

NKU Academic Exchange in Leon, Spain



<https://www.cia.gov>

Spend a semester or an academic year studying at the
University of Leon!

A brief introduction...



Office of Education Abroad
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NKU Academic Exchanges

The Office of Education Abroad offers academic exchanges as a study abroad option for independent and mature NKU students interested in a semester or year-long immersion experience in another country. The information in this packet is meant to provide an overview of the experience available through an academic exchange in Leon, Spain. However, please keep in mind that this information, especially that regarding visa requirements, is subject to change. It is the responsibility of each NKU student participating in an exchange to take the initiative in the pre-departure process with regards to visa application, application to the exchange university, air travel arrangements, housing arrangements, and pre-approval of courses. Before and after departure for an academic exchange, the Office of Education Abroad will remain a resource and guide for participating exchange students.

Spain

Spain, located in the southwest of Europe, is more than bullfights, flamenco dancers, and crowded beaches. It's a spectacular and diverse country; the north resembles the rolling, green hills of Ireland and the south gives you a taste of Moroccan landscapes and architecture. Every year Spain attracts over 50 million visitors, making it one of the three most visited countries in the world. Students visiting Spain will discover its unique history and find that every region has its own distinct cuisine, culture, and art. Its tremendous history is reflected in prehistoric cave paintings, Moorish palaces, crumbling castles, Roman ruins, Gothic and Renaissance cathedrals, as well as some very distinctive modern architecture in Madrid and Barcelona, both world famous cultural centers. The Spanish way of life lends itself to socializing outdoors in the many open-air cafes, which makes it easy and pleasant for international students to get to know the Spanish people.

Leon

The ancient city of Leon dates back to the year 68 BC. Leon is situated at the foot of the mountains and is surrounded by rich farmland, green meadows, and woods. Today, with all its well-preserved monuments, the glorious past of this time-tested city is still evident. With a population of 150,000, Leon is a manageable and hospitable city that has succeeded in combining the old with the new beautifully. In the old town of Leon you will find a bustling market area and ample historic buildings, including the Cathedral, centuries old and one of the finest in Europe. The more contemporary part of the city includes wide avenues, public gardens and parks, as well as the modern university campus. The climate in Leon is continental, with hot, dry summers and cold winters.

The University of Leon

Student enrollment at the University of Leon compares closely to that of NKU, with around 15,000 students. The university is quite young and provides modern facilities and a progressive campus. The spring semester at the University of Leon runs from February through June and the fall semester runs from late September through February. The university offers Spanish language courses at all levels, while other classes are taught solely in Spanish. Exchange students also have the option of attending the University of Leon for an "American semester" from September through December by taking classes at the *Centro de Idiomas* (the Language Center). At the beginning of each semester, the university offers a five-week language-intensive course to prepare exchange students for a successful semester or year at the University. Students will take a placement test before this course to determine in which section they will be placed. Courses at the *Centro* concentrate on grammar, written and oral communication, Spanish history, culture, and art

history and are designed for non-native speakers. The university offers many activities to fill in your free time, such as excursions, sporting activities, and events where you can meet other international students. A summer program is also available at the University of Leon.

Housing

Exchange students normally opt for a hall of residence or a shared flat, though accommodation with a host family may be a possibility. However, the university is unable to book such accommodations on your behalf. Students are advised to personally book temporary accommodation for the first few days at any hostel in the city center. Once in Leon, students will be able to select their desired housing option and can be assisted by the *Oficina del Estudiante Extranjero*. In the university's halls of residence, dorms provide facilities in a single, double, or triple room. This sort of accommodation offers students full board, including laundry and three meals a day, and prices vary due to the condition of the family's home and proximity to the university. Students also may search for a vacancy in an apartment shared by other students. Rooms may or may not be furnished and prices vary depending upon location and the condition of the building.

Transportation

Students generally fly into Madrid and then take a bus or train to Leon. Though Leon as a city is very walkable, taking the bus is the main means of transportation and ALSA is the primary bus service provider. There are 10-trips tickets (*bonobuses*) with special discounts for students and bus passes are a great deal for those who use public transportation often. Outside of the city, bus and train connections are very convenient and Leon has links by train with Madrid and other major cities. For travel outside of Spain, the European train system is highly efficient and budget airlines often offer great deals.

Visa and Health Insurance

Students who participate in the semester academic exchange **will** be required to have a visa for Spain prior to entry into the country. You will not be required to have a visa for the summer program that is offered by the university, since you will be able to stay in Spain up to 90 days without a visa. Be aware that Spanish immigration regulations require applications for student visas to be submitted at least 60 days before anticipated travel to Spain.

Students in Spain must obtain health insurance prior to admission at the university, and proof of health insurance to cover your stay in Spain is also required to obtain a visa. You will be able to opt for a health insurance exemption if you can prove that your insurance in the U.S. provides sufficient coverage for you in Spain.

Useful Links

University of Leon. <http://www.unileon.es/internacional/internacional.htm>

CIA World Factbook. <http://www.cia.gov>

U.S. Department of State Information. <http://travel.state.gov/spain.html>

General Living Expenses University of Leon, Spain Semester Estimated Budget

Please use the following budget only as a general guide for expenses for one semester. Also note that expenses are estimated and subject to fluctuate according to currency rates* and general economic inflation.

Tuition	\$4236	(undergraduate, in-state tuition for 12-16 hours)
Passport	\$135	
Round-trip airfare	\$1,700	
Accommodation	\$2,000	
Meals	\$1,000	
Books and supplies	\$100	
Local transportation	\$150	
Health insurance	\$160	
Personal spending	<u>\$2,000</u>	(shopping, entertainment, travel, etc)
Total	\$10,809	

*July 2014 currency rate: 1 euro = 1.36 U.S. dollar