

# Madrid 2017-18



## Study Abroad Handbook

A useful guide to your  
study abroad experience



### **OVERSEAS STUDY**

*The usefulness of this handbook depends on student input.  
If you find erroneous information, please contact [overseas@iu.edu](mailto:overseas@iu.edu).  
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# What's Inside?

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Goals & Objectives .....	6
Initial Housing Arrangement.....	4
Program Contacts .....	4
Program Introduction .....	5

### The Program in Madrid

Tentative 2017-18 Calendar* .....	7
Travel & Arrival Information .....	7
Visa and Residency Permit.....	8
Madrid.....	9
Academic Program .....	10
University of Madrid .....	13
Final Exam Schedule .....	17
Pass/Fail Policies .....	17
Student Rights and Responsibilities.....	18
Withdrawal from the Program .....	18
Libraries.....	18
Campus Virtual.....	19
Computer Usage.....	19
Student Activities .....	20

### Life in Madrid

Housing.....	21
Health Insurance.....	23
Medical Care .....	24
Money and Banking .....	24
Telephones .....	26
Public Transportation.....	27
Volunteerism.....	27
Packing .....	27
Shipping.....	29

# What's Inside?

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Predeparture Reading .....	30
Safety in Madrid .....	31
Vacation Travel .....	32

### Appendix A

Housing Vocabulary .....	33
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### Appendix B

How Students Found Housing.....	35
Apartment Search Timeline.....	35
Rent Prices .....	36

### Appendix C

How Students Found Housing.....	37
Apartment Search Timeline.....	37
Rent Prices (for students who searched onsite) .....	38
Rent Prices (for students who arranged before arrival) .....	38

## PROGRAM CONTACTS

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<b>Student Services Coordinator:</b>	Amy Olson

\*Please note that this e-mail account is not active during July and August

\*\*Note that the office fax and the resident director's e-mail address and cell phone are for official communications only and should not be used for personal correspondence, family messages, etc.

## INITIAL HOUSING ARRANGEMENT

In September, students will be housed in a student dorm (called a "residencia de estudiantes") on the Ciudad Universitaria campus for two weeks during orientation. During these two weeks, some students will be searching for an apartment and others will have reserved a room in a homestay. During September, mail should be sent to the program office. Students will receive contact information and other details for the September dorm prior to arrival.

In January, spring-only students will be assigned a homestay for one month, with the option of staying on for the semester or finding an apartment. In December, students will be contacted by the housing provider Europa Plus to arrange the details. Once students are assigned a homestay they will receive the contact information directly from the housing provider.

# PROGRAM INTRODUCTION

This handbook provides information relevant for all Wisconsin, Indiana, Purdue and Tulane students going on the WIP Madrid semester or academic year program. Contact your school's study abroad advisor regarding general travel-preparation information, school-specific academic program and degree requirements, tuition and program fees, scholarships and financial aid, and contractual arrangements.

You should use this booklet and other supplemental materials now as you prepare to leave and later while you are abroad. Since many student questions are addressed in this handbook, please consult it before contacting your study abroad office.

This handbook is also available on the Web: <http://overseas.iu.edu/docs/Handbooks/madrid.pdf>.



## Additional University Handbooks and Information:

- Wisconsin: [www.studyabroad.wisc.edu/programs](http://www.studyabroad.wisc.edu/programs). The International Academic Programs Study Abroad Handbook for University of Wisconsin students can be found under the "Spain, Madrid" information section.
- Purdue: [www.studyabroad.purdue.edu](http://www.studyabroad.purdue.edu)
- Tulane: <http://tulane.studioabroad.com/>

## ICONS IN THIS GUIDE



### Helpful Program Information

Information to help prepare you for study abroad



### Student Advice

Suggestions from study abroad returnees



### Savvy Traveler Tips

Traveling tips to get you where you're going

# GOALS & OBJECTIVES

The goals and objectives of a study abroad program are as diverse as the students, faculty, and administrators involved. Some goals may be common (e.g. language acquisition), while others may be more personal (e.g. becoming independent). Some goals may seem more important to some than to others (e.g. desire for academic integrity in course work vs. desire to travel).

Study abroad programs will provide a more enriching experience if they incorporate a wide range of goals. The first step toward the achievement of these goals is acknowledging and defining them before the program begins. Once you are abroad, the process continues with a structured and cooperative approach to achieving these goals. We've begun the process by outlining some goals for your program.

## **WIP Madrid Program Goals**

- Competence with the Spanish language and knowledge of Spanish literature, culture, history and the arts
- Integration into the academic and social environment of the Universidad Complutense de Madrid
- Immersion experience in a supportive environment
- Personal development and growth

## **Program Elements that Support these Goals**

- Resident staff to provide personal and academic advising
- Program office located on the Complutense campus
- Special courses taught by Spanish faculty in area studies for program participants
- Attendance in Universidad Complutense de Madrid courses with Spanish students
- Course work integrated into students' academic goals
- Volunteer opportunities available for Academic Year students
- Cultural excursions to various regions in Spain
- Independently-arranged housing with Spanish and international peers

# The Program in Madrid

## Tentative 2017-18 Calendar\*

Arrival in Madrid (Academic-Year and Fall Students).....	Aug. 24
Fall Orientation.....	Aug. 24 - Sept. 3
Reunidas fall term.....	Sept. 4 - Dec. 22
Winter recess.....	Dec. 23 - Jan. 7
Arrival in Madrid (Spring Semester Students).....	Jan. 17
Spring orientation .....	Jan. 17 - 31
Reunidas spring term.....	Feb. 1 - May 31
Spring recess.....	March 23 - April 2
Final Exams .....	throughout June (last day June 23)

In addition, the following religious and national holidays are observed: Oct. 12 (Día de la Hispanidad), Nov. 1 (Día de Todos los Santos), Nov. 9 (Día de la Almudena), Dec. 6 (Día de la Constitución), Dec. 8 (Día de la Inmaculada), May 1 (Día del Trabajo), May 2 (Día de la Comunidad de Madrid), and May 15 (Día de San Isidro, Patrón de Madrid). Holidays that occur on Fridays or Mondays usually create long weekends called "puentes."

Once set and formally announced, the dates for classes and examinations are firm. They may be changed only in case of extreme hardship, such as a death in the family or serious illness of the student. You are not permitted to request changes to accommodate your travel schedule.

*\*These dates are subject to change. The student will be notified in advance if any changes are to be made.*

## Travel & Arrival Information

### Academic Year and Fall Participants

**August 24 is the official arrival day for academic-year and fall-only participants, and you must be in Madrid by 10:00 a.m. You must not enter Spain before your visa validity begins.**

You will be responsible for making your own travel arrangements to Madrid. This summer, you will receive detailed arrival instructions. These instructions will include information about meeting together as a group, getting into the city, and locating the residencia where you will be housed. Information about phoning home, life at the residencia, big city safety tips and the schedule for the first few days will be distributed upon arrival.

Students must be sure to save their boarding passes from the flight into Madrid and give it to the staff upon arrival. The boarding pass will be used to prove entry into Spain and must be submitted to authorities during the process of application for student residency.

## **Spring Semester Participants**

**The official arrival day for spring semester participants is January 17, and you must be in Madrid by 10:00 a.m.** in order to attend the official WIP program orientation meeting. Place and time will be announced by email at a later date previous to arrival. You must not enter Spain before your visa validity begins.

You will be responsible for making your own travel arrangements to Madrid. Soon, we will send you detailed arrival instructions. These instructions will include information about meeting together as a group, going into the city, and finding transportation to your homestay.

You will also receive detailed instructions about housing and orientation for the first month of the program in a separate mailing.

Program staff cannot be available to assist you before the official arrival date. If you arrive early, you must make your own housing arrangements for the interim.

## **Visa and Residency Permit**

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You will be required to have a Spanish student visa stamped in your passport when you arrive in Spain. Begin researching the application requirements at your consulate immediately and apply for your student visa as soon as you have been instructed to do so by your home institution. Your study abroad office will provide you with all necessary documents for obtaining this visa at a Spanish consulate in the U.S. since it cannot be obtained in Spain.

Spanish student visa regulations are getting more complicated and time consuming so you are advised not to leave the U.S. for any international travel before the program begins. If you must be out of the country more than a couple of days immediately prior to the program start date, there is no guarantee that the consulate will process the visa in time for your departure. For example, you should be aware that some consulates require a travel itinerary in order to apply, thus a plane ticket may have to be purchased before the visa paperwork deadline. In addition, if you will study in Spain longer than six months, you may be required to obtain certificate(s) by police authorities where you resided during the last five years to prove the absence of police record.

If you will be studying abroad prior to the start of the program, please be advised that it is nearly impossible to obtain a student visa outside of the U.S. In addition, consulates and embassies outside the U.S. are generally unfamiliar with student visa requirements as they relate to U.S. students and will often provide conflicting or incorrect information that will ultimately delay the visa application process and jeopardize your chances of obtaining a visa in a timely manner. Therefore, you should return to the U.S. to obtain your student visa.

Finally, keep in mind that students often have to surrender their passports to the appropriate consulate anywhere from several weeks to as long as two months or more before the program starts.

