A leading university in adapting to the European Higher Education Area

/ AN INNOVATIVE UNIVERSITY
/ A COMMITTED UNIVERSITY
/ AN INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY
/ EVERYBODY’S UNIVERSITY
History

The University of Zaragoza originated from a School of Arts, created by the Church in the 12th century. In 1474, Pope Sixtus IV elevated it to the category of «Universitas magistrorum».

However, the real starting point for the University was to come later. In September 1542, the emperor Carlos V signed a privilege which elevated the School of Arts to the rank of «general university for all the sciences». In 1554, a papal bull issued by Pope Julius III, approved the foundation of the University. This is why the University of Zaragoza is the only Spanish university that bears the image of San Pedro on its seal. Years later, Pedro Cerbuna provided the necessary funding for the new university, which was inaugurated in 1583.

In the early 70s of the last century, the University began to incorporate teaching activities and to expand to other towns. Due to universities recovering their autonomy in the mid eighties, the University adapted itself to the Autonomous Community of Aragón (separating itself from centres in other communities), passing Statutes in 1985 and 2004 (which were renewed in 2011), and beginning a decentralisation process resulting in the establishment of faculties in the cities of Huesca and Teruel, which led to a significant increase in the number of students in each.

Throughout its 500 years of history, those who have passed through its doors include important figures such as Botanist and Economist Ignacio de Asso, Doctor Santiago Ramón y Cajal, José Martí, Luis Buñuel, Ramón J. Sender, Rigoberta Menchú, José Antonio Labordeta, Richard Schrock...
Ramón y Cajal (Nobel prize-winner in 1906), and Cuban liberator José Martí. Similarly, the University has awarded its highest honour, the Honorary Doctorate, to persons of such stature as Luis Buñuel, Ramón J. Sender, Rigoberta Menchú, José Antonio Labordeta or Richard Schrock.

**International mission**

The University of Zaragoza’s international commitment is demonstrated through mobility programmes (both its own and external) for students, teachers, researchers, and administration and service staff, double degree programmes, bilateral and multilateral agreements, research projects, and university development cooperation projects across the five continents.

The University of Zaragoza considers internationalisation a guarantee of quality. It has around 1,700 bilateral agreements with institutions all over the world (34 European countries, the United States, Canada, Australia, Latin America, Asia, and Africa). It is one of the top-ranking Spanish universities in terms of international annual student exchanges. Almost 1,000 of our students take part every year; and around 3.7% of the students attending daily lessons at the University of Zaragoza are international incoming exchange students. In addition, each year around 150 teachers from our University carry out educational visits in other European countries, and the trend is growing.

The University of Zaragoza has managed various international mobility programmes:

- The European Commission’s Lifelong Learning Programme, which includes the sub-programmes: Erasmus studies, Erasmus work placements, Intensive programmes, Teacher mobility, Mobility for training, Preparatory visits and the Leonardo Programme.
- Mobility Americampus (Latin-American universities).
- Mobility CRUE-Santander-University of Zaragoza.
- Mobility University of Zaragoza to universities in North America, Oceania or Asia.
- Mobility University of Zaragoza-China.
- University of Zaragoza scholarships for development cooperation.
- University of Zaragoza-Santander and University of Zaragoza-Carolina Foundation scholarships, for post-graduate studies.
- Mobility MAEC-AECID scholarships, for post-graduate studies.
- Scholarships from the Latin America University Association of Graduate Studies (AUIP).

In addition, it takes part in the following development cooperation programmes (among others): the European Union’s ALFA and TEMPUS programmes, the Inter-university Cooperation Programme (PCI) of the Spanish Agency for Development Cooperation, and the Government of Aragón Development Cooperation.
As part of its support for the internationalisation process, the University offers an increasing number of courses in English, a language support programme for teaching and research staff, and for administrative and service staff, and each year it publishes a call for internationalisation, aimed at the University’s centres. It also participates in international forums and fairs, and it is a member of several higher education international associations.

Particularly valued are their ties with the productive environment, involving companies, institutions and cities.

The objectives of the Iberus Campus are: providing quality, comprehensive training; achieving scientific excellence; promoting internationalisation; establishing itself as a focal point for talent; improving management quality; promoting social responsibility and integration with society and providing the necessary infrastructural aggregation in order to develop the thematic organisation of the campuses.

