**UNIVERSIDAD DE ALCALÁ DE HENARES**
Alcalá de Henares, Spain

**The University**
Students attend classes at the University of Alcalá, founded in 1499. It is a university with a rich artistic, historic and educational heritage. The United Nations has declared the university to be a *Patrimonio de la Humanidad*.

The total student population is approximately 17,000. There are cultural activities, theaters, movies, lectures, and concerts that are part of the campus and community life. All students on the program are considered students of the university and are entitled to the same rights and privileges as the Spanish students: use of all facilities, computers, sports, libraries, and medical services. Students may attend regular classes with Spanish students or classes taught through the Hispanic Studies section of the Instituto Universitario de Investigaciones de Estudios Norteamericanos (IUIEN).

**The City**
Alcalá de Henares is located on the outskirts of Madrid, about 20 km northeast of Spain’s capital. It is a smaller city, ideal for access to the night life, culture, parks and excitement of Madrid without living in the city itself. Buses and trains run to Madrid every 10-15 minutes, making it easy to get there.

The founding of Alcalá dates back to the Roman city of Complutum which was later renamed *Alcalá*, the Arabic word for fortress. Its Renaissance urban design is still visible today: sixteenth-century churches have been turned into restaurants and a 17th-century convent houses the law school and College of Economics. A visit to the “Casa de Cervantes” is a must for anyone interested in that important Spanish author.

**Academic Calendar**

**IUIEN Component:** Classes begin in August and finish in December, starting again in January and finishing at the end of April. IUIEN/Alcalá is the only OU program in Spain that follows an “American” academic calendar.

**Regular university courses:** Fall semester is October – January. Spring semester is February – June. **Students may not combine courses in IUIEN and the regular curriculum because of the conflicts in the academic calendar.**

In either component, students may attend for one semester or one academic year. Students taking regular courses will find more class choices available if they remain for
two semesters. Many courses may be a two-semester “annual” class, requiring attendance for the full academic year to receive a grade in the class.

Am I eligible for this program?
All applicants for study abroad must have maintained a minimum GPA of 2.5. The IUIEN component of this program requires a minimum of one year college-level Spanish, but students will have more curriculum options if they have completed two years of Spanish prior to arrival. Participation in regular courses with the Spaniards requires a minimum of two years study of Spanish at the university level.

What could I study?
IUIEN: The curriculum consists of classes for non-native speakers, ranging in level from beginning Spanish to advanced literature, political science, art history and civilization and culture courses. It is an excellent location for Spanish majors and minors, International Business majors with Spanish as their foreign language, as well as International and Area Studies students.

Regular courses cover a full spectrum of degree tracks taught in 9 colleges of the university. A list of these colleges can be found at Students may take any courses for which they have appropriate background knowledge.

What about academic credit?
Grades received on reciprocal exchange study abroad programs through the University of Oklahoma are posted by the Office of Admissions as Satisfactory (S) or Unsatisfactory (U) on the OU permanent record. These grades are not factored into the participant’s Grade Point Average. Because each student is enrolled in 12 credits per semester while abroad, participants are expected to enroll in an equivalent number of credits at the host university. Academic systems around the world vary in what equals 12 OU credits. The decision about awarding credits is made in the Office of Admissions at OU.

IUIEN courses use an American credit system and are equivalent to one 3-credit course at OU. The grading system is also the American one: A, B, C, D and F. However, a passing grade still shows up as only an “S” or “U” on the Oklahoma transcript. Regular courses follow the Spanish grading system and are evaluated and posted by Admissions after credit equivalencies are checked.

Where would I live?
Students on the IUIEN component usually live with Spanish families and have full room and board there. Students arriving in the fall for only one semester or the academic
year may request accommodation in one of three dormitories, but places can be
difficult to get. When living in dormitories, students usually live farther from IUIEN that
they would with a family.

Students taking regular courses may prefer dormitories or finding their own places to
live with assistance from the university. More information for regular students can be
found in the Universidad de Alcalá Exchange Student Guide:

How much does it cost?
Costs at OU: All students participating on semester or academic year reciprocal
exchange programs are enrolled at OU for 12 credits each semester abroad. Tuition and
fees are billed through and paid directly to OU at the appropriate resident or non-
resident rate. Fees are charged at the Arts and Sciences College rate, even if the
student’s major is in a different college. All participants pay a $10/credit hour study
abroad fee.

IUIEN component: Costs vary depending on accommodations, but the recent charge for
the family home stay per semester, which includes health insurance (required),
orientation, and airport pickup upon arrival, and all relevant fees, was:

1) **Housing**: 25 or 26 Euros per day depending if there is only one student or two
students in the house. There is also a one-time housing coordination cost of 132
Euros, and a UAH fee 5% of the total amount for housing.

2) **Insurance** (medical, travel, and third party damages) 42 euros/ month/ student.

3) **Student Fee** (includes orientation and activities) 388 euros/student. These
activities include visits to museums, factories, the Spanish Senate & Parliament, etc.

4) **Airport pick up & return** = 42 €/student. This service is optional.

Non-IUIEN: The following estimate of monthly costs appears in the Alcalá web site:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Housing</th>
<th>Averages 350 Euros/mth</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Food</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transp.</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Misc.</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Est.</strong></td>
<td>920</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
How do I apply?
Instructions for applying to any semester or academic year exchange program may be found in the “how to apply” section of our website.
For more information please contact:
ea@ou.edu