**Year-long students** must be sure to get a **90-day visa** with multiple entries to facilitate travel and re-entry into Spain. After year-long students arrive in Madrid, the program staff will help you obtain the required residency permit (*tarjeta de residencia de estudiante*). This permit takes the place of the visa and allows you to legally live and study in Spain longer than 6 months. Students must be sure to save their boarding passes from the flight into Madrid and give it to staff upon arrival. The boarding pass will be used to prove entry into Spain and must be submitted to authorities during the process of application for student residency.

**Spring or fall semester students** will not obtain this residency permit, so you must apply for a 180-day visa to cover the entire length of your stay, and multiple entries to facilitate travel and re-entry to Spain. Please verify that the length that is also mentioned in months (e.g. January-June) covers 180 days.

**Important Visa considerations for all students:** When your visa is issued, immediately double-check that the dates are correct, and that you have been issued a visa with multiple entries.

**You must not enter Spain before your visa validity begins.** This usually coincides with the start date of the program, so keep this in mind when booking your flight. If you arrive before the start date of the visa, you must leave Schengen territory (go to the U.K, for example) once the visa's validity begins and re-enter the country in order to "activate" your student visa and legal status as a student. Visas are only correctly activated if you enter on or after the start date of the visa.

**Keep your boarding pass and turn it in to the program office staff upon arrival.** In the event your passport was not correctly stamped, or you entered Schengen territory through another EU country, you must prove your date of entry into Spain. Your boarding pass into Madrid is proof. If you do not have this to prove entry, you may need to leave Schengen territory and re-enter it.

**Dual citizens of any EU country and the U.S.** are strongly encouraged to obtain a visa as Americans so your legal residence here is processed along with the rest of the students. However, you may choose to enter the country using your European passport and then make arrangements here upon arrival (within 30 days) to declare your entrance into Spain and complete a registration process with authorities. International students must contact the Spanish consulate and confirm visa requirements for your nationality. Due to the expenses involved, check with your international student office on campus prior to departure.

## Madrid

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Madrid, the political capital of Spain since the late sixteenth century, today has a population of nearly 5.8 million for the entire Madrid metropolitan area. It is located at an altitude of 2,200 feet, and on clear days the snow-capped Sierra de Guadarrama, rising to over 7,000 feet, is visible from the University campus. The climate is generally dry, with very hot summers and cold but not severe winters. Weather is most pleasant in May, June, September and October.

Madrid is a modern, dynamic, cosmopolitan city, which underwent its first major expansion in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. It continues to grow and exhibit all the problems associated with urban areas: it is crowded and noisy, with too many cars and constant traffic jams. There is serious air pollution and the cost of living is

high. Nevertheless, the city offers a good, inexpensive, public transportation system, so that travel around the city is relatively easy. (Buy a good bound guide to the streets of Madrid, called the "*guía urbana*" and use it to orient yourself the way madrileños do.) You must be alert for pickpockets on the Metro and take reasonable precautions on the street at night.

The city has abundant and varied restaurants and cafes, numerous theatres, museums, cinemas, and parks, including one of the world's most famous art museums, the Prado. Situated at the center of Spain's rail, air and highway networks, Madrid provides an excellent base for excursions. The WIP Madrid Program organizes excursions each year and encourages its students to take advantage of many other opportunities for individual travel within Spain. Among the major attractions within easy reach for a day trip are El Escorial, Toledo, Ávila, Segovia, Aranjuez, Cuenca, Salamanca and Navacerrada (skiing), as well as other interesting small towns and villages.

You may find adjusting to a large city with its traffic, subway, and throbbing pace is as daunting as adjusting to a new language and culture.



## Academic Program

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The minimal course enrollment for the WIP program is as follows:

**Fall-only students:** 15 credits in classes for U.S.-based students through Reunidas.

**Spring-only students:** 15 credits in combination of classes through Reunidas and Complutense (6 credits minimum).

**Fall Term (AY students):** 15 credits in combination of classes for U.S.-based students through Reunidas and Complutense courses (3 credits minimum for WIP students, 6 credits minimum for Tulane students).

**Spring Term (AY students):** 15 credits in combination of classes through Reunidas and Complutense (6 credits minimum).

## On-site Orientation

All WIP students are required to participate in an orientation program that will be given by the staff of the WIP office in Madrid and Spanish instructors. It includes practical advice for living in Madrid, and lectures on Spanish geography, grammar, politics, history as well as cultural activities.

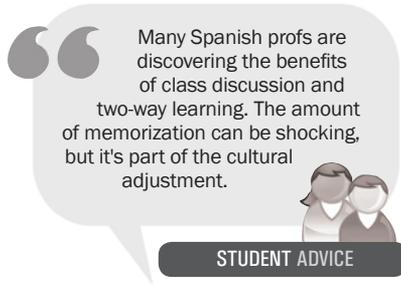
## Course Load

Each semester you must enroll as a full-time student and complete a minimum of 15 credits per semester. In September and January you will meet with the Resident Director to discuss your planned course of study and work out a feasible schedule from the Reunidas and Complutense (if applicable) courses available. Follow the proposed schedule you planned with your advisor before leaving the United States as closely as possible. You should bring a copy of your advising schedule with you. Students who apply themselves have achieved academic success in their courses.

## Reunidas Classes

Universidades Reunidas ([www.ucm.es/universidades-reunidas](http://www.ucm.es/universidades-reunidas)) is a consortium of American universities that has been in operation for more than 50 years and offers numerous special three-credit courses in the humanities and social sciences for U.S.-based students only. All courses are taught in Spanish by University of Madrid professors in the Geography and History building, where the WIP program office is located. The Spanish professors selected to teach Reunidas courses have extensive experience working with foreign students. They are aware of your linguistic level and sensitive to the importance of providing you with background explanations and supplementary descriptions that would not be necessary for Spanish students. Academic expectations in Reunidas classes (a syllabus, midterm and final exams, homework assignments, attendance policies) are similar to those in U.S. classrooms. In selecting Reunidas classes you may refer to a large collection of course descriptions in the program office from previous WIP students.

For more information about Reunidas (courses, syllabi, class schedules, etc) check out the Reunidas webpage: [www.ucm.es/universidades-reunidas](http://www.ucm.es/universidades-reunidas).



“Many Spanish profs are discovering the benefits of class discussion and two-way learning. The amount of memorization can be shocking, but it's part of the cultural adjustment.”

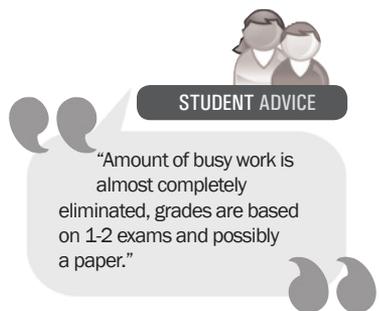
STUDENT ADVICE

## Spanish Instructional Style

Be prepared to adjust to a different instructional style in Spain. Learning within a different cultural context is one of many important study abroad experiences. Expect less class participation than in the U.S. The Spanish educational system does not stress critical thinking as much as its American counterpart. Instead, special attention is given to students' ability to assimilate the reading and lecture material and accurately reflect this information on exams or in papers. Most professors do not solicit student comments in class or out. The traditional Spanish educational system may be better characterized as “give and return” than “give and take.” Nevertheless, many Spanish professors enjoy working with Americans who participate in a more dynamic learning environment. If you want to participate actively in your classes, take the initiative. Regular class attendance is important. Reunidas professors are asked to inform the Resident Director if you miss more than three class hours, and absences in excess of three class hours will have a negative impact on course grades.

### Reunidas Courses (tentative)

The following is a tentative list of courses offered by semester. You must consult the exact course offerings and the class schedules in Madrid with the Resident Director. These classes are offered either fall or spring semester unless it lists spring and fall both in parenthesis. In these cases the student may take the class either semester since the material covered is not the same. Please consult the exact course offerings with the Resident Director in Madrid. Also, see [www.ucm.es/universidades-reunidas](http://www.ucm.es/universidades-reunidas).



STUDENT ADVICE

“Amount of busy work is almost completely eliminated, grades are based on 1-2 exams and possibly a paper.”

