

WELCOME TO ALCALÁ DE HENARES



Universidad
de Alcalá





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THINGS TO KNOW

- Intro to Spain
- Transportation
- Cell Phones
- Tourism
- Supplies
- Host Families
- Residence Hall
- What to Pack
- FAQs
- First Day in Spain



A QUICK INTRO TO SPAIN

- Population: Spain 46.6 million; Madrid 6.5 million; Alcalá de Henares 215,000.
- Climate: dry and little rainfall, hot summers and cold winters.
- Alcalá de Henares:
 - +1000 years of History
 - UNESCO World Heritage Site
 - City of Cervantes
 - Safest large city in the Region of Madrid
- A typical greeting includes a handshake or a kiss on both cheeks in informal introductions.
- Tipping is not common in Spain; however, some may leave some coins after lunch or a coffee.

If you want to learn some more about Spain, here are some books and websites you might want to check out:

Books:

- Miguel de Cervantes, Don Quixote
- John Hooper, The New Spaniards
- Giles Tremlett, Ghosts of Spain: Travels Through Spain and Its Silent Past

Websites:

- <http://www.spain.info/>
- <https://www.turismoalcala.es/>
- <http://www.esmadrid.com/en/>
- <http://administracion.gob.es/>
- <http://franklinstudents.com/>



TRANSPORTATION

HOW TO GET AROUND

It is recommended to purchase a transportation card as it applies to Alcalá de Henares, but also the whole Region of Madrid. You can use it for any train, metro, or bus that is part of the public transportation system in the Region of Madrid. It is 20.00 EUR every 30 days for people ages 25 or under. You also need to pay a 5.00 EUR supplemental fee for the card. The date of validity is 30 days from the day it was purchased. You can refill it at the ticket machines in the train stations.

To obtain a card:

- Go to this link to request an appointment in Alcalá:

<https://tarjetatransportepublico.crtm.es/CRTM-ABONOS/entrada.aspx>

-What to bring to your appointment:

- Printed out confirmation of your appointment and filled-out online form.
- Passport.
- Printed Passport-sized photo.

CELL PHONES



The main cell phone companies in Spain at the moment are: Movistar, Orange, Vodafone, & Yoigo.

They have prepaid plans you may purchase. An example plan: for €10 you receive 7 GB and an hour of international calling.

To use these plans you will need to have a Spanish SIM card which you can purchase at their stores. This is where the majority of students run into problems as your phone needs to be unlocked to accept the SIM card. *Be sure to talk to your provider before arriving to Spain so things may run smoothly.*



TOURISM

WHAT TO VISIT

With so much traveling to do, don't forget there's plenty to do around Alcalá!

- Cervantes' House: free!
- Archaeological Museum of Madri: free!
- Palacio Laredo: Only €1 - note you cannot purchase a ticket at the palace, you need to buy it before hand at the Colegio Mayor de San Ildefonso
- Catedral Magistral De Los Santos Niños: €1 - you can pay extra to go up the tower
- Tower of Santa Maria: free! - gives an awesome view over Plaza de Cervantes

Here is a link with additional information:

<https://www.turismoalcala.es/visitas-turisticas-alcala-de-henares/>

SUPPLIES

WHERE TO BUY

Trying to fit everything in your suitcase can prove to be difficult and sometimes buying new supplies when you arrive is better. If you're on a budget, there are plenty of dollar stores around to buy notebooks, pencils, chargers etc. Some places only accept cash, so keep that in mind.

If you would like to buy pens, notebooks, sweatshirts, or other monogrammed university gear; you can purchase it at the main office in Instituto Franklin-UAH or in the gift shop at Colegio Mayor de San Ildefonso



HOMESTAYS



Benefits of living with a Host Family:

- Full linguistic and cultural immersion experience
- 3 meals a day/7 days a week
- Once a week laundry service
- Internet Service
- Cleaning Services- 1x a week
- You will be treated like a member of the family

HOST FAMILIES

Helpful advice when living with a host family:



- Electric and water bills are higher here, so be considerate to your host family and the planet. Make sure to not be wasteful.
- Always speak up if you have any concerns. Our Housing Coordinator and staff are here to support you. We want you to enjoy your time in Alcalá.
- If you do not understand something told to you, ask for clarification! Miscommunications can lead to non-ideal situations.
- If you like or don't like a meal let them know. They would prefer you tell them rather than feeding you something you don't enjoy.
- Meal times and serving sizes are very different: 8:00am small breakfast, 2:00-3:00pm large lunch, and 8:30-10:00pm light dinner.

