

WELCOME TO THE UNIVERSITY OF MALAGA (UMA)

This pre-arrival and orientation guide provides practical guidance on coming to live and study in Malaga from an international student perspective. As a foreign student, you will probably require some information about living and studying in Malaga. In this guide, you will find many answers to your questions. Please, read it carefully.

After the assessment process, selected candidates list will be published on the website with new instructions about our administrative process.

Contact us if you have any question about the information provided in this guide or if you have any query that has not been solved.

INTERNATIONAL OFFICE:

University of Malaga
Servicio de Relaciones Internacionales
Aulario Rosa Gálvez
Boulevard Louis Pasteur, 35
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29071 Malaga
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Fax: +34 952 13 29 71

Web page: <http://www.uma.es>

Email: intprojects@uma.es

Twitter: [@RRIIUMA](https://twitter.com/RRIIUMA)

Facebook: [Relaciones Internacionales UMA](#)

AN INTRODUCTION TO UMA (UNIVERSIDAD DE MALAGA)

University of Malaga is a young institution, **founded in 1972**. With **more than 35,000 students** and **2,400 teachers**, UMA's study options comprise 60 Bachelor's programs, over 50 Master's programs, over 40 PhD programs, and around 100 courses held throughout the academic year. These programs are carried out by 18 faculties, with a total of 81 departments.

There are 278 research groups currently involved in 180 national projects and 30 international or European projects. In recent years, the number of partnerships with companies and other organizations has ranged between 350 and 400; furthermore, an average of 50 patents per year have been registered, a third of these having international relevance.

Each year our university welcomes over **1300 new international exchange students** from different mobility programs as Erasmus+, Erasmus Mundus or Non-European programs. We have a large amount of agreements with some of the most prestigious universities (especially in Europe and South America).

UMA constitutes one of the three vertices of the so-called "productive triangle" of the city, together with the airport and the PTA or Parque Tecnológico de Andalucía (Andalusia Science and Technology Park). The latter has close ties with the University due to the constant flow of ideas, highly qualified professionals and advanced technologies.

At present the UMA has two campuses, El Ejido and Teatinos, in addition to several other buildings located in different parts of the city.

ARRIVAL IN MALAGA

Airport

For students arriving at the international airport “Pablo Ruiz Picasso” (only 12 Km from MALAGA), there are three ways for travelling into town:

-A **taxi** costs between 15/22 € and takes roughly 15 minutes to reach the city centre. The rank is located directly outside the arrivals terminal.

-There is a **bus** into town every 30 minutes, line A. A ticket costs 3.00 €. The stop is located directly outside the arrivals terminal.

-**Trains** leave the station connected by a pedestrian walkway to the departure terminal every 30 minutes, and a ticket to MALAGA costs 1.80 €.

Students are advised to carry some cash on them when they arrive in Malaga (50 € ought to be enough). Additionally, buses do not accept anything larger than 5.00 € bills.

Railway

The Malaga-Maria Zambrano Railway Station connects the city to the capital of Spain through the High-Speed line (AVE) Malaga-Córdoba-Madrid in a two-hour and a half journey. The Malaga-Cordoba-Seville route takes 1 hour and 55 minutes. Furthermore, the railway network connects the capital to other areas in Malaga located on the Costa del Sol, Valle del Guadalhorce, and the Airport through Malaga’s regional lines.

Bus Station

Malaga’s Bus Station establishes connections between the capital, Malaga’s municipalities, and the main Spanish and European cities. In addition, there is a Bus Station in Muelle Heredia, at the city centre near Malaga’s Port, which connects to several localities of the metropolitan area.

SPANISH LANGUAGE COURSE FOR INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE STUDENTS

The "[Course for Erasmus and International Exchange Students](#)" of the University of Malaga, 70 class hours, allows students to consolidate and acquire Spanish skills in order to improve understanding of the subjects that they will be studying in the University of Malaga.

This course is recognized as a non-official degree from the University of Malaga and it always starts at the beginning of September (first semester and full year students) and beginning of February (second semester students).

In this regard, it is important to emphasize that, as a non-official degree from the University of Malaga, it grants ECTS credits that may be recognized by your home university, but they will NOT be included in the Transcript of Records because the course DOES NOT belong to any official degree program at UMA. The recognition of these credits depends on the home university criteria.

Please, check the registration fees, class hours and ECTS credits on the following link: <http://www.uma.es/centrointernacionaldeespanol/>

The intensive Spanish Language Course is voluntary and you can only enroll in one of the two periods.

If you decide to take the course, you have to select it on the online **Application Form**. After generating it on EMI, you will receive an email, directly from the Spanish school, with the Application Form and the application procedure.