This will be reinforced by the coordinated structure of the four universities, the research centres of Aragón, Navarra, La Rioja and Lleida, and will involve surrounding cities and businesses.

One key aim is to create a cross-border campus with the universities of Toulouse and Pau (France), which will allow student and teacher mobility and further strengthen relations between academics and researchers. Iberus Campus is setting out a path for building the strategic aggregation of four universities who have made the objectives of the University Strategy 2015 their own, proposing an attainable goal for modernisation, based on promoting quality and excellence in training and research, thus securing its international position in Europe and the world, and acting as unifier of the Ebro Valley’s knowledge ecosystem, providing solutions for the development of an economic model based on knowledge and innovation.
Other university groups

The Rector of the University of Zaragoza, Manuel López, chairman of the Conference of Rectors of Spanish Universities, bringing together the presidents of all Spanish public and private universities.

The University of Zaragoza is also part of other groups of universities: the European University Association (EUA), the European Association for International Education (EAIE), the Ibero-American University for Postgraduate Studies (AUIP), the Palestinian European Academic Cooperation in Education (PEACE), Scholars at Risk, the Compostela Group of Universities, and the Group 9 of spanish universities.

Higher education

The University of Zaragoza is generalist and offers courses in all areas: Arts and Humanities, Experimental Sciences, Health Sciences, Social Sciences and Law and Engineering and Architecture.

Its dedication to European integration and its commitment to the future have resulted in actions which have enabled it, to offer 54 degree courses adapted to the European Higher Education Area (some of these are taught at more than one campus, allowing for 66 different enrolment options).

In terms of graduate studies, the University offers 55 universitary masters and 43 doctorate programmes, in addition to 94 own programmes.
# Arts and Humanities

- Faculty of Philosophy and Arts *(Zaragoza)*
  - Classical Studies
  - English Studies
  - Hispanic Philology
  - Philosophy
  - History
  - History of Art
  - Modern Languages

- Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences *(Teruel)*
  - Fine Arts

# Sciences

- Faculty of Sciences *(Zaragoza)*
  - Biotechnology
  - Physics
  - Geology
  - Mathematics
  - Optometry and Optics
  - Chemistry

- Faculty of Veterinary Sciences *(Zaragoza)*
  - Food Science and Technology

- Higher Polytechnic School *(Huesca)*
  - Environmental Sciences

# Health Sciences

- Faculty of Health Sciences *(Zaragoza)*
  - Nursing
  - Physiotherapy
  - Occupational Therapy

- Faculty of Medicine *(Zaragoza)*
  - Medicine

- Faculty of Veterinary Sciences *(Zaragoza)*
  - Veterinary Sciences

- Faculty of Health Sciences and Sport *(Huesca)*
  - Medicine
  - Human Nutrition and Dietetics
  - Dentistry

- Huesca University School of Nursing *(affiliated)*
  - Nursing

- Teruel University School of Nursing *(affiliated)*
  - Nursing

# Social Sciences and Law

- Faculty of Economics and Business *(Zaragoza)*
  - Business Administration and Management
  - Economics
  - Finance and Accounting
  - Marketing and Market Research

- Faculty of Labour and Social Sciences *(Zaragoza)*
  - Labour Relations and Human Resources
  - Social Work
Faculty of Law (Zaragoza)
- Law
- Joint Degree Programme in Law and Business Administration

Faculty of Education (Zaragoza)
- Early Childhood Education
- Primary Education

Faculty of Philosophy and Arts (Zaragoza)
- Geography and Land Planning
- Information and Documentation
- Journalism

University School of Tourism (Zaragoza)
- Tourism

Faculty of Humanities and Education (Huesca)
- Early Childhood Education
- Primary Education

Faculty of Health Sciences and Sport (Huesca)
- Physical Activity and Sport Sciences

Faculty of Business and Public Management (Huesca)
- Business Administration
- Public Administration and Management

Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences (Teruel)
- Business Administration
- Early Childhood Education
- Primary Education
- Psychology

Engineering and Architecture

School of Engineering and Architecture (Zaragoza)
- Studies in Architecture
- Industrial Technology Engineering
- Technology Engineering and Telecommunications Services
- Electrical Engineering
- Electronics and Automatic Engineering
- Industrial Design and Product Development Engineering
- Computer Engineering
- Mechanical Engineering
- Chemical Engineering

