



POLITÉCNICA

CAMPUS
DE EXCELENCIA
INTERNACIONAL

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and Internationalization

Dear Partners

The COVID-19 pandemic is still having a significant impact on the lives of the educational communities around the world, restricting travel, mobility and social interactions of people everywhere. The crisis has had a major effect on international mobility in the 2019/20 academic year and its repercussions will be felt over the next academic year, too.

This letter is to inform you that the UPM has decided to accept incoming students from partner institutions for the 2020/21 academic year, including the fall semester.

The decisions on the organization of the 2020/21 academic year have now been taken: The underlying principle is to guarantee educational equity and quality through flexible academic planning combining face-to-face and online learning to comply with the standards and factors having a bearing on the safety of all the members of the higher education community.

Based on the principles transmitted by the Erasmus programme (flexibility, transparency and generosity), we have also adapted our international mobility programmes to the new situation and are considering new formats, as well as temporary adjustments, in order to provide all exchange students that decide to join us next semester with the best possible service.

I am attaching detailed answers to some of the questions that could be useful for your students. However, if there is anything further we can do to help, please get in touch. We would also encourage you to contact the international offices at the respective schools. They will be able to provide the latest detailed academic information.

Now more than ever, we reassert our commitment to upholding the interconnectedness of our European Higher Education Area (EHEA) and helping all learners acquire international and intercultural skills.

I would like to thank you for your trust and hope we can enhance our mutual cooperation in these changing times.

Best regards,
José Miguel Atienza



Questions regarding international mobility at UPM for 2020/21

Incoming students to UPM:

UPM welcomes all international students –degree-seeking and exchange students– to UPM and Madrid this fall semester, subject to the limits and directives established by the Spanish government.

When will the academic year start?

The new academic year will start by mid-September 2020 (lectures at all our schools will start from 7 to 21 September 2020). All international students will be previously informed about the implemented safe and socially-distanced procedures. For more information, including a full academic year calendar, please contact the international relations offices at each of our schools.

What will teaching/learning be like?

UPM plans to adopt a blended learning approach for 2020/21, with a combination of face-to-face and online learning. Students will receive detailed information for each subject. Students can be assured that they will receive the highest quality teaching in line with safety guidelines.

What will happen if travel is cancelled at the last minute due to travel restrictions or if an exchange student has to return home before finishing the semester?

UPM will adopt a blended learning format for regular mobility 2020/21, with a combination of face-to-face and online learning. Our incoming study abroad and Erasmus students who are unable to get to Spain will have no trouble engaging with the parts of the courses taught online. They should be aware, however, that regular subject teaching will be planned with a focus on students participating in face-to-face activities. Indeed, some activities, especially laboratory and practical work, will require the physical presence of the student, and some of the online learning will be synchronous. Therefore, students are likely to have trouble completing subjects entirely online.

If students have to delay their arrival due to COVID-19 travel restrictions, they will be given online access to the subjects that they selected on their learning agreements as of the start of the academic year and will be able to follow these subjects virtually before they join us at UPM in person.



With respect to the eventuality of students having to return to their countries of origin due to personal problems or travel restrictions and border closures related to COVID-19, the UPM will guarantee that every international exchange student who is forced to return home during the 2020/21 academic year has the opportunity to complete their UPM subjects from their country and the right to remote assessment.

Briefly, UPM will provide support for students planning a physical mobility in Madrid whose arrival is delayed, who are obliged to return earlier than scheduled, or who have any other COVID-related problem during the semester. However, students not planning to come to Madrid in person should opt for the virtual rather than the regular (blended learning) mobility programme.

Is it possible to follow a virtual mobility programme?

UPM will open a fully virtual mobility track that students can attend from their home country. We realize that this will change the exchange experience for students, but you will come into contact with the UPM teaching/learning process within a Spanish cultural and language environment. You will learn together with Spanish and other international students in a virtual classroom and spend time together working on online assignments. There will be live online contact with the teaching staff and your fellow students during exams, group work or other educational activities.

The virtual exchange programme will be a university-wide initiative, and the number of subjects available will be limited. Detailed academic information and an academic calendar will be released in due course. At the end of the virtual exchange, you will, of course, receive a transcript of records specifying the grades that you attained. Please note that it will not be possible to travel to Spain while attending our virtual exchange programme.

Are there restrictions on entering Spain?

The situation in Spain is improving, and all borders with Europe will be open as of 1 July 2020. In any case, we recommend that all the students check with the Spanish Consulates or Embassies in their home countries.



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Can entry be deferred until January 2021?

Yes, we are being very flexible with respect to deferrals. If you already submitted your application to a UPM school or faculty and you wish to change your exchange period, please contact the international offices at the respective school and faculty for which you were nominated.

Outgoing UPM students:

We are allowing UPM students to study abroad next semester. Of course, this will depend on the conditions established by each partner. We will also support any of our students who prefer to take up a virtual mobility at universities providing this option.