UNIVERSIDAD COMPLUTENSE DE MADRID

Madrid, Spain

The University

The Universidad Complutense de Madrid has its origins in the 13th century in the 'studia' that King Sancho IV of Castilla founded in a little town called Compluto by the Romans and Alcalá by the Moors. The location was on the banks of the Henares River. In 1836 the university was transferred to Madrid, which had in the meantime become the capital of Spain. In 1970, under the new law concerning the statutes of universities in the world, it was given the name 'Universidad Complutense de Madrid'. The Complutense University is one of the oldest universities in the world, as well as the largest and most prestigious in Spain. It has a staff of 10,000 people and a student population of over 140,000. Most of the university’s colleges or facultades are situated in the Ciudad Universitaria at Moncloa. However, the colleges of Political Sciences, Economics/Business Administration are located on the newer campus in Somosaguas.

The City

Madrid, founded more than one thousand years ago, was proclaimed the official capital of Spain in 1561 when Felipe II transferred the Court to this city. Today it is a city in which past and present live together, creating, in its diversity, a unique and attractive setting. Even with a population of more than 3 million inhabitants, it is characterized by its hospitality. Located in the center of the Iberian Peninsula, Madrid boasts a pleasant year-round Continental climate. There are many interesting destinations such as Segovia and Toledo that are close enough for day trips by train.

Academic Calendar

Starts first week of October
Ends first week of July

Students planning on returning for the January semester at OU may not go on this program for fall semester only because of an overlap with the end of the semester in Spain and the beginning of OU’s January semester. Students should go for the full year or spring semester only. Places in the program may not be available in February if all spots have been allocated earlier for full year applicants.
Am I eligible for this program?
All applicants for study abroad must have maintained a minimum GPA of 2.5.

Students must be willing and eager to live in a large city with all of the challenges accompanying that environment. Because of the size of the university and the fact that classes are all taught in Spanish, applicants are screened for a high level of Spanish fluency. Preference will be given to upper class students who exhibit resiliency and determination and who have already studied or traveled abroad. They must be able to deal with a huge university and its bureaucracy in a foreign language.

This is a demanding location in all respects: linguistically, academically and emotionally. A strong GPA and completion of at least 6 semesters of university Spanish courses strengthens the application. Competition can be fierce and students are encouraged to have an alternate first choice when applying for study abroad here.

What could I study?
Students from nearly any major at OU can find courses at this university. Based on courses desired, students are placed into a specific college with the university and are expected to take 50% of their courses in that college. Participants are not required to be placed in the college where their official major is located. For example, a business student with a Spanish minor who wanted to take Spanish literature, civilization and culture, could be affiliated with Filología Hispanica rather than business.

Some students take advantage of the free pre-semester Intensive Spanish course offered to exchange students before either semester. In September the course is the 3 weeks before classes begin, but in February only two weeks prior.

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.

Where would I live?
Students on this program usually arrive no later than 2 weeks before classes begin and find their own place to live. That is frequently in a shared apartment with other
students. The International Office at the university lists recommends certain placement companies to help locate housing. Some of them waive the application fee for exchange students applying through our network program.

**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.

**The cost of living in Madrid is high.** The Complutense’s International Office estimates per month costs at:

- **Housing**
  - Euro 390 (double room)
  - Euro 450 (single room)

- **Meals**
  - 6 Euros/meal in student cafeteria

- **Books**
  - Euro 31

- **Local Transp.**
  - Euro 30/month (7 Euros = 10 trips)

**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.

This program is part of a consortium agreement between the Mid-America Universities International and the Utrecht Network Consortium of European Universities. Students interested in this destination apply through the usual OU process, but are then recommended to the Mid-America Universities International (MAUI) coordinating office and are considered for final selection with other students from MAUI universities who have requested the same destination. For this reason an OU student should have a second choice for study abroad.

**For more information please contact:**

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