This letter is from the IES Abroad Salamanca director, Barbara Liberatore, to students about how to search USAL and UPSA's websites for courses. Students can use this letter as a guide for investigating course options.

Querido estudiante,

If you are interested in and prepared to take direct enrollment courses, you will be able to access a wide variety of courses at two different universities here in Salamanca: the **Universidad de Salamanca** (**USAL**) and the **Universidad Pontificia de Salamanca** (**UPSA**). Once you arrive, we will provide you with more information about each university. In the meantime, you can explore pretty detailed information about university courses on the following websites:

FOR USAL:

http://www.usal.es/grados
You will see a list of "Grados" for the different areas. By clicking on the choice of *Grado*, you will access a website for that *Grado*.



You can click on *Plan de Estudios* to access a PDF file for that *Grado*. Unfortunately, it is not always that easy to find information in the guide since it is long and each guide (from each *Facultad* or *Grado*) is set up in a different way. So I usually recommend using the search function in the upper right hand corner to enter key words and explore this way.



The **Plan de Estudios** is a list of courses that students majoring in that *Grado* take each year. This is a good starting point for IES Abroad students to find classes. Here you will find information on course titles, codes, credits, etc.



You can also find the class schedules on this website by clicking first in *Guía Académica* and then in *Horarios y Distribución de Grupos*. This will also take you to PDF file which includes all information regarding schedules, classrooms, etc.

The following list of abbreviations is used to indicate the day in Spanish schedules: L (Monday), M (Tuesday), X (Wednesday), J (Thursday) and V (Friday)



If you click on *Fichas de las Asignaturas*, you will find a list of course categories where you can find the syllabi for most of the courses in that *Grado*.

Please know that not all syllabi are posted yet.

IMPORTANT: Pay attention to the semester of the courses that may be of your interest. Bear in mind that in USAL the semesters are indicated as follows: fall semester -1° Cuatrimestre (1° Cuat.) and spring semester is 2° Cuat.

It is important that you keep in mind that USAL requires all of our students to register for a <u>minimum of two courses</u>. If you feel that you might not be ready to take two courses and prefer taking just one, you will want to look into courses at UPSA which allows this option.

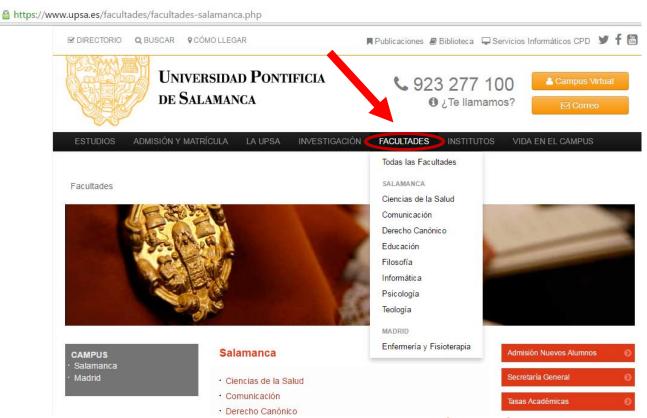
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FOR UPSA:

https://www.upsa.es/facultades/facultades-salamanca.php (UPSA) This is the website for the UPSA facultades. If you click on a facultad, you can access all sorts of information about that facultad.



By clicking on "Estudios", you can access all information including "**guías académicas**" syllabi and descriptions of the courses in each *grado*, etc.









Estudios

GRADOS

- Comunicación Audiovisual
- Márketing y Comunicación
- Periodismo
- Publicidad y Relaciones Públicas

MÁSTERES UNIVERSITARIOS

- Brand Communications (Comunicaciones Integradas de Marca)
- ▶ Comunicación e Información Deportiva
- Diseño Gráfico y de Interface para nuevos dispositivos

Másteres (título propio)

- Guión de Ficción para Cine y Televisión
- Comunicación para la Educación
- Comunicación Corporativa y Liderazgo

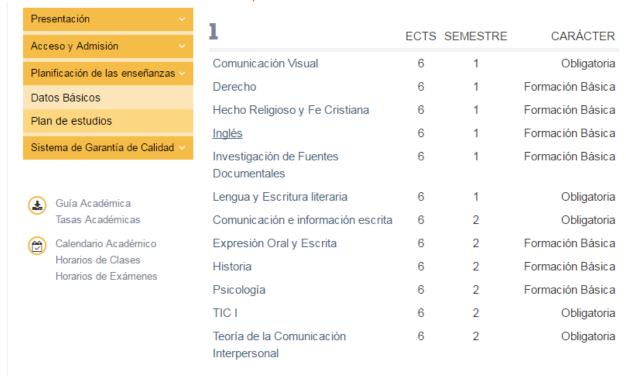
EXPERTOS (Título Propio)

Comunicación Social

If you click on *Facultad de Comunicación*, for example, and are interested in journalism courses, you can click on the *Grado de Periodismo*. Once you do this, under "Planificación de las enseñanzas", you should be able to find the "**Plan de Estudios**" with no problem.



Clicking on this button will take you to a list of the courses for this *grado* and you should be able to click on each course to access the syllabi.



We usually recommend taking first or second year classes ("primer o segundo curso" or "primer ciclo"). For UPSA you should focus on the information you find for the "segundo semestre" (spring semester). You also have to make sure you are looking at semester and not annual courses. Semester students are not usually allowed to take the latter, although there are a few of these for which the professor makes exceptions for some students. We will tell you more about this when you arrive in Salamanca.

Some of our students typically take about one to two classes at the local universities. This seems to be manageable for those students who are interested and prepared for this challenge. However, every semester we have students who do not take any university classes and some that take more than two. Those who take more than two usually have a very high level of Spanish, previous experience abroad, and/or previous experience in a European university. If you are not sure whether you should take university classes or how many classes you should take, we can discuss this with you onsite.

Keep in mind that the **European credit system** is **different** from the IES Abroad system or your school's system. **Two ECTS credits are equivalent to one IES Abroad credit**.

Remember, final registration is done onsite. During Orientation we, along with the Academic Advisors (USAL & UPSA faculty, Orientation Leaders), will be holding sessions with all students interested in university classes. In addition to this, IES Abroad Salamanca has a Mentor Program which allows our students to meet local students from several different *facultades*. These mentors will also be showing you around these *facultades* and answering any questions you might have regarding classes there. So if you still have doubts, we will try to help you resolve them once you are here.

And, finally, I would also recommend watching a video of a recent webinar. This past spring semester we had a Salamanca **University Enrollment Info Session** for prospective Salamanca students. The webinar was led by our Graduate Assistant, Spring 2016 students taking university classes at the time, Orientation Leaders and Mentors. I hope this video helps you become more familiar with university enrollment options:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xJMdk2w8G1A&feature=youtu.be

Finding university classes can be somewhat of an adventure and a frustrating one at times, but we hope we can ease some of that stress with this information as well as with Orientation and advising onsite. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me or Ma Ángeles Tabárez, our Academic and Administrative Coordinator, at any point during preregistration and once onsite.

iMucha suerte con todo!

Saludos, *Barbara*