University Centre for Defence (Zaragoza)
- Industrial Organisation Engineering

Higher Polytechnic School (Huesca)
- Agro-food and Rural Environment Engineering

University Polytechnic School (Teruel)
- Electronic and Automatic Engineering
- Computer Engineering

University Polytechnic School (La Almunia)
- (affiliated)
- Civil Engineering
- Industrial Organisation Engineering
- Mechatronic Engineering
- Technical Architecture
School of Engineering and Architecture  
(Zaragoza)  
Architecture  
Biomedical Engineering  
Chemical Engineering  
Computer Engineering  
Electronic Engineering  
Industrial Engineering  
Mechanical Engineering  
Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency

Faculty of Health Sciences  
(Zaragoza)  
Nursing Sciences  
Social Gerontology

Faculty of Sciences  
(Zaragoza)  
Chemical Research  
Environmental Nanotechnology  
«Erasmus Mundus» Membrane Engineering  
Geology: Techniques and Applications  
Industrial Chemistry  
Mathematical Modelling, Research, Statistics and Computer Science.  
Molecular and Cellular Biology  
Molecular Chemistry and Homogeneous Catalysis  
Physics and Physical Technologies  
Nanostructured Materials for Nanotechnological Applications

Faculty of Economic and Business Sciences  
(Zaragoza)  
Audit  
Economics  
European Union  
Accounting and Finance  
History of Economics  
Organisational Management  
Sociology of Public and Social Policy

Faculty of Labour and Social Sciences  
(Zaragoza)  
Gender Relations

Faculty of Law  
(Zaragoza)  
Advocacy  
Occupational Risk Prevention  
Specialisation and Research in Law

Faculty of Education  
(Zaragoza)  
Lifelong learning in multicultural contexts  
Teaching Programme for Secondary Education, Vocational Training, and Languages, Art, and Sport
Faculty of Philosophy and Arts (Zaragoza)
Advanced Studies in Art History
Ancient Sciences
Contemporary History
Cultural Heritage Management
Geographic Information Technologies for Land Planning: Geographic Information Systems and Remote Sensing
Hispanic Studies: Language and Literatur
Land and Environmental Planning
Research and Advanced Studies in History
Textual and Cultural Studies in English Language
Translation of Specialised Texts

Faculty of Medicine (Zaragoza)
Genetic, Nutritional, and Environmental Factors in Growth and Development
Introduction to Research in Medicine
Public Health

Faculty of Veterinary Sciences (Zaragoza)
Animal Nutrition
Introduction to Research in Food Science and Technology
Introduction to Research in Veterinary Sciences
Swine Health and Production

Higher Polytechnic School (Huesca)
Agricultural Engineering

Faculty of Health Sciences and Sport (Huesca)
Assessment and Physical Training for Health

Faculty of Business and Public Management (Huesca)
Tourism Management and Planning

Faculty of Humanities and Education (Huesca)
Advances Studies on Language, Communication and Pathologies
Teaching Programme for Secondary Education, Vocational Training, and Languages, Art, and Sport

Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities (Teruel)
Teaching Programme for Secondary Education, Vocational Training, and Languages, Art, and Sport
Research

Scientific research, technological development and constant innovation are essential tools for economic and social growth.

Research carried out by the University of Zaragoza is focused on technological, social, legal, humanistic, experimental and bio-health areas. It organises research activity through its own research Institutes, joint or affiliated institutes, as well as through nationally and internationally renowned research groups. Its laboratories and scientific and technological infrastructures are dedicated to optimising research by generating knowledge and promoting innovation.

University research institutes play a vital role in the work carried out by the University of Zaragoza, which comprises ten institutes: nine own institutes, one affiliated institute and three joint institutes.

**Own institutes:**
- Aragón Institute of Engineering Research (I3A).
- Institute for Biocomputation and Physics of Complex Systems (BIFI).
- Institute of Nanoscience of Aragón (INA).
- Institute of Mathematics and Applications (IUMA).
- Environmental Sciences Institute of Aragón (IUCA).

**Affiliated institute:**
- Zaragoza Logistics Center (ZLC).

**Joint institutes:**
- Materials Science Institute of Aragón (ICMA).
- Institute of Synthetic Chemistry and Homogeneous Catalysis (ISQCH).
- Centre for Research of Energy Resources and Consumption (CIRCE).