The Course is offered at the "CENTRO INTERNACIONAL DE ESPAÑOL", language school located in El Palo, at the following address:

CENTRO INTERNACIONAL DE ESPAÑOL

Avenida de la Estación, s/n (El Palo)

29017 Malaga

Telephone: +34 951 952738/737

Fax: +34 951 952 742

E-mail: cie@uma.es

<http://www.uma.es/centrointernacionaldeespanol/>

ACADEMIC CALENDAR 2017-2018

The academic programme for the academic year 2017-2018:
<https://www.uma.es/SECRETARIAGENERAL/secgenfiles/Calendario1718.pdf>

All the information about the academic courses offered at the University of Malaga is available on-line. It is quite easy to find the necessary information if you follow these instructions:

1 To find the description of each course

- Go to the main page and click “Servicios” on the main menu and choose “Ordenación Académica”. After that, you have to click on “Programación Docente”:

<http://www.uma.es/servicio-ordenacion-academica/cms/menu/programacion-docente/>

- Choose “Programación Docente de Títulos de Grado”.
- Now that you have found “PROA”, you have to choose your faculty, bachelor degree name and year (curso). Depending on your selection, you will find a different list of subjects.
- Select the subject on the left (in red color) and click on “Consultar la guía docente de la asignatura” on the left.

2 To find the schedules and rooms

- Go to the main page and click “Conoce la UMA” on the main menu. Then click on “Centros”:
www.uma.es/centros-listado/

- Choose your faculty
- You will find a different main menu and you have to select “Calendario” to find class schedules, and schedules of the exams.
- Different groups will be included on timetables. Students will be able to choose the group that suits them better, but it is important that they inform their professors in order to decide which group to attend.

Lectures in English

Subjects at the University of Malaga are taught in Spanish but there are several subjects offered in English.

https://www.uma.es/media/files/Asignaturas_ingles_17-18_.pdf

Postgraduate Studies

For Postgraduate Studies (Masters and Doctorates) at UMA, this will ONLY be possible for Exchange students if this option is included in the Bilateral Agreement.

Useful academic information for participants

- Number of subjects: Spanish students normally take 5 subjects per term.
- Number of hours per week: Students spend 20-25 hours in lectures.
- Number of weeks per term: 15 weeks + 3 or 4 weeks for exams.

The academic year runs from September/October to June (in some cases early July) with exams offered in February for the first term courses and finals in late June and early July for annual and second term courses which test cumulative knowledge of the entire course.

Grading system

The grading system used by Spanish universities is based on specific attainment levels, rather than on a numerical scale. It should be noted that the grade “Matrícula de Honor” is rarely given.

Matrícula de Honor (MH)	Distinction
Sobresaliente (SOB)	Excellent
Notable (NOT)	Very Good
Aprobado (APR)	Satisfactory
Suspenso (SUS)	Fail
No presentado (N.P.)	(Absent from exam)

STUDENT VISA

Student visa is mandatory for any foreigner who doesn't belong to any of the countries of the European Union, Norway, Island and Liechtenstein wishing to study in Spain for longer than 3 months.

The visa is processed in your country of residence prior to your departure. To find the closest Spanish Embassy in your country, visit:

<http://www.exteriores.gob.es/Portal/en/ServiciosAlCiudadano/Paginas/EmbajadasConsulados.aspx>

To apply for a visa, please contact the nearest Spanish Embassy or Consulate in your country. This should be done as early as possible and once you have the letter of acceptance from UMA.

It's important that you apply for a “student visa”; otherwise you won't be able to extend your stay in Spain as a student. The visa is affixed in your passport before you depart your country, and must be presented at the border Officials upon entry into Spain.

Processing a study visa

The application must be submitted personally, on the official form, in the Spanish Consular Office or Embassy in your country.

The application will be submitted along with the documents which accredit the following:

- A) Valid passport or travel document, recognized as valid in Spain, valid during the period of study which you are applying for.
- B) That you have been admitted by an authorized teaching center in Spain in order to carry out a full-time program which aims to obtain a studies title or certificate. This is the Letter of Acceptance.
- C) That you have the economic means to defray living expenses and return to your country according to the following amounts:
 - For your support, an amount which represents the 100% of the IPREM, unless you accredit having paid beforehand the accommodation expenses for the period of stay.

- For the support of the relatives in charge of the student during the stay in Spain: An amount which represents the 75% of the IPREM for the first relative and the 50% of the IRPEM for each of the remaining relatives who are going to be part of the family unit in Spain. Unless it is duly accredited to have pre-paid the accommodation for as long as the stay lasts.