## **Arts and Philosophy**

- Obras maestras del Museo del Prado: luz y color (Fall)
- Obras maestras del Museo del Prado: representaciones de poder (Spring)
- Taller de teatro español contemporáneo (Fall)
- Cine español (Spring)
- Filosofía: debates éticos en la España contemporánea (Spring)
- Filosofía en la España Contemporánea (Fall)
- Filosofía en la literatura (Spring)

## **Spanish Literature**

- Literatura española: siglos X - XVII (Fall)
- Literatura española: siglos XVIII - XX (Fall)
- Literatura hispanoamericana: siglos XV - XIX (Fall)
- Literatura hispanoamericana: del siglo XIX al presente (Spring)
- La mujer en la literatura española (Spring)
- Literatura española contemporánea (Spring)

## **Spanish Language**

- Composición avanzada en español para hablantes bilingües (Fall)
- Composición española avanzada (Spring)
- Español de los negocios (Spring)
- Fonética española (Fall)
- Dialectología: el español en el mundo (Spring)
- Introducción a la lingüística (Fall)
- Sintaxis comparada inglés/español: la descripción (Fall)
- Sintaxis comparada inglés/español: construcciones verbales (Spring)

## **History and Culture**

- Culturas de España (Spring)
- Historia general de España I: 1492-1808 (Fall)
- Historia contemporánea de España: 1808 al presente (Spring)
- Historia de Hispanoamérica: del siglo XIX al presente (Spring)
- El Islam en España: Perspectiva Histórica y Cultural (Spring)
- Madrid: Cultura y sociedad (Fall)

## **Social Sciences (Political Science, Economics and Geography)**

- Análisis político y economía comparada de la España actual (Fall)
- Relaciones internacionales y política exterior de España (Fall)
- Service Learning: Cambios sociales en la España actual (Fall)
- Los sistemas políticos europeos: El modelo español (Spring)
- España en el mundo global (Spring)

# University of Madrid

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The University of Madrid is organized on the basis of several schools called facultades, which vary in size from a few hundred students to several thousand. The university's total enrollment is more than 75,000 students. Most of the facultades are located in the Ciudad Universitaria, which encompasses an extensive area on Madrid's western edge. Some of the present buildings date from before the Civil War (1936-1939) when most of the old campus was destroyed. Each facultad has its decano and administrative staff and seems to operate quite on its own. There is a rector (roughly equivalent to the president of the university) who has his own office complex (Pabellón de Gobierno) near the Plaza de la Moncloa. The University of Madrid (also called La Universidad Complutense de Madrid) is the national university (practically all other Spanish universities are state institutions) and, like all other educational institutions in Spain, is ultimately under the control of the Ministry of Education.

The *facultades* have their own facilities, field of study, and courses. The Complutense has undergone a modification in the organization of its degree programs. The new system, referred to as the Bologna Process aims to institute a common *Grado* system throughout all of the universities in Europe. You will receive in-depth information on this during academic orientation.

## Complutense Courses

In addition to Reunidas classes, academic year and spring-only students will take Complutense courses. These are regularly scheduled University of Madrid classes with Spanish classmates. While Reunidas classes have the advantage of greater structure and a more familiar academic environment, it is also important for you to participate in the Spanish university system.

Complutense offerings span a full range of depth and breadth in world geography and history (including area studies), world literature, anthropology, philosophy, and economics, and all courses carry three credits.

Complutense courses start at the same time as Reunidas classes in the fall, and several weeks after Reunidas begins in the spring. Final exams, which may include an oral component, are scheduled in January and June. Mid-term examinations are customary. In addition to lectures, you can expect to have group work and papers, practice sessions, and even an oral presentation.

Note that courses taught in English with readings in English do not satisfy the program's Complutense course requirement. You may not take North American, British, or any other literature or history of the English-speaking world (even if taught in Spanish) or classes dealing strictly with the US (unless, for example, they are comparative in nature such as comparative politics).

Although opportunities exist to study other foreign languages in Madrid, WIP students are limited to advanced courses in literature, culture, civilization, history of the language, or advanced linguistics that are taught in the foreign language, not beginning and intermediate language courses. (UW students must refer to their IAP Study Abroad Handbook for more information on policies regarding third language classes.)

## Choosing Complutense Courses

Prior to your departure for Spain, take advantage of Complutense course lists available

at your school's study abroad office or on their Web site to make some tentative plans regarding the Complutense courses you will pursue.

### **The Complutense University Web Page**

You should consult the class schedules and available syllabi in order to familiarize yourself with what you will find on campus. Class schedules (timetables) are available for the upcoming academic year online, usually by July. Until then the timetables that are posted are for the current year, and will change prior to your arrival.

The main Complutense University (UCM) page is: [www.ucm.es](http://www.ucm.es).

### **How to Find Courses, Syllabi and Timetables on the Complutense Webpage**

Please follow the steps below to find courses within the 3 Facultades (schools) that have an agreement with the WIP program (Filología, Filosofía and Geografía e Historia).

Note: WIP students must take their Complutense courses within those Facultades (with exceptions). All Complutense classes taken by WIP students count for 3 credits.

### **Classes in Filología:**

Go to the Complutense Home Page: [www.ucm.es](http://www.ucm.es)

- Under the heading on the left UCM click on Centros.
- Then, click on Facultades.
- Click on Filología

### **Syllabi (Programas):**

- When the Filología page opens up, on the left hand side under the section heading Estudios click on Grado.

A list of the different Programas de Grado degree programs will appear. Advisors and students are encouraged to browse through courses in several majors, not just in Grado en Español, because some Grados which in principle seem to be unrelated to the student's needs may have some courses within the degree program which offer a good option to fulfill student requirements.

To access the syllabi for classes in Filología, after clicking on Estudios, and then Grado, click on "Programas de Grado", then choose the Grado Major degree you are interested in and a list will open up of all of the classes from Curso 1 (first year) to Curso 4 (fourth year) for this degree. Click on the class you are interested in. Not all of the classes on the list have a syllabus online, but many do. Also many will have the schedule for lectures and the semester the class is given posted here.

If that does not work then:

- When the Filología page opens up, on the left hand side under the section heading Alumnos click on Horarios y Exámenes.
- On the right side of the page, across from Horarios, click on Programas de Grado.
- A list of the different Programas de Grado degree programs will appear, and once you click on the Grado degree you are interested in, the list of classes will open up. Click on the classes that interest you.

### **Schedule of Classes (Horario):**

- When the Filología page opens up, on the left hand side under the section heading Alumnos click on Horarios y Exámenes.

- After clicking on Horarios, click on Horarios de Grado.
- Choose the Grado degree major you are interested in and open up the pdf of the schedule.

## **Classes in Filosofía:**

- Go to the Complutense Home Page: [www.ucm.es](http://www.ucm.es).
- Under the heading on the left UCM, click on Centros.
- Then, click on Facultades.
- Click on Filosofía.

## **Syllabi (Programas):**

- When the Filosofía page opens up, on the left hand side under the section heading Estudiar, click on Grado.
- Under Curso 2016-2017 (or 2017-2018 if it has been updated) click on Grado Filosofía.
- On the right, click on the icon that resembles a calendar and has a large "10" on it, or click on the icon Programas.
- On the page that opens up there is a list of all of the classes in this degree: Curso 1 (first year), Curso 2 (second year), Curso 4 (fourth year) and Sin Curso Definido (electives). Click on the class you are interested in. Not all of the classes on the list have a syllabus online, but many do. Also many will have the schedule for lectures and the semester the class is given posted here.

## **Schedule of Classes (Horario):**

- When the Filosofía page opens up, on the left hand side under the section heading Docencia click on Horarios Asignaturas.
- After clicking on Horarios Asignaturas, under the section Asignaturas, horarios, aulas Curso 2016-2017 (or 2017-2018 if it has been updated) click on Grado en Filosofía and the schedule of classes will open for Primer Curso (first year), Segundo Curso (second year), Tercer Curso (third year), Cuarto Curso (fourth year) and Asignaturas Optativas (electives).

## **Classes in Geografía e Historia:**

- Go to the Complutense Home Page: [www.ucm.es](http://www.ucm.es).
- Under the heading on the left UCM, click on Centros.
- Then, click on Facultades.
- Click on Geografía e Historia.

## **Syllabi (Programas):**

- When the Geografía e Historia page opens up, on the left hand side under the section heading Estudios, click on Grado.
- There you will see a list of Estudios de Grado (the different Grado degree majors in this Facultad). Click on the Grado degree you are interested in.
- On the right, click on the icon that resembles a calendar and has a large "10" on it.
- A list will open up of all of the classes from Curso 1 (first year) to Curso 4 (fourth year) and Electives (Sin curso definido) for this degree. Click on the class you are interested in. Not all of the classes on the list have a syllabus online, but many do. Also, many will have the schedule for lectures and the semester the class is given posted here.

## **Schedule of Classes (Horario):**

- When the Geografía e Historia page opens up, on the left hand side under the section heading Estudiantes, click on Horarios.
- Under Horarios de Titulaciones Oficiales, click on Horarios 2017-2018 if it has been updated.

- On the page that opens, you will see several boxes with the different Grado degree majors and a link for each of the different Cursos (years of study) for each degree.
- Click on these links for a list of the regular classes Clases teóricas and the schedule of mandatory labs and discussion groups for each class Seminarios y Prácticas. When planning your schedule you will need to find the schedule for both components of your class. When looking at these class lists, be careful to look at the bar on the left hand side to see what semester the class is Primer Cuatrimestre (Fall) or Segundo Cuatrimestre (Spring). Also when looking at the Seminarios and Prácticas or Actividades de Seminario you should note that many times there are more than one group.

### **Succeeding in Complutense Classes**

In Madrid, talk with the Resident Director to focus on areas of interest or competence, and use the class schedules and syllabi to find possible classes that fit within your advising plan that you made with your academic advisor prior to the program. Challenge yourself. Seize the chance to study topics available only in Spain. Advanced classes with smaller enrollment may provide better academic opportunities and more individualized attention than large introductory lectures.

Once you have selected your Complutense courses, find out exactly what is expected to complete the course successfully. The program syllabus will indicate the areas of study for the class and a bibliography to use for complimenting what you learn in lecture. Spanish university classes place emphasis on the professor's lectures, class notes, complimentary readings and even more on independent research.

