/titulos-extranjeros/homologacion-convalidacion-no-universitarios.html>

The Single University District of Andalusia Commission offers, for certain degrees, a reduced number of slots exclusively for students from foreign educational systems **not** belonging to countries of the European Union, or from those without agreements with the Government of Spain. To fill these slots an application period is slated in the month of March, and they are assigned in two phases, and made public in the month of April so that these students have enough time to process their visas or residence permits in Spain and their accommodations in our country.

To apply in this first phase it is not necessary to have previously obtained the homologation of one's pre-university studies with the Spanish Baccalaureate, but rather only to have requested the homologation from the Ministry of Education and Vocational Training. The admission of those who are granted a slot is definitive if they have demonstrated possession of the Spanish Baccalaureate homologation credential. It is provisional for those who have submitted a document demonstrating having *requested* the homologation, with these students having the entire first year of their university studies to obtain it.

After the first university academic year those who cannot prove the homologation of their pre-university studies with the Spanish Baccalaureate must abandon the degree program they have started, regardless of the results obtained until this time.

To be admitted in the first phase it is necessary to demonstrate a grade in one's foreign pre-university studies, which, transferred to the Spanish grading system, is higher than that required for the study program that the foreign applicant wishes to access, in the previous academic year, with a PEvAU (university entrance test) score lower than those who took these tests in Andalusia.

Those who do not apply or are not admitted in this first phase can participate in the next two phases, whose application periods are, respectively, at the end of June and at the end of September.

To gain admission in accordance with the standard university calendar it is necessary to demonstrate homologation of the Spanish Baccalaureate and pass the PEvAU **at the Spanish university of one's**



Once the PEvAU has been passed students can apply for a slot following the procedures established at the university where they intend to complete their studies.

Those who do not pass the PEvAU can apply in the extraordinary phase, in which case their applications will be processed *after* those of the students who have already passed the PEvAU. Students have the option of seeking to improve their grade by taking the admission test again.

In the case of the public universities of Andalusia (Huelva, Seville, Cádiz, Málaga, Córdoba, Jaén, Granada, Almería and Pablo de Olavide), undergraduate admission is entrusted to an inter-university entity under the Regional Government (Junta de Andalucía), with universities not allowed to admit students outside the procedures established by it. That entity is the University District of Andalusia (DUA) Commission. There is an Internet address offering complete, detailed information on the admission procedures:

<https://www.juntadeandalucia.es/economiaconocimientoempresayuniversidad/sguit/>

Students from non-Spanish-speaking countries or educational systems are required to prove minimum linguistic proficiency, level B1, in the Spanish language, in accordance with the provisions of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR). Those who can demonstrate Spanish nationality will be exempt from this requirement.

4. Other information of interest

4.1.- Educational organisation

The academic year begins in September and is comprised of two four-month semesters. The first one runs from September to the end of December (on the 20th). The exams for the courses taught in this first semester are given after the Christmas holidays. The second-chance exams for these courses are held in February.

The second semester begins in February and ends in late May (on the 20th), followed by the exams of the courses taught in this second semester, and those spanning the whole year. The second-chance exams for year-year long courses, and second-semester courses, are held in July, with the academic year concluding at the end of this month.

4.1.- Educational costs

The degree programs at the University of Córdoba have a total credit load of 240, distributed in four academic years of 60 credits each, except for that leading to the Veterinary Degree (300 credits, 5 academic years) and the Medicine Degree (360 credits, 6 academic years).

The public prices paid for tuition in each of the academic years comprising a degree program cover the corresponding teaching (public prices for the provisioning of academic services) and administrative tasks (public prices for the provisioning of administrative services).

The prices of academic services depend on the student's residence status in Spain. Nationals of countries outside the European Union, or those with which the Government of Spain has signed reciprocity agreements, but who do **not** have resident status in Spain, must pay the full cost of their educations, which comes to some €4,500 for each of the academic years making up the degree program.



