A leading university in adapting to the European Higher Education Area

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

Universidad de Zaragoza (ESPAÑA)
University of Zaragoza (SPAIN)
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 years following the First World War, the University went through a process of intense renewal and adaptation to the changing needs of the country. In 1921, some Autonomous Statutes were approved, and the University began to offer Doctorate degrees, carrying out intense dissemination activity and creating, in 1927, the Summer Courses in Jaca (the first of their kind in Spain), aimed at the dissemination of the Spanish language.

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 Ignacio de Asso, 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.

Iberus Campus, Ebro Valley International Campus of Excellence

The University of