RESIDENCE HALL



Things that come with living at the Residence Hall:

- 3 meals a day/7 days a week
- 24/7 Laundry Room
(student must pay)
- Common Spaces to study or
hang out with new friends!
- Front desk help- 24/7
- Strong Internet
- Cleaning Services- 1x a week
- 24 hr security
- Fitness Center

WHAT TO PACK!



- Passport and Important Documents (Bring copies just in case!)
- Prescription Medicines and the Prescription
- If you have a medical condition, you must have a letter from your primary healthcare provider explaining your needs.

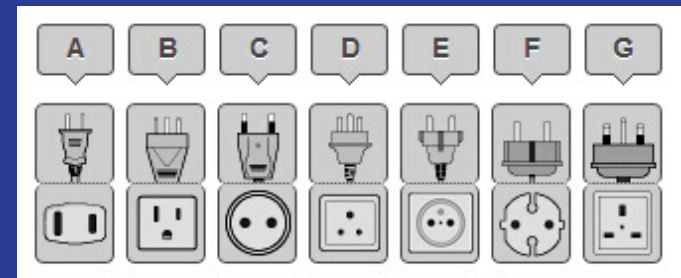
- Spare Cell Phone (in case of emergency)
- Keep in mind that the winters are very cold and the summers can get quite hot.
- Something to remind you of home (ex. photos, stuffed animal, etc.)



PRACTICAL INFORMATION & ADVICE

- Currency: Euro €
- Adapter Type: C, E, F
- How to get to and from Madrid:
 - From Alcalá: Take any Cercanías (regional train) with the destination Atocha to get to the center of Madrid. Or take bus 223.
 - To Alcalá: Take any Cercanías (regional train) with the destination Alcalá de Henares or Guadalajara. Get off at Alcalá de Henares. Or take bus 223.
- Here is the address for the US Embassy, in case of emergency:

Calle de Serrano, 75, 28006 Madrid, Spain
Phone: 91-587-2200
Hours: Monday-Friday 8:30-5:30
Ambassador: Duke Buchan III



Tips:

- Take out money from ATMs rather than exchanging money because you'll receive a better rate.
- Never leave your belongings unattended, no matter the circumstances.
- If you are having any problems, try your best to communicate them in whichever way is possible.

FAQS – FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS–

Can I come early and stay with my host family?



No. You cannot stay with your host family prior to the set arrival date. You are welcome to arrive to Spain early but at your own expense.



When should I fly in and fly out?

There is a calendar of important dates and events on the Instituto Franklin-UAH website. Here is a link to that!
<https://www.institutofranklin.net/en/academics/study-abroad-in-spain-program/academic-information/calendar/>

Are there any student activities at Instituto Franklin or at the University of Alcalá?



Yes! The Instituto hosts various events and excursions throughout the semester. You will receive emails about those events and updates will be posted in the Facebook group. Please accept the invite to join this closed group. There is also an Erasmus Student Network at the UAH that you can learn more about here: <https://www.esnuah.org/>.



What are some things I must do in Spain?

Eat *tapas*, visit some of the world's most renowned art museums in Madrid, including the Prado and the Reina Sofia, explore the UNESCO world heritage site that is Alcalá de Henares, and soak up all the amazing culture!

How much does an average *tapas* on Calle Mayor cost?



A *tapa* is usually included with the purchase of any kind of beverage in the evening. A drink and *tapas* can range from 2.00 to 5.00 Euros. If you have any dietary restrictions, please communicate it to your server before they take your order.

YOUR FIRST DAY IN SPAIN

1. Airport Pickup- at 10:30 or 13:00.*
2. Go to Instituto Franklin-UAH to either meet your host family or meet the staff that will take you to the residence hall.
3. With your host families or new friends, explore your neighborhood and Alcalá
4. Settle in and get some rest!!

If you arrive after the drop off times, you will have to arrange your own transport and meet up point with your family or get to the residence hall on your own.



*Subject to changes, please read all emails you receive from Instituto Franklin-UAH.



SEE YOU SOON



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