The University also has other unique research facilities: the Canfranc Underground Laboratory (LSC) and the Advanced Microscopy Laboratory. It is also noteworthy the Research Center in Transmissible Spongiform and Emerging Diseases, fruit of an agreement between the Goverment of Aragon, the Spanish Ministry of Science and Innovation and the University of Zaragoza, as a reference laboratory for research that requires a high degree of security in the field of Biology, Biomedicina or Veterinary Science.

A large part of the University’s research activity is channeled through the 226 research groups.

It also has 16 research support services, consisting of laboratories and workshops which facilitate research work in various scientific fields.
Relations with companies and institutions

In order to strengthen its relations with companies and institutions the University has a Research Results Transfer Office (OTRI) and has created company and institutional Chairs. In this way, society benefits from the transfer of technology and research carried out by the University, as well as from the dissemination of ideas and continuous training and the provision of technical assistance to businesses and university communities through participation in contracts, development of patents, and the creation of technology-based companies.

The University has 55 institutional and company Chairs. This represents a strategic and long-lasting union, where both parties can benefit from the results of research, development and innovation activities. Its activities include developing of research lines of common interest, pursuing national and international research projects, advising on innovation, development, and preferential information regarding research or transfer projects, the development of doctoral theses and dissertations, organising student work placements, promoting the integration of university teachers in the business environment carrying out training.

The University of Zaragoza is the second Spanish University according to the number of institutional and company Chairs.

Summer Courses

The University carries out training activities and Summer Courses in several towns, either directly or indirectly through the Summer University of Teruel (in the same province). Over the last decade, the offer has increased significantly, encompassing all activities and areas of knowledge and extending to many towns.

They arose from the Summer Courses at Jaca, created in 1927, which are the oldest in Spain and each year welcome a considerable number of students from all over the world. These programmes (and those in Zaragoza) offer a course in Spanish as a Foreign Language. Numerous complementary activities are also carried out (conferences, theatre performances, poetry and music recitals, trips, etc.).

Modern languages

The University Centre for Modern Languages offers general, one-year courses in German, Arabic, French, Modern Greek, English, Italian, Portuguese, Chinese, and Russian, as well as specific courses on pronunciation, translation and culture. During the Summer it delivers intensive courses in several languages.
Library

The University of Zaragoza’s library, created in 1796, provides support to teaching and research activities. It houses over a million monographs, and 13,000 hard-copy and electronic magazines. The General Library and Historical Archive holds the University’s bibliographic treasure, which includes 419 manuscripts and 406 incunabula.

University Press

The publishing company Prensas de la Universidad de Zaragoza has published almost a thousand titles in 50 collections. It also publishes around 20 magazines.

Halls of residence

The University has four own halls of residence. The University also has agreements with one public and several private halls of residence. It also offers other types of accommodation.
The university Paraninfo building

The Paraninfo building was inaugurated in 1893. The building was declared a Bien de Interés Cultural (Site of Cultural Interest), the highest level of protection awarded by Spanish law for artistic assets. Restored and reopened in 2008, it houses the Rector’s Office, the Social Council and the University Ombudsman. It undertakes important cultural (with large spaces given over the exhibitions), and scientific work (holding university conferences and events aimed at disseminating scientific knowledge).
University community

40,857 Members of the university community
29,611 Degree students
1,388 Master’s students
2,499 Doctorate students
1,570 Students on own programmes
1,010 Students who come to the University via international mobility programmes
778 University of Zaragoza students who participate in international mobility programmes
6,942 Scholarship students
5,822 Degree graduates
896 Universitary master graduates
353 PhD theses defended
3,698 Work placements
1,546 Partner companies for student work placements
4,004 Teaching and research staff members
1,795 Administration and service staff members

Centers, departments and research institutes

18 Own centres
5 Affiliated centres
1 Doctoral School
56 Departments
5 Own research institutions
1 Affiliated research institute
3 Joint research institutes
3 Research centers

Courses

54 Degrees
66 Enrolment options
55 Universitary masters
43 Doctorate programmes
94 Own programmes

Research and transfer

15 Institutes and research centers
16 Research support services
214 Research groups
2,804 Researchers in research groups
55 institutional and company chairs
32 Spin-off

Budget:

246,2 Millions of euros.