In order to guarantee this support, the amount used or to be used to cover, where appropriate, the cost of studies

D) That you have paid the processing fee.

E) That you have public or private health insurance agreed with an insurer which is authorized to work in Spain.

F) When the period of stay is longer than 6 months, you also will be required:

- Medical certificate proving that you do not suffer from any of the diseases that may have serious public health consequences in accordance with the provisions of the 2005 International Health Regulations.
- Certificate of Criminal Background in which it is accredited that you do not have criminal records in the countries where you have resided during the last five years by crimes foreseen in the Spanish order.

ACCOMMODATION

Renting a room in an apartment shared with other students is the most popular way of living in Malaga. This option has reached a satisfaction of over 81% of the incoming students in the last final evaluation. There is a large number of apartments available for rent, which are situated in different parts of the city, and it usually does not take much time to find one.

The University of Malaga doesn't book accommodation for students, but it assists them in finding a room or apartment through its Welcome to UMA Office completely FREE OF CHARGE. You just have to contact Welcome to UMA and consult the accommodation offer. This will allow you to get in touch with the owners, who offer rooms/apartments for rent, and clarify all the details (booking, dates of your arrival, etc.).

Contact details of Welcome to UMA:

Webpage: <https://www.uma.es/welcome-uma>

Email: welcometouma@uma.es

We recommend those students, who have not booked any definitive accommodation prior to their arrival, to find provisional accommodation for a few days...

Other options:

CIE (Centro Internacional de Español) will help those students who will attend the Spanish course with accommodation. Please contact them at cie@uma.es.

The ESN Office (Erasmus Student Network) would be another option. Please contact them at esn.malaga@gmail.com.

There are also several residence halls, but unlike in many other countries, this option is not so popular among the exchange students. They usually offer meals, laundry, cleaning and other services, but at the same time are more expensive. Ask the Accommodation Office for further details.

Webpage: <http://www.uma.es/alojamiento/>

Email: alojamiento@uma.es

As another option you can also look for an accommodation with a Spanish family. This might be especially beneficial for those students who wish to practice their Spanish language.

When looking for an accommodation you may certainly also use other resources, such as internet research or personal acquaintances.

BUDDY PROGRAMME

The object of this Programme is to put International Students in touch with members of Malaga University's student body, who have offered voluntarily to help them during their stay.

If you want to have a "Buddy" in Malaga, you can request the service through buddyprogram@uma.es.

Link: <https://www.uma.es/welcome-uma/info/104141/buddy-program/>

Monthly report: <https://www.uma.es/welcome-uma/info/107496/buddy-program-informe-mensual/>

Welcome to UMA Office

Welcome to UMA office

Boulevard Louis Pasteur, 29 - Jardín Botánico

Universidad de Málaga, Campus de Teatinos 29071

Malaga

Website: <https://www.uma.es/welcome-uma/info/104141/buddy-program/>

Facebook <http://www.facebook.com/welcometouma>

Twitter: <http://twitter.com/WelcometoUMA>

Email: buddyprogram@uma.es

LIBRARIES

To use the University libraries international students must have been officially enrolled since they will be required to present their Student ID card.

UMA has a General Library located in the Teatinos campus, and other libraries located in different schools and faculties of the University. The fundamental objective of all these libraries is to ensure that the university community has access to scientific information contained in published material in order to meet study, research and teaching needs.

General library services available for the academic community include reading rooms, with seating for 8,000 people, direct access to books and periodicals, check out system, bulletins (Boletín de Sumarios) summarizing the contents of the latest issues or volumes available, the Information and Reference Service (Servicio de Información y Referencia), providing access to dictionaries, guides, catalogues, etc., located in the general library via data bases, interlibrary loans and photographic documentation (Préstamo Interbibliotecario y Fotodocumentación); and lastly, user training programmes.

You can search the titles available in the different libraries in <http://jabega.uma.es/>

The library's opening hours are approximately from 8:30 a.m. to 20:45 p.m., Monday to Friday. During exams periods some of them are open 24h.

Website: <http://www.uma.es/ficha.php?id=62379>

UNIVERSITY SPORTS CENTRE

UMA offers a wide range of interesting sports activities for sports enthusiasts of all levels. To take part in such activities or to use the university's sports facilities (or those belonging to the clubs that have signed agreements with the university), apart from being enrolled at the university, students only have to obtain a pass.

International students have to register to be able to do any sport. With your student sport card you can use the sports facilities.

Furthermore, teams from the university take part in federated competitions, national university leagues and the University Games. The Sports Centre is located in the Teatinos campus and consists of a series of modern sports facilities. The facilities cover an area of more than 76,000 square meters, at the centre of which is the multiple sports area, where different state-of-the-art sports units and equipment are located. The building also includes a swimming pool and a sports track, along with squash courts, bodybuilding room, gymnasium, dressing rooms and offices.