Make an effort to approach Spanish students and sit with them in class. They can explain doubts you may have about the class and/or the syllabus and the coursework required. Most WIP students find Spanish students friendly and quite willing to share their copious notes, **if asked**. Arrive for class early so you can sit near the front of the room. You will be able to hear and understand the teacher much better. If you have not previously mastered the *vosotros* verb forms, study them, because they are constantly used in Spain.

Do not be deceived by Complutense students' apparent relaxed attitude toward class attendance. They are accustomed to independent study culminating in comprehensive annual examinations, which they are allowed to retake the following fall (American students are not allowed).

You should expect that you can do as well academically in Madrid as on your home campus if you apply yourself seriously. This generalization becomes highly problematic if you miss classes or exams or fail to take your studies as seriously as the Spanish professors assume you will.

### **Tutorials**

WIP provides tutorial assistance for Complutense courses throughout the semester. The purpose of the tutorials is to help you clarify and complete lecture notes, help explain basic entry-level concepts and vocabulary of the discipline in Spanish, and help you identify and locate the bibliography for exams, papers and projects. The WIP program strongly encourages students to meet with tutors for their Complutense classes. Data show that students who had tutorial assistance did better overall in Complutense classes.

## Final Exam Schedule

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**Fall semester:** the final exam schedule for Reunidas (and Complutense courses for AY students) may not be available until after students arrive in Madrid. Fall semester students should NOT plan to leave the program prior to the first day of winter break and should schedule their return flights no earlier than December 23. Students are not permitted to re-schedule exams in order to depart the Madrid WIP program prior to the dates that individual exams are set. Re-taking exams is not allowed.

**Spring semester:** the final exam schedule for both Reunidas and Complutense courses may not be available until after students arrive in Madrid. Students should NOT plan to leave the program prior to the end of June and should schedule their return flights no earlier than June 23. Students are not permitted to re-schedule exams in order to depart the Madrid WIP program prior to the dates that individual exams are set. Re-taking exams is not allowed.

## Pass/Fail Policies

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The deadlines for the pass/fail option will be included in the Academic Deadlines section of the on-site manual for Madrid that students receive upon arrival. (Note: Data show that WIP students who take their Complutense courses for a letter grade tend to achieve better results than students who choose to exercise the P/F option.)

### **Purdue:**

A Purdue student may choose the P/NP option for any course approved for direct credit for that program. On the WIP program, students will receive a letter grade, by default, for all Liberal Arts courses. If a student wishes to take a course or courses for P/NP, he or she must first discuss the matter with and secure permission from his or her Purdue academic advisor. If permission is granted, the academic advisor must sign, date and return the Pass/Not Pass form (see student's My Study Abroad page) to the Study Abroad Office before the 8th week of the semester. Forms turned in late will not be accepted. Once a form is turned in, the decision cannot be reversed. NOTE: courses that will count toward a student's major or minor requirement usually cannot be taken for P/NP. If a student takes a course that has not been approved for direct credit, the student will receive a P/NP grade automatically.

### **Indiana:**

IU students may opt for pass/fail grading in the equivalent of one course each semester as long as the courses are elective in nature. Pass/fail credits can be applied toward the minimum 120 credits to graduate and the minimum number of credits at the 300-400 level, but nothing else. Any courses taken in the major or minor department on a pass/fail basis will not fulfil any major requirements.

### **Wisconsin:**

Students must be in good academic standing according to their school/college in order to be eligible to request the pass/fail grading option. Undergraduates may carry one course on a pass/fail basis per term and a maximum of 16 credits during their undergraduate career. The summer sessions collectively count as a single term. Students contemplating graduate or professional school should take as few pass/fail courses as possible. Pre-med students are advised to take only graded courses. Only

elective work may be taken on a pass/fail basis. Students can take coursework in their major or minor department on a pass/fail basis **if** the coursework **is not** being used to fulfill major requirements. *Any coursework taken in the major or minor department on a pass/fail basis will not count toward fulfilling any major requirements.* Thus, students should consult with their major advisor before declaring pass/fail in the major or minor department. Consult the IAP Study Abroad Handbook for more details about the pass/fail option and other grade issues.

**Tulane:**

Students are allowed to take one course per semester on a pass/fail basis with restrictions. Students may not take any required courses or any independent study or directed research course pass/fail. Students should check with their specific department to see if the pass/fail option is allowed for their major/minor.

In order to take a course pass/fail, students must request permission from the Office of Study Abroad. Requests must be submitted to the OSA by airmail, fax, or email and postmarked within 10 weeks after the first class meeting. The OSA will notify the student of the decision. Once filed, the change is irreversible. Students may not exercise the S/U option with the program sponsor without notifying the OSA.

Overseas program directors submit a regular American letter grade to Tulane for courses taken on an S/U basis. The OSA will convert this grade for students with approved S/U requests on file. In order to receive S/U credit, students must also have a letter grade of a C- or above to receive "satisfactory" credit. If no letter grade is given, the student will not receive credit for the class.

## Student Rights and Responsibilities

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All behavioral incidents that violate either the Madrid Program's rules (i.e., dorm or homestay, Complutense, Reunidas, etc.) or the home institution's rights and responsibilities as addressed by that institution's code of conduct, must be documented and reported to the home institution's study abroad office which will decide on proper reporting procedures in order to protect the best interests of the students, the program staff and the institution.

## Withdrawal from the Program

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Each university has different policies regarding complete withdrawal from the program. You **MUST** consult the WIP program administration and your home campus study abroad office before withdrawing from the program to learn what the implications are for your academic record.

## Libraries

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In general, public libraries in Madrid are not as conducive to study as their American counterparts. They are open usually until 8 or 9 pm, and offer longer hours during exam periods. In order to work in them you might have to acquire a membership card, which can be obtained with ID and passport. Many public libraries offer Internet access.

There is no central University of Madrid library, and the individual facultad libraries tend to be crowded, especially at exam time. There are several libraries near the WIP program office and the faculty building where most classes are held. The new María

Zambrano library, with plenty of room to study, and even an area to work on group projects, is across the street from the faculty building where WIP students have most of their classes.

In the main Geography and History library, there are some open stacks with a large selection of reference books for use in the library. When checking out books, you may be asked to fill out a request slip and turn it in, and an attendant will get the book for you from the deposit. Books are in great demand and can be checked out for only a week or two at the most.

In short, you must be ready to forget the comfort of central U.S. university libraries as you know them and adjust as European students do. This means making sufficient allowance in your budget for buying books. Nonetheless, total book costs in Spain are far less than those at U.S. universities. Spanish or history majors have a wonderful opportunity to begin a private collection of basic works through Madrid's many excellent bookstores. Each "school" in the University has its own bookstore where textbooks can be purchased (with student ID) for a 10% discount, and Madrid has hundreds of bookstores (librerías).

## Campus Virtual

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Many classes require students to open a Campus Virtual account where professors post the syllabus, class readings, projects, homework, and class information - similar to Canvas. In the event that your professor mentions Campus Virtual in class, you will need to activate your account through the Complutense webpage (you will receive instructions from the WIP office on how to do this) and ask your professor to add you to the class list by providing him/ her with your Complutense email account, once activated. Many students have found that Campus Virtual is a very useful tool that helps them follow the course.

## Computer Usage

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There are university computers available for academic and investigative use. They may be used to type papers and projects, as well as to perform searches on the Internet while doing research projects. There are no printers in the computer room, so any work that you do must be saved on a USB flash drive and printed out on one of the copy machines in the building, at the student copy window, or in the WIP office.

E-mail is permitted, but Internet use is limited by very strict guidelines that must be read upon arrival. Students are not allowed to chat, download, or play video games; nor view pages with sexually explicit content. If any of the usage rules are disobeyed, the computer lab will revoke your privileges for the remainder of the academic year. You will most likely have WIFI in your apartment and the Complutense gives students access to the university WIFI network once classes begin in October (or in February for spring semester students).

Students that own laptops should bring them to Madrid. A serious word of caution, however: laptops continue to be a luxury in Spain, especially Mac computers and all Apple products. They draw considerable attention from thieves and pick pockets in public. Their use should be limited to your apartment and buildings on campus, and great care should be taken while carrying them on your person. If it is obvious that you have a laptop on you someone may try to take it from you if the opportunity presents itself.

Many students use Skype on their laptops to keep in touch with friends and family. Check it out at: [www.skype.com](http://www.skype.com). Usually you can use it for free with others who have it. You can also call home phones in the U.S. for much cheaper than calls made by cell phones.

## Student Activities

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Although the University of Madrid is located in what is called the Ciudad Universitaria, it is not a campus in the American sense of the word, for it offers few organized student activities. Instead, the university is more like a commuter campus, and you will do little more there than attend classes, go to the library or the snack bar of the Facultad, or stop by the Program's office between classes. Most of the facultades do have active sports club where you can make friends and continue to play your favorite sports. Bring at least the basic clothing and gear. Past WIP students have joined student soccer, basketball, rugby and volleyball teams.

Volunteer opportunities afford students a unique opportunity to get to know aspects of Spanish culture that would otherwise be invisible and they provide a chance for you to use your language skills in practical ways while contributing something to Spanish society. Students have found these unique opportunities very meaningful in enriching their portfolio of life experiences.

