

SPANISH LANGUAGE AND CULTURE COURSES IN LA RIOJA



INTRODUCTION

La Rioja region has around 325.000 inhabitants who enjoy good quality of life and a high level of public safety. It is a region rich in history, culture, heritage and traditions. La Rioja, world famous for its **wines**, is crossed by **St. James' Way**, one of the most important pilgrimage routes. The **Monasteries of San Millán de la Cogolla**, included in UNESCO's World Heritage List, are the birthplace of the oldest known written words of the Spanish Language.

The University of La Rioja is located on a modern campus in **Logroño**, capital of the region, with 153.550 inhabitants and all the facilities of a modern capital with human dimensions. Logroño has been nominated "**the best Spanish town to live**" according to the Merco City 2010 research and it is ranked within the best ten Spanish cities to study and to enjoy.

The environment characteristics, the size of the campus, a direct and close relationship with teachers and staff, guarantees **personal attention** and an ideal atmosphere of **cultural immersion** for learning Spanish as a Foreign Language. Students study in reduced groups, have free access to computer rooms, sports facilities, Library and academic activities organized by the different faculties.

The **University of La Rioja**, officially recognized as **Campus of International Excellence** by the Spanish Ministry of Education, offers within its academic program **Spanish Language and Culture Courses**. These courses, given by specialist university teachers, are addressed to students of all nationalities who want to learn Spanish or improve their level of the language, having at the same time the opportunity to deepen into the Spanish culture.

DATES

Academic course 2018-2019 will take place from October 1, 2018 to June 7, 2019 divided into three terms:

- Autumn: October 1 – December 11, 2018
- Winter: January 9 – March 15, 2019
- Spring: Marh 20 – June 7, 2019

PROGRAM

Each term consists of 150 hours Spanish language classes (3 hours per day) plus 45 hours of different courses about Spanish culture. Each term around 3-4 courses (15 hours each) are taught according to the students' preferences.

Some of the complementary courses programmed are:

- Conversation and communication practice
- Spanish for business
- Spanish Literature
- Spanish culture and civilization
- Spanish culture through its gastronomy
- Introduction to the culture and wine growing
- Mass media
- Creative writing

LEVELS

Spanish courses are offered in several levels, from A1 to C2, according to the **Common European Framework of Reference of Languages**.

The first day of each course students take a placement test to determine their level of Spanish and distribute the classes accordingly.

CERTIFICATION

Students who have successfully completed the course receive a **diploma** stating the subjects, the number of hours and the qualification obtained. This certificate can be used as a transcript to get credits at their home University.

FACULTY

All **teachers** hold a University degree and Master Degree related to Teaching of Spanish as a Second Language. Complementary courses are given by university specialist in the corresponding subjects.

Teaching materials are **Manual PRISMA** from Edinumen, which method complies with CEFRL as educational material. These are the same text books we have sent to the Spanish Department at Shandong in the past. Teachers complement the classes with a wide variety of written and visual resources according to the students' requirements.

CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

Students can participate together with local students and teachers in the cultural activities UR organizes in collaboration with the different faculties throughout the academic year: workshops, contests, conferences, season films, sport activities, choir, etc. These extra-curricular activities will allow SDU students to interact with local students.

There are several **trips and visits** organized during the course all included (below activities may be replaced by other destinations if required):

- Guided tour to the *historic quarter* of Logroño the first day of the course
- *Monastery of San Millán de La Cogolla* (cradle of the first words written in Spanish and included in UNESCO World Heritage List in 1996).
- *Wine Culture Museum Dinastía Vivanco*.
- *Medieval town of La Guardia*, 17 km far from Logroño. Under the streets of the town, there lies an extraordinary secret: the entire subsoil of the town is riddled with ancient wineries or "caves", excavated underneath the streets.
- *Rioja wineries*.
- *Najera*, 24 km far from Logroño, one of the towns on the Pilgrim's Route to Santiago de Compostela. Monastery of Santa María La Real.
- Walk one stretch of the Way of St James becoming a pilgrim for one day

And from Logroño, students will be able to travel around Spain and around Europe during holiday periods.

ACCOMMODATION

- **Halls of residence around the campus:**

There are several halls of residence in Logroño. Most students choose La Ribera, located close to the campus. All rooms are equipped with furniture, kitchen with all amenities, telephone, Internet connection (WIFI), complete bathroom, bath towels and bed sheets with blankets (bed linen and towels are changed once a week).

Cost:

Individual room, small kitchen shared with another room and private bathroom: 400 €

Double room with private bathroom and private kitchen: 300 €/each

Registration fee: 50 €

- **Local host families**

Families are carefully selected by the Foundation of the University of La Rioja and have experience hosting international students. They will help students with the arrangements they need to make when they arrive in Logroño. Full board: breakfast, lunch and dinner

Cost:

One student per family: 650 €/month

Two students per family: 550 €/month each

Administration fee: 50€

- **Shared flats**

UR offers students a list of available flats in Logroño. We strongly advice not to book from China but once students are in Logroño and can see the apartments personally.

Average cost (depending on the flat): 200-250 €/month + general expenses (light, water, heating).

Registration fee includes:

- Tuition fee
- Insurance
- Educational materials
- Guided tours around the city, tourist sites and museums as well as to nearby places of interest
- Certificates and diplomas
- Accommodation information
- Access to the University of La Rioja facilities

PROPOSAL

We have prepared two different options for **ECJTU** students:

1. **Spanish Language and Culture Courses: two terms course**

Academic program: 300 hours Spanish Language + 90 hours Spanish Culture

Dates: from October 1, 2018 to March 15, 2019

Tuition fee: 2.345 Euros

2. **Spanish Language and Culture Courses: academic year + 1 UR degree subject**

Academic program: 450 hours Spanish Language + 135 hours Spanish Culture + 60 hours UR degree subject (optional)

Dates: from October 1, 2018 to June 7, 2019

Tuition fee: 3.345 Euros

Option 2 allows students to combine the Academic year of the Spanish Language and Culture program with one regular class at the Spanish Studies Faculty of UR together with Spanish students (optional). It has no extra cost for ECJTU students.

Additional information:

www.unirioja.es/espanol

espanol@unirioja.es