Website: <http://www.uma.es/uma-deportes>

CULTURE

University of Malaga has become a cultural centre of great importance at both local and national level. Besides sponsoring different citizens' and university projects, it is geared towards the visual arts (with numerous exhibitions inside and outside the university and a regular programme at the University Art Gallery located in the Plaza de la Merced), cinema (weekly programmes, "Fantastic Film Festival," "Summer Cinema," among others) and drama (regular theatre courses, workshops, etc., activities which have led to the establishment of the Andalusian Theatre Centre in Malaga), music (the Musicology Chair R. Mitjana and the Flamenco Chair, the Contemporary Music Workshop, the Jazz Lecture Room, the University Choral Society, alternative music cycles including singer/songwriters, youth jazz, church organ concerts, historical and religious polyphony, etc.), and literature (the Creative Literature Workshop, Literature for Children, etc.).

Website: <http://www.uma.es/servicio-cultura>

LIVING IN MALAGA

A city with a rich historic and cultural tradition, Malaga was founded by the Phoenicians around 800 B.C. and later colonised by Iberians, Greeks, Romans, Arabs and Christians. Its privileged position on the shores of the Mediterranean, its mild climate and the friendliness of its inhabitants have all meant that the capital of the Costa del Sol has, throughout its history, sustained excellent trade and cultural relations all over the world. Nowadays, Malaga is a modern, cosmopolitan and welcoming city with over 600,000 inhabitants, which has successfully developed its commercial, industrial and tourist sectors. The climate, the warmth of its inhabitants and the light, all contribute to make Malaga a great place.

WEATHER

Malaga is a Mediterranean city with a very mild climate. Winter temperatures very rarely drop below 10°C and in autumn and spring the average temperature is about 20°C, although evenings can be a lot cooler. Average rainfall for the region is normally quite low.

SHOPPING HOURS

Normal opening hours for small shops: 9.30-13.30 and 17.00-20.30.

There are many shopping centres open from 10.00 to 22.00.

Although shops are usually closed on Sundays, there are some small grocers and delicatessens which are open in the city centre during the weekends.

POST OFFICES

City Centre C/ Santa Lucía nº 7	Mo-Fr 8.30-20.30 Sa 9.30-13.00
Teatinos Av. Parménides nº 13	Mo-Fr 8.30-14.30 Sa 9.30-13.00
Malagueta C/ del Puerto nº 11	Mo-Fr 8.30-14.30 Sa 9.30-13.00
Train Station Explanada de la Estación	Mo-Fr 8.30-20.30 Sa 9.30-13.00

Stamps can be purchased in post offices and licensed tobacco shops (estancos).

You can find further information in: <http://www.correos.es/>

HEALTHCARE

Health Insurance

European Students must obtain the European Health Insurance Card before travelling. This entitles the student to free or reduced cost medical treatment in the countries of the European Economic Area.

Non-European students, before travelling, must take out private health insurance coverage from the date of their departure to Spain to the date of their return to their home country. This will provide the holder with medical coverage during their stay in Spain. Students may also wish to take out additional insurance to cover liability and personal belongings during their stay in Malaga. UMA will not be held responsible for the loss of personal belongings.

Vaccinations

No special vaccinations are required or recommended before travelling to Spain. Students following a course of treatment should bring enough prescription drugs with them to last them their stay.

Chemists

Most chemists open from 9.30-13.30 and 17.00-20.30. Nevertheless, some establishments open from 10.00 to 22.00 and others 24 hours a day. When in doubt, consult the local newspaper or the list displayed in all establishments.

BANKING

In Malaga, as in many other cities, it is not a good idea to carry large amounts of cash on one's person or keep it at home. Therefore, students are advised to open a bank account on arrival. Banks are generally open from 9:00 to 14:00 pm weekdays. In addition, many banks have 24-hour automatic teller machines, ATM, that give you access to most bank services.

TRAVELING AROUND MALAGA

Bus

Important Routes for You

Routes 1 and 13 connect the El Ejido campus with different parts of the town.

Routes 22, 25 and 8 are the ones to take to go to the Teatinos campus.

Route 11 connects Teatinos-El Palo (Spanish Language School).

Route L connects Teatinos campus with Ampliación.

For those living in the city centre the main stops for buses to both campuses are in the Alameda Principal.

For further information about the buses in Malaga:

<http://www.emtmalaga.es> or download the EMT Malaga app.