You will find volunteer opportunities in Madrid through *Solidarios para el desarrollo* ([www.solidarios.org.es](http://www.solidarios.org.es)) at the University of Madrid or through one of many ONG's (*organizaciones no gubernamentales*). Information about these groups is available in the WIP program office. Most volunteer organizations require a minimum six-month commitment from students in order to participate, so students only in Madrid for one semester have a harder time finding volunteering opportunities. Once you are trained and can operate on your own there is little time left to actually do volunteering. For that reason, more and more organizations are asking for a commitment for the entire academic year. If you are interested in volunteering while you are in Madrid, you will need to inquire about volunteering opportunities immediately upon arrival in order to be considered.

Travel agencies are located throughout the city, and many have great deals on flights or package trips throughout the year. TIVE, a national student union, runs a travel agency near the University campus (c/ Fernando el Católico, 88, metro: Moncloa). The TIVE office offers good student rates, but make reservations early for popular travel times. You should also check flyers posted around campus for trips organized by Disfruta Madrid Más, City Life Madrid, CanWeCome and the Erasmus Student Network.

Erasmus students are European exchange students. There is an Erasmus student organization on campus called the Erasmus Student Network (ESN) that many students join in order to meet international students and participate in activities where they make Spanish friends. For more information, check out the ESN Web page: [www.esnucm.org](http://www.esnucm.org).

There have been few student strikes and demonstrations at Spanish universities in recent years, but, when they occur, it can be both politically and physically dangerous for you to be involved.

# Life in Madrid

## Housing

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### **Academic year and fall students:**

As a required component of the program, the first two weeks you will be housed\* in double rooms in a residencia de estudiantes, a high-rise student dormitory on the Complutense campus. Other international students and Spaniards who are retaking final exams will be in residence with you. This housing arrangement includes three meals a day, until the morning of the scheduled move-out day, typically the end of the second week of September. Exact dates will be confirmed prior to arrival in Madrid.

### **Spring semester students:**

You will be housed\* in a private room in a Spanish household with breakfast, supper and laundry for the first month in Madrid. Semester students seek other housing alternatives after the first month, but also have the option of staying in their initial placements. The housing provider, Europa Plus will contact you with the details of your housing prior to the program. If you decide to stay the entire semester with your homestay, let EP know at least one week before the end of your stay. Financial arrangements will be worked out directly with EP. You'll receive more details in upcoming correspondence.

*\*Each WIP institution handles separately how their own students are billed for these housing arrangements.*

## **Housing Search**

Prior to arrival you should consider what type of housing arrangement best suits you for the semester or the academic year. Students will be given the option to rent a room in a shared apartment (with students or young working Spaniards) or live in a homestay. Please read the sections on each arrangement below.

Some fall semester students have found it challenging to rent an apartment since the leases are usually for six months or longer in Madrid (read the section Apartments below for more specifics), but may be able to do so by paying for the extra months.

It is not uncommon for a student who has not found housing during their initial housing arrangement to set up other temporary lodgings (with the help of WIP staff) rather than make a hurried commitment to a poor housing choice.

The WIP program staff will actively assist in the search for long term housing by providing resources and strategies. They will pass along recommendations and evaluations from former students and information on (limited) rooms available through program contacts, assist you by providing the different Web pages that post housing ads and showing you how to use them in orientation, indicate the locations of the most frequently used bulletin boards, assist you with tips and advice, help you evaluate various neighborhoods, etc.

Ultimately, the initiative and the effort rest with you. You must read and respond to housing ads, search out and post bulletin board notices in and around the facultades

(estudiante norteamericano/a busca...), pound the pavement in areas where you'd like to live, ask porteros (doormen) about neighborhood vacancies, etc. Finding housing will be one of the most significant and difficult challenges you will face during the first months in Spain, but also one of your most rewarding accomplishments. Don't panic, however. There will be plenty of free time for you to seek housing.

Most WIP students select housing that is an average commute of 20-50 minutes from the university. Furnishings in apartments and private homes include basic furniture, bedding (but not towels), shower curtain, hangers, kitchen utensils, study table and usually a study lamp. Appliances include a washing machine, microwave, stove top and television. An oven, clothes dryer, rugs, irons, and ironing boards are less common. Closet space is limited. Telephone lines are not common, since most people in Spain use their cell phones, and Internet is becoming more common in apartments, but is not found in all of them, so be sure to ask about it during your housing search.

**Important Note:** All legal and financial responsibilities for rental agreements rest solely with the students involved. The Program staff can serve only in an advisory capacity. You are ultimately responsible for choosing your housing. But you may wish to have the WIP staff review any leases or contracts before you sign them.

### **Apartments:**

Renting a room in a shared apartment is an attractive option for many foreign students who come to Madrid, and thus, competition can often be fierce. Benefits include: the freedom that apartment living offers, the chance to live with European, Spanish, and Hispanic students, the opportunity to interact with the culture in securing everyday goods and services, the freedom to cook what and when you want, and the chance to budget your living expenses. You can locate apartments with Spanish students by consulting several apartment search Web pages that you will be given upon arrival in the housing section of your Madrid on-site manual. In the housing orientation, these Web pages will be discussed and their use explained.

If you would prefer to live in an apartment, it is best to wait until you are in Madrid in order to view the apartments advertised online or through housing agencies *in person*, since online photos can be deceiving and it would be best to check out the neighborhood (and possibly meet the roommates) before committing to a lease.

Finding an apartment in Madrid is just as hard as finding one in any big city in the U.S.; it requires patience. The majority of students find a room within 15 days after seeing an average of 7-10 apartments. Use the same caution in selecting compatible roommates (whether Spanish or any other nationality) that you would use at home. For example, many Spaniards smoke. Decide in advance whether this is an acceptable characteristic in a roommate. The ideal apartment would have native Spanish speakers living there and perhaps other foreign students as well. Students should try to avoid living with other Americans and look for roommates who do not speak English.

You are required to pay the first month's rent in advance, and also a security deposit (fianza) equal to one or two months of rent. The majority of landlords in Madrid will require a minimum 5-6 month lease in order to rent a room. Should this be the case and you are staying for less time, you may need to pay the entire semester's rent. The cost of utilities (gastos) will vary according to the use of heat, hot water, and electricity by all who live there; abuses are shared by all. As in the U.S., moving into an apartment necessitates buying miscellaneous items to set up housekeeping, which makes the

first month the most expensive. In the appendix at the end of this handbook you will find useful vocabulary to help you prepare.

**Living at a Homestay:**

For many years, spring semester students have been housed for the first month in a homestay organized through the housing provider Europa Plus, with the option of staying on for the semester. The homestays are carefully selected and reviewed by WIP staff in Madrid, and students are assigned to them based on their specific needs and by paying as close attention as possible to personal preferences. This housing provider can also arrange homestays for AY and fall semester students. Academic year and fall students interested in this option can contact Europa Plus for more details on how to make a reservation, while spring students can think it over during the first month and commit to staying on once they are in Madrid. You will receive information and contact details in your acceptance materials.

Home will be an apartment (piso) rather than a house, for almost all *Madrileños* live in buildings of six to eight floors. In most cases, your homestay will be a señora, usually a widow with or without children. In others, your homestay could be comprised of several different family members with or without children. In a Spanish home, you will be allowed independence but will have to adopt your homestay’s daily schedule, especially meal times. The homestay arranged through Europa Plus includes two meals: a light, continental breakfast (coffee and toast) and a full dinner. Your clothes will also be washed for you.

The benefits of living in a homestay include gaining insights into Spanish culture and having the opportunity to speak Spanish every day, eat traditional Spanish food, live in a comfortable home with a more family feel to it, and develop a relationship with family members. Such a relationship is built on mutual understanding and consideration. Students who are most successful in homestays observe the customs of not bringing friends of the opposite sex to the house, not staying out too late every night, call when they are going to be late for a meal, and are conscious of the use of resources like water and electricity.

**Student Dormitory:**

As a required component of the program, academic year and fall semester students have their lodging arranged in a student residence (dormitory) on the edge of the Complutense campus for the first two weeks. Students stay in double rooms with another student from the program. Three daily meals are included, as well as fruit and water throughout the day. There are self-service coin-operated machines for doing laundry, a weight room and an activity center.

**Health Insurance**  
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Program fees paid by WIP students include a group health insurance policy that will cover a range of medical situations, including emergency medical evacuation. All students will be required to pay in cash immediately after all medical treatment and then apply for reimbursement from the U.S. insurance company. In some cases, students can contact the group health insurance provider for their university to arrange for a guarantee of payment, and only be required to show your insurance card when you go in for the doctor’s appointment. You will receive more information upon arrival.

## Medical Care

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Upon arrival you will receive the WIP Madrid program manual. Inside there is a section on Medical Matters with the names and phone numbers of recommended doctors. The American Association of Programs in Spain (AAPS/APUNE) has negotiated reduced rates for its students with two well-known clinics; both have English-speaking general physicians and specialists. When hospitalization is required, all necessary medical services can be arranged. Similar Arrangements can also be made for non-routine dental care and extractions. When you go to a clinic or physician, take along the necessary claim forms to be filled out for insurance reimbursement or consult in the WIP Madrid program manual which clinic accepts your group insurance without charge for the visit.

If you need a specialist while in Madrid for a chronic medical condition, let staff know prior to arrival so that they can assist you in finding an English-speaking specialist in Madrid. You should also check the list of recommended specialists that can be obtained from the group insurance provider for your home university.