Nationals of countries not indicated in the previous point, and all foreigners having resident status in Spain, must pay public prices, which are around €800 per academic year.

4.2.- The possibility of obtaining tuition scholarships.

4.2.1.- Scholarships from the Ministry of Education and Vocational Training (general call)

Students enrolled in any Spanish University have the opportunity to obtain **GENERAL SCHOLARSHIPS** issued by the Ministry of Education and Vocational Training annually. To obtain one of these scholarships students must meet a set of requirements of an academic nature and others of an economic nature, specified in the annual call.

The application period for these scholarships usually falls in mid-August to mid-October.

4.2.2.- Scholarships and grants from the University of Córdoba's own program.

Another possibility is to apply for the **SCHOLARSHIPS AND GRANTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CORDOBA'S OWN PROGRAM (SOLIDARITY SCHOLARSHIPS AND GRANTS)**. There are several modalities, of which one can be requested:

Undergraduate Tuition

Accommodations/Transportation

Cafeteria Grant

Course Material Grant

Likewise, for students at risk of social exclusion, the University of Cordoba features **SOCIAL EXCLUSION ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE** for students whose families face precarious economic situations.

4.2.3.- Scholarships of the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation and Development (AECID).

The **Spanish Agency for International Cooperation and Development (AECID)** regularly issues calls for students from countries in specific geographical areas (Latin America, North Africa, ...), either through the agency itself or the **FUNDACIÓN CAROLINA**.

Below are the Web addresses of both entities:

AECID: www.aecid.es

Fundación Carolina: www.fundacioncarolina.es

4.2.4.- Scholarships for European programs to promote student mobility

The European Union offers mobility grants to facilitate foreign study by students from countries that are not part of the Union. Of special note is the Eulalinks program, of which the University of Cordoba is a member, which is aimed at granting scholarships to Latin American students who take Bachelor's, Master's, doctoral and postdoctoral degree courses in different fields.

<https://www.eulalinks.eu/eulalinks-sense-2-project/?lang=es>



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4.2.5.- Scholarships and grants from the Ibero-American Degree Program

These entail exemption from the payment of public tuition and accommodation prices, or only tuition, for students who, hailing from Latin American educational systems, obtain a slot based on the quota for foreigners, or the general quota, by presenting an International Baccalaureate to study for an undergraduate degree at the University of Cordoba.

There will be two types of aid:

- a) Modality A will consist of exemption from payment of the public prices for tuition and accommodations at a university dorm. In those cases in which there is not enough space at the university dorms, other accommodations with which the University of Cordoba has agreements may be used.
- b) Modality B will consist of the exemption from payment of the public tuition.

Information on this program is available at the following Web address:

<http://www.uco.es/docencia/grados/programa-iberoamerica>

The University of Cordoba's International Office has a website containing information on the scholarships and grants the University extends to foreign students.

<http://www.uco.es/internacional/>

4.3.- Living in Cordoba

Students at the University of Cordoba have, basically, two accommodations options during the academic year:

4.3.1.- University of Cordoba accommodations service



The University of Cordoba (<http://www.uco.es/servicios/alojamiento/>) has a Colegio Mayor residential facility and two dorms, one of them in Belmez, where the Escuela Politécnica Superior is located and the Civil Engineering and Energy and Mining Resources schools are located.



4.3.2.- Private accommodations and Colegios Mayores (residential buildings)

There are also some private accommodations and colegios mayores (residential buildings for students) that offer accommodations to both students at the University of Cordoba and other students at different educational levels.

4.3.3.- Flat shares

Many University of Cordoba students opt to rent accommodations and share the costs they entail.

There is a fairly wide range of rental apartments in practically every area of the city. It should be borne in mind that Cordoba is a relatively small city with no large distances involved, and in which it is easy to get around by bus, or the train connecting the city with the Campus de Rabanales.