Fares

Single Ticket 1,30€

Airport Ticket 3,00€

Multitravel card (10 trips) 8,30€

Monthly student card (unlimited number of trips) 27,00€

Monthly card (unlimited number of trips) 39,95€

Students can apply for a monthly student card which enables them to make an unlimited number of trips within the city and costs 27 €. Only students under the age of 26 registered at UMA can apply for the student bus card. For those over this age limit, there are several other options: The “monthly card” which costs 39.95 €, allows a holder to make an unlimited number of trips within the city limits. Application Form and procedure will be activated upon the arrival of the student.

The cards are bought at licensed tobacco shops (“estanco” in Spanish) and kiosks throughout the city.

Subway/Tram

The Subway/Tram service was inaugurated on the 30th of July 2014 in the city of Malaga.

Lines

L1 Andalucía Tech-El Perchel

Through Ampliación and Teatinos campus to central bus and train stations (El Perchel).

L2 Palacio de los Deportes-El Perchel

Connects a large area of the city

Fares

Regular ticket 1,35 €

Cash Card 0,82 €

For further information visit <http://metromalaga.es/>

Phone number 902 112 223

Email: info@metromalaga.es

Trains: Cercanías

Malaga is connected to towns along la Costa del Sol and el Valle del Guadalhorce through the network of regional trains; Cercanías.

Lines

The network consists on two lines:

C-1 Malaga – Aeropuerto – Fuengirola

C-2 Malaga – Álora

BANK HOLIDAYS

The following are the bank holidays for Malaga in 2017/2018 academic year. Most establishments and public buildings will be closed during these dates and university lectures are stopped. Please notice that some schools and faculties may stop lectures due to particular festivities.

2017

8th of September: Virgen de la Victoria.

12th of October: Spain's National Day

1st of November: Día de Todos los Santos (All Saints' Day/Hallowmas)

6th of December: Spanish Constitution Day

8th of December: Inmaculada Concepción

25th of December: Natividad Del Señor (Christmas Day)

2018

1st of January: Año Nuevo (New Year's Day)

6th of January: Epifanía Del Señor

28th of February: Andalusia's Regional Day

1st of May: Día Del Trabajador (Labor Day)

OUR CULTURE

Fiestas

Several festivities are held in Malaga every year. The most famous and meaningful ones are La Feria de Agosto (August Fair) and Semana Santa (Eastern). However, there are other dates in which the city will be decked out and full of people: las Fiestas de San Juan, la fiesta de la Virgen del Carmen, Carnaval and fairs.

Gastronomy

Andalusian gastronomy is based in the Mediterranean diet: local and fresh ingredients such as vegetables, fruit, fish and olive oil. Our cuisine, and our culture in general, is the result of a convergence of cultures. Romans, Arabs, Greeks, Phoenicians and Visigoths all contributed to the history of the Andalusian gastronomy.

Tapas are small appetizers which are served in bars and restaurants throughout Spain and are sometimes included in the price of a drink. You can eat tapas that consist basically in anything, you can actually have a full meal with tapas!

Meals are served later compared with the rest of Europe: breakfast is normally eaten between 7.30 and 10.30. Lunch is served from 14.00 to 16.00 and dinner from 20.00 and 23.00. However, most of restaurants adapt their times to the European norm and will serve food earlier.

ENTERTAINMENT AND LEISURE

Picasso's hometown is more and more recognized as an important cultural destination. The capital city of La Costa del Sol offers a wide variety of museums and exhibitions as well as theatres and halls. You should not miss the opportunity to get lost in the history of our history and customs our learning about the finest international art.

WEEKEND FUN

Always a must when travelling abroad, Malaga has an exciting and varied nightlife. When the city centre's shops close, numerous bars offer foreigners the chance to get to know the locals.

THE CITY

Useful Links

Map of the City A to Z: <http://sig.malaga.eu/guia/>

Consulates: <http://www.malagaturismo.com/es/secciones/consulados/27>

City Buses company-EMT: <http://www.emtmalaga.es>

Airport: <http://www.aena.es>

Train: <http://www.renfe.es>

Tourist Office

Malaga Municipal Tourist

Plaza de la Marina, 11

29015 Malaga

Tel.: 951 926 020

Fax: 951 926 620

E-mail: info@malagaturismo.com

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

Malaga Tourist Office (Government of Andalusia)

Calle Pasaje de Chinitas, 4

29015 Malaga

Tel.: 951 308 911/951 308 913

Fax: 951 308 912

E-mail: otmalaga@andalucia.org

Airport Tourist Office (Government of Andalusia)

T3 Arrivals

Telephone: 951 294 003

E-mail: otaemalaga@andalucia.org