If you regularly take a prescription medicine, you should bring a supply with you for the entire year or semester if possible. Spanish law prohibits prescription medicine to be shipped to Spain by mail, and will be confiscated in customs. (See the Shipping section for more details on items that cannot be shipped to Spain). If necessary, a Spanish doctor can prescribe your medicine to you here provided that you have the main ingredients of the medicine along with a prescription and diagnosis from your U.S. doctor.

## Money and Banking

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The European Union monetary unit is the Euro. The Euro functions similarly to the U.S. dollar in that it is subdivided into 100 cents. There are eight Euro coins denominated in 2 and 1 Euros, then 50, 20, 10, 5, 2, and 1 cents. Each Euro coin has a common European face and a face designed by each country that can be used in every country. There are seven Euro notes which are differently sized and colored, and come in denominations of 500, 200, 100, 50, 20, 10, and 5. The notes, unlike the coins, do not have national sides and are completely uniform. For more information about the Euro, the European Union, and related topics, check the EU website: <http://europa.eu>.

**Work out a budget for the year, for each semester.** You should calculate how much money you can spend on a monthly basis during your year abroad. This will help you, as you will know what your monthly limit is for rent, leisure, food, personal items, books, and travel.

**Bring an ATM card and its four-digit PIN.** With it you can withdraw funds directly from your U.S. account at many ATM machines in Madrid and throughout Europe at very favorable exchange rates. Be sure to check with your bank to see if you need an international PIN. European keypads do not have letters, so know your 4-digit PIN.

**Important Note:** Prior to your departure from the U.S., check on the ATM fees that your home bank will charge you abroad. Often they charge a surcharge and commission every time you take money out. You also must alert your bank of the dates you will be studying abroad. Otherwise, they may cancel your card once they receive international charges thinking that it has been stolen or is being used fraudulently. Be sure you are

able to access enough money to pay your security deposit, first month's rent and money for transportation and meals for this initial time.

Since traveler's and personal checks deposited into a Spanish bank take up to 21 days to clear, students will rely entirely on their ATM cards for the first few weeks in Spain.

**Bring a credit card and its four-digit PIN.** VISA and MasterCard (students have had mixed results with American Express and Diner's Club) are accepted for purchases and services, and can also be used to obtain cash advances but at a much higher rate than using an ATM card. Charges are billed to your account in the U.S. Visa is the most widely accepted bank card in Western Europe. Before leaving for Spain you must contact your credit card company and give them the dates that you will be out of the U.S. and notify them that you will be using your credit card while you are there. That way they will accept international charges on your card without suspecting that it may have been stolen and is being used fraudulently.

**Reloadable Prepaid Credit/Debit cards.** A few students have used products that work as pre-paid reloadable credit cards or debit cards. They are not linked to any bank account, and students or their families can reload the cards (there are many plans and balances to choose from). These cards reportedly can be used in stores and cash machines. One student strongly recommends the company Travelex that offers the "multi-currency cash passport currency card" that she has used for the semester with ease. Students from other American universities in Spain have used a product that Mastercard offers, called "Spark Mastercard". Both of these options can be found online.

**Opening an account at Banco Santander in Madrid.** One branch of the Banco Santander, whose office is across the street from our building, permits WIP students to open a bank account there if they choose to do so. The account costs 7 euros to open with a 3 euro monthly account fee. You can transfer money into the account two ways: by making an international wire transfer from the U.S. or writing a check to yourself from your account at home and essentially "depositing" it into your Spanish bank account. Your family can deposit dollars in your U.S. checking account, and then you can get access to the funds. When you deposit a check in your Spanish account it will take 21 days to clear and cost around 30 euros. A wire transfer will take 6-10 days, and cost between 50-60 euros. You need to have another source of money to count on during the first few weeks of the program since you will need to pay a security deposit for your apartment, the first month's rent, get a cell phone, and pay for transportation and meals.

After an account at the Banco Santander has been established, you will receive a debit card that provides 24-hour access to your account at thousands of locations in Western Europe.

**About traveler's checks.** Traveler's checks are not common in Spain and are only practical if you want to deposit them into a Spanish bank account (please read above).

## Savvy Traveler Tips

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Before traveling too far, check out these sights and activities in Madrid:

- Basílica de San Francisco el Grande
- Casa de América
- Centro de Arte Reina Sofía
- Jardín Botánico
- Museo Arqueológico
- Museo Thyssen-Bornemisza
- Museo del Ejército
- Museo del Prado
- Palacio Real
- Parque del Retiro
- Plaza Mayor
- Real Monasterio de San Lorenzo de El Escorial
- San Nicolás de las Servitas

Some students have brought them in case of an emergency but they cannot be used in stores since they are regarded as international checks that have a waiting period. American Express traveler's checks are recommended, since there is no commission at the bank when you cash or deposit them. VISA traveler's checks DO have a commission. However, students report that they rarely used their traveler's checks. They relied on their ATM cards. Of course, those students who had situations where they were not able to use their cards and had to rely on traveler's checks to obtain money were very glad that they brought them along. Traveler's checks take up to 21 days to clear after being deposited, so it is best to deposit them right away and use your ATM card for the first couple of weeks that you are in Spain.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** Third-party checks (e.g. financial aid and personal checks from relatives back home) are non-negotiable in Spain! Arrange to have these funds deposited to your account in the U.S. and then access the funds in Spain via one of the means mentioned above. Money orders from the U.S. are not accepted. However, there are several Western Union offices in Madrid that can be used as long as the sender gives you a tracking number. You will receive information in your welcome materials in Madrid about this, as well as about other options of accessing money.

## Telephones

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Having a cell phone (móvil) is a basic necessity in Madrid. This is not only for you to contact friends and family, but also so that WIP staff can contact you in any type of security emergency. You will need to have a Spanish number in order for staff to contact you and for Spanish friends to call you.

A few students have tried using American phone operator plans on their American cell phones in Spain and have had very mixed results. The plans promise a cheap rate for phone use in Spain (both making and receiving calls), but the reality is quite different. Despite assurances to the contrary, Spanish cell phones are really charged a higher rate because of the international area code. It is costly for others to call you, and therefore, they don't. Students who have tried this have all ended up purchasing a Spanish flip phone, and have had to carry around two phones in Madrid.

Most students use iPhones and smart phones, and the most practical option for you is to "unlock" your U.S. cell phone by calling your service provider, or bringing an already unlocked phone with you and purchasing a Spanish SIM card and data plan here through a Spanish operator.

There are four main phone operators with different data plans:

- Orange: [www.orange.es](http://www.orange.es)
- Yoigo: [www.yoigo.com](http://www.yoigo.com)
- Vodafone: [www.vodafone.es/particulares](http://www.vodafone.es/particulares)
- Movistar: [www.movistar.es/particulares](http://www.movistar.es/particulares)

Students usually use the WhatsApp messaging application here (accessed through a data plan or WIFI) and are sure to have a cheap rate per minute for calls. They also tend to use the Skype application for calling family in the U.S.

## Public Transportation

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You will save a lot on metro (subway) and bus transportation with a combination bus and metro transportation card, called the Tarjeta de Transporte, which is a laminated ID card that you can charge for 30-day periods.

Your study abroad office will immediately ask you to submit three photos of yourself and a very clear scanned copy of the passport page that has your name on it. The passport must be signed before you scan it (it is only considered valid once it is signed). The quality of the scan must allow for it to be perfectly legible when printed. If you submit the materials promptly, the Madrid staff can arrange for a transportation pass to be ready for you upon arrival, meaning you can charge it at a metro station and immediately have unlimited access for 30 days to the subway and bus. This is the most economical mode of transport in the city. If you do not, you will need to make an appointment to go to the transportation authorities to apply for this pass and then return 4 days later to pick it up.

## Volunteerism

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Program participants have told us that volunteering in local social agencies helped them get better integrated into the culture. Volunteering requires a serious commitment, and most organizations will only accept students who make a commitment to service for the entire school year. The WIP program has contact information for the main NGOs and student volunteering organizations of interest. Although it may be challenging to find the right situation and get involved, you will find these opportunities rewarding in the end. Volunteering is an opportunity to gain insight on many cultural aspects that you otherwise would not be exposed to, and work towards community-driven goals with Spaniards your age.

A number have also found *intercambios* (language partners) a useful way to improve their language skills. The program organizes an *intercambio* program that pairs interested students with Spanish students at the Complutense. Many later comment that it was through these contacts that they made their closest Spanish friends and learned the most about Spanish culture. Students who spend the year only with other program participants regret leaving Madrid without getting to know the city and its inhabitants.

## Packing

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Pack light! European students do not vary their dress as frequently as students in the U.S. do, and closet space in Spain will be limited. The Madrid winter is seldom severe, but it is sometimes wet and cold. Indoor heating is often inadequate, so bring warm, lightweight clothing you can wear in layers. The effect should be casual and comfortable, but not sloppy. You can purchase almost any item of clothing in Spain, although some are more expensive there than in the U.S. Cosmetics, feminine hygiene supplies, razors, contact lens solution, etc. are widely available, but more costly.

Spanish students dress much like their peers on U.S. campuses, except that they do not wear sweatshirts, sweatpants, or baseball hats to class; they dress slightly more fashionably. Otherwise, plan on dressing in the same style comfortable for you in the U.S. One semi-formal outfit is recommended for special occasions like dining out in a nice restaurant.

## Packing Suggestions

- Clothing that is easily washed and drip-dried (Dryers are not common in apartments.)
- Warm winter coat, winter boots, rain coat, gloves, scarf, travel umbrella
- Sports clothes for the activities you enjoy
- Sturdy shoes (You'll do lots of walking.)
- Thermal underwear (for travelling to colder climates in winter), slippers, robe
- Swim suit
- Shower shoes (for use in the student dorm and while staying with host families)
- Two bath towels, two washcloths
- Toiletries (only if you are particular about American brands, or prefer antiperspirant-deodorant to more basic deodorant found in Spain)
- Your laptop and a USB flash drive
- An adaptor plug for Spanish outlets for your laptop, iPhone or iPod chargers (providing that they are set up to convert to the 220 voltage). \*See note on *electrical appliances* under section of what NOT to pack.
- Materials from Spanish culture courses
- A good student-oriented travel guide like Lonely Planet
- Camera
- Journal or diary
- Addresses and photos of family and friends back home
- Map of the U.S. for sharing with host family and Spanish friends
- Checkbook from U.S. bank account (if you plan to open a bank account here and transfer money)
- Paperback cookbook, favorite recipes and a conversion chart from American measuring cups and spoons to metric units
- Small items you can use for gifts
- Money belt or money neck pouch
- Locks for luggage and backpack
- Thermometer and remedies for colds and minor intestinal disorders
- Latex condoms and other birth control supplies
- Copies of prescriptions for eyeglasses and contact lenses (extras, if possible)
- Prescriptions for medications written clearly in generic (not brand name) terms, with the chemical composition clearly written
- All manuals and materials given to you by your study abroad office

**Computers:** You will find word processing, e-mail, and printing facilities accessible throughout Madrid at reasonable hourly rates, but you should bring a laptop computer if you have one. Spain is primarily a PC country with few Macintosh computers, so Mac users should know how to convert your documents for printing on a PC. Be certain that any computer is already set up to run on 220 current (most are). Then all you will need is the adapter plug that fits into Spanish wall sockets (available in Spain).

**Do not mail your laptop.** If you do, you may have to pay a duty on their commercial value, which is high. Instead, bring the laptop with you on the plane. Be sure the battery is charged, because airport security personnel may ask you to turn it on when you go through security. Bring a USB flash drive for saving and printing your documents. The computer room does not offer printing services, and the printing window at the Facultad does not allow you to access your e-mail to print.

**\*Do not pack:**

**Bedding or housewares.** In Spain, bed linens are provided in about half the housing. You may purchase them in department stores when necessary. There are several IKEAs in Madrid that you can get to on the subway.

**Electrical appliances.** The U.S. operates on 110 volt alternating current (AC), whereas Spain (and much of the rest of the world) runs on 220 volt AC. As a result most U.S. electrical items do not work in Spain because the motor runs twice as fast as it is designed to do and is soon burned out or damaged. Check to see that your hair dryer is dual voltage, and bring an adapter plug.

If you plan to take a camera, computer, or watch with you, carry a receipt showing U.S. purchase or check with U.S. customs to avoid the risk of paying duty when you return home. You may want to consider getting insurance for expensive appliances (e.g. laptop computer). Check with your insurance agent.

## Shipping

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**Be sure to share this information with parents or others who may send you a package.**

If you must ship items to Spain, address packages to the program office and time their arrival for after you are in Madrid. The U.S. Embassy in Madrid does not recommend receiving packages because of the numerous problems they have been alerted of by Americans about the costly and unreliable postal system. There is no guarantee you will receive your package. Packages mailed to the program are not always delivered directly to the WIP office. Instead, the postal service delivers a notification, and the package is held at the post office. If the package arrives in August or December when the office is closed, no one will pick it up and it will be returned to the United States.

Address packages to yourself in care of the WIP office. Use the full and complete address, including postal code. Limit yourself to sturdy cardboard boxes. There are many regulations about what types of items you may send to Spain. Books can be sent by mail at special book rates. Check with your local post office about dimensions, prices, and import regulations.

**Prescription medicine:** According to Spanish law, you may not have prescription drugs sent to you from the U.S. You must bring a supply with you for the entire year, or go to a Spanish doctor to have the equivalent prescription (if available) prescribed to you in Spain. You must therefore know the main ingredients of any prescription drug you are taking in its generic name terms, since brand names are sometimes very different in Spain from their U.S. equivalent. Talk to your doctor before departing for Spain.

**Filling out the customs form:** For customs purposes, the sender of any package sent to you will have to fill out a "green sticker" identifying the contents of the package. **WARNING:** The person sending you the package will have to put an estimated value on the sticker. This is not for insurance purposes, but is considered the "commercial" value

of the contents. Consequently, if the price is over a certain amount, you will be liable for customs duty here and may have to pay a tax to pick up your package. Therefore, be sure the value is less than \$20. Under "content" on the green slip write "No commercial value" and "used items for personal use" to explain the content of snacks and other things friends and family send you. This makes it clear that you are not importing merchandise and may help avoid paying an import tax. If the package contains a valuable item or document which must be sent, register it and only ship items with a low value.

**Taxable items:** iPhones, smart phones, iPods, computers and their components (cables, chargers, etc.), CDs, DVDs, video games, cameras, and all other electronics are almost always stopped at customs and taxed according to Spanish law. The minimum tax is 21% of the estimated value of the item(s). Other duties and handling surcharges are also applied. Packages with a declared value over \$20 will most likely be stopped and taxed.

**Sending snacks from the US:** Many times, friends and family spend a lot of money shipping snacks to Spain, and unfortunately Spanish customs lately has been stopping them. Many things not allowed: homemade cookies, beef jerky or any other meat product, vitamins and other health supplements, and the list is growing as imports become more restricted. There are several American food stores in Madrid where you can purchase the snacks you love and miss. It is more costly than in the U.S., but in the long run saves you money and headaches since recovering a package from customs is extremely expensive and you may find half of the contents of your package missing and many others opened and inspected.

## Predeparture Reading

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Before studying abroad, you should read about the history and culture of Spain. This not only will prepare you for the many cultural differences, but it will also give you an advantage for making Spanish friends. Most Spaniards enjoy talking about international politics and refer to Spanish history often as well. Nothing horrifies Spaniards more than the stereotypical foreigner that knows little about other countries or global current affairs, especially when Spain is involved in them. Spain is a complex country with a fascinating history that leaves no Spaniard indifferent. Such distant events as the Spanish Civil War and the Franco Regime still produce animated debate and very passionate viewpoints.

You will find that the more you know about Spaniards and Spain before arrival, the easier it will be to make friends and express yourself well in informal conversations.

It is strongly recommended that you read Spanish newspapers before arrival to become familiar with current issues. El País can be accessed at [www.elpais.com](http://www.elpais.com) and El Mundo at [www.elmundo.es](http://www.elmundo.es). Another useful website is [www.timeout.com/madrid](http://www.timeout.com/madrid), a city guide (in English) that gives you an idea of what to expect once you arrive. Wikipedia is another favorite.

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## Safety in Madrid

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Madrid is a big city, and you should take the same common sense security precautions there that you would in Chicago or New York. Traffic is very intense throughout the city and drivers quite unpredictable. Do not cross the street only based on the pedestrian crosswalk indicators. You should additionally look both ways and proceed with caution.

During your orientation week in Spain you will be advised about the kind of street-wise behavior that will help protect you from petty crime. **A handful of program participants last year were victims of a petty crime incident.** Pickpocketing is the most common security issue you will face. To combat it, avoid carrying your passport or other important documents when you go out; instead, make a photocopy to keep with you at all times. Do not carry large sums of money on you, and keep an eye on your backpack, purse, and cell phone AT ALL TIMES, particularly in bars, discos, and cyber cafes. **Men should keep wallets in either shirt or front pants pocket and when women carry a purse we recommend a small one with the opening turned inward, on a strap across your body.**

**Keep identification on you at all times, even when participating in sports, exercise or other leisure pastimes.**

An additional safety precaution necessary in Madrid is paying close attention to possible gas fumes from a malfunctioning *calentador* (water heater) in your home or apartment. If the apparatus is located in the bathroom, you might want to keep the window ajar while you're using it, just in case of a malfunction that could create carbon monoxide.

# Vacation Travel

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## **Trains**

For travel within Spain, investigate Spanish national rail passes or buy individual tickets from town to town. For travel outside Spain, check out Eurail passes, which permit travel throughout Western Europe for various periods at reduced cost. Eurail passes must be purchased in the U.S. InterRail passes may be purchased by AY students who can show proof of official legal residence in Spain of 6 months (by showing their student residency cards).

## **Rental Cars**

Car rental fees in Europe are expensive, and gasoline costs considerably more than in the U.S. To rent a car from most companies, you must be 23 years old and have a major credit card. International driving permits are available in the United States through AAA.

## **Bicycles**

Madrid is not a bicycle-friendly city, but WIP students have enjoyed rewarding cycling experiences in Spain. Various Madrid cycling clubs offer planned regional excursions. Special care must be taken in route planning and safety. Bicycles can be rented for the day in Madrid, and the tourism office has organized several guided bike tours of the city.

## **Planes**

Commercial air travel within Europe is expensive; but there are many low cost operators with flights to most major European cities. You must be careful to read the fine print since many charge for baggage, and additional fees apply when you don't have your ticket printed out beforehand, etc. The most popular operators are Ryanair and Easyjet. There are also numerous student trips organized with interesting destinations, particularly at vacation time, at bargain prices. Check with the student travel bureaus in Madrid (TIVE, Disfruta Madrid Más, CityLife, Madrid, CanWeCome and the Erasmus Student Network) for details.

## **Youth Hostels**

Youth hostels provide clean, inexpensive, albeit spartan accommodations throughout Western Europe. You must have a hostel card to spend the night at official Hostelling International member hostels. You may apply for a hostel card online at [www.hiusa.org](http://www.hiusa.org). Membership can also be purchased in Spain or at any youth hostel overseas. Call ahead for reservations in big cities or on weekends.

# Appendix A

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Familiarize yourself now with the vocabulary used here so that your housing search goes smoothly.

## Housing Vocabulary

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### A

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*a/a* - aire acondicionado (air conditioning)  
*absténganse agencias* - agencies abstain from calling  
*abstenerse estudiantes* - no students  
*acogedora* - cozy  
*a convenir* - negotiable  
*acristaladas* - terrace with glass windows  
*a estrenar* - brand new  
*agua caliente central* - hot central water  
*alcoba* - bedroom  
*alojamiento* - lodging  
*alquiler de pisos y apartamentos* - renting of apartments  
*ambiente familiar* - family atmosphere  
*amueblado* - furnished  
*apartamento* - apartment  
*a partir* - after (for calling purposes)  
*apto.* - apartment  
*armario* - closet (*armario empotrado* - built-in closet)  
*aseo* - bathroom  
*ascensor* - elevator  
*aval* - references needed, bank guarantee

### B

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*bajo* - ground floor  
*balcón* - balcony  
*bombona* - butane gas tank  
*brasero* - electric heater under table  
*buhardilla* - attic  
*butano* - butane gas

### C

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*calefacción central* - central heat  
*calefactor* - space heater  
*calentador* - water heater

*c/c* - calefacción central  
*casa particular* - private home  
*céntrico* - located in or near center  
*cocina* - kitchen  
*cocina americana* - kitchenette  
*cómodo* - comfortable  
*compartida/o* - shared  
*comunidad* - sum paid by residents of a building to cover "community" expenses (trash pick-up, portero, etc.)  
*conserje* - doorman/ caretaker  
*contestador* - answering machine

### D

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*derecho a cocina* - kitchen privileges  
*derecho a todo* - privileges to everything  
*doble ventana* - double windows (2 panels)  
*dormitorio* - bedroom  
*dueño* - owner

### E

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*electrodomésticos* - stove, refrigerator, washing machine  
*enseña portero* - doorman shows the apartment  
*"que entienda"* - LGBT  
*estudio* - studio apartment  
*exterior* - a room who's window faces the street  
*ext.* - exterior  
*estufa butano* - heater run by butane

### F

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*fianza* - security deposit  
*formal* - mature, responsible  
*frigorífico* - refrigerator  
*funcionario* - public employee  
*fumador* - smoker

## G

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*gas butano* - butane gas

*gas natural* - natural gas

*gastos* - utilities

*gastos de comunidad* - sum paid by residents of a building to cover "community" expenses (trash pick up, portero)

## I

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*inquilino* - tenant

*interior* - room whose window does not face the outside (could be dark)

*int.* - interior

*indv.* - individual

## L

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*lavadora* - washing machine

*lavaplatos* - dishwasher

*lavavajillas* - dishwasher

*liberal* - do not look into announcements that ask for a "chico/a liberal" (it translates roughly as "loose morals")

*limpieza* - cleaning

*lujo* - luxury

*luminosa/o* - well-lighted

## M

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*media pensión* - some meals included

*mensualidad* - monthly payment

*microondas* - microwave oven

*moqueta* - wall to wall carpeting

## N

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*nevera* - refrigerator

*nómina* - proof of employment in Spain (paycheck)

*no fumador* - non smoker

## O

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*opositores* - people preparing exams to be civil servants

## P

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*parabólica* - TV satellite

*particular* - private owner

*parquet* - wood floors

*pensión completa* - three meals a day provided

*piso* - apartment

*piso amplio* - spacious apartment

*piso a estrenar* - brand-new apartment

*planchado de ropa* - ironing

*plaza* - room, space

*polideportivo* - sports complex

*portero* - doorman

*portero automático* - buzzer

*propano* - propane

*precio a convenir* - price negotiable

*puerta blindada* - security door

## R

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*radiador* - radiator

*recién pintado* - recently painted

*referencias (con)* - personal references needed

*reformado* - reformed (renovated)

*responsable* - mature people

*ropa de cama/casa* - sheets, blankets

## S

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*salón/salón comedor* - living room

*señal* - a token payment or deposit

*soleada/o* - sunny

*sólo dormir* - a room and access to the bathroom, no kitchen or living room, for people who work long hours and don't spend much time at home. Not for students.

*solvente* - proof of financial solvency (ability to pay)

*sótano* - basement apartment

## T

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*terraza* - terrace

*termo* - water heater

## U

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*urbanización (urb.)* - in the suburbs (far)

## V

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*vacío/sin muebles* - unfurnished

*vajilla* - kitchen goods

*ventiladas* - breezy (well-ventilated)

## W

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*w.c.* - bathroom

# Appendix B

## Madrid Housing Statistics AY 2016-17

### How Students Found Housing

Online Housing web pages	<i>Idealistia</i>	17	35.4%	68.7%
	<i>Easypiso</i>	6	12.4%	
	<i>Loquo</i>	1	4.8%	
WIP Office Contacts		7	29.2%	29.2%
Europa Plus		4	9.5%	9.5%
Family Friends		1	2.4%	2.4%
Posted Sign		1	2.4%	2.4%

- 100% of students have Internet at home.

### Apartment Search Timeline

Time frame when students found an apartment	No. of students who found an apartment	Percentage of total students	Average total # of pisos visited
Before Arrival	0	0%	--
Aug. 27 - Sept. 1	8 (5 WIP contacts)	66.7%	4.4
Sept. 2 - 6	4 (2 WIP contacts)	33.3%	7
Sept. 7 - 11	0	0%	--
<b>Total</b>	<b>12 (7 WIP Contacts)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>5</b>

- AY students have two weeks of initial housing provided while they are apartment hunting.

# Rent Prices

Rent Prices (in Euros)	No. of students who rent in this price range	No. of students who must pay add'l utilities	Percentage this price range makes of the 12 students
€ 300-359	4 ( 1 WIP Contact)	2	33.3%
€ 360-399	4 (3 WIP Contacts)	3	33.3%
€ 400-420	2	1	16.7%
€ 421+	2	1	16.7%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>12 (7 WIP Contacts)</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>-</b>

- Average rent for 12 students overall: € 382.08
- Average rent factoring in utilities: € 399.58

Academic Year	Rent Price (in Euros)	Rent Price (in Dollars)	Exchange Rate
2015-16	€ 379	\$425	1 : 1.122
2014-15	€ 373	\$491	1 : 1.317
2013-14	€ 390	\$521	1 : 1.336
2012-13	€ 382	\$495	1 : 1.295

- In order to check the exchange rate and use the Currency Calculator, consult [www.x-rates.com](http://www.x-rates.com)

# Appendix C

## Madrid Housing Statistics Fall 2017

### How Students Found Housing

Homestays (Europa Plus)	21	50%
Family	1	2.4%
Search before arrival	8	19%
Onsite Search	12	28.6%

- 17 of the homestays were arranged before arrival
- 3 of the apartments found onsite were WIP contacts

### Apartment Search Timeline

Time frame when students found an apartment	No. of students who found an apartment	Percentage of total students	Average total # of pisos visited
Prior to program	8	40%	0
Aug. 27 - Sept. 1	6 (1 WIP contact)	30%	3.4
Sept. 2 - Sept. 6	3 (2 WIP contacts)	15%	4.3
Sept. 7 - Sept. 11	3	15%	6.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>20 (3 from WIP contacts)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

- Students who chose to arrange housing before arrival paid significantly more in rent.
- There are fewer shared apartments available to students staying only through the Fall semester and the search took longer for those students to find an landlord willing to take a shorter lease.

## Rent Prices (for students who searched onsite)

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Rent Prices (in Euros)	No. of students who rent in this price range	No. of students who must pay add'l utilities	Percentage this price range makes of the 37 students
€ 300-359	2	1	16.7%
€ 360-399	1	0	8.3%
€ 400-420	2	0	16.7%
€ 421+	7	6	58.3%
Totals	12 students	7 (58.3%)	--

- Average rent in a student apartment: € 432.1
- Average rent in a student apartment factoring in utilities: € 449.58
- 4 students (25%) were required to rent 1-2 additional months to meet minimum lease requirements
- In order to check the exchange rate and calculate in dollars, use the Currency Calculator: <http://www.x-rates.com/>

## Rent Prices (for students who arranged before arrival)

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The 8 students who arranged housing prior to arrival onsite paid significantly more for rent, averaging € 592.30, **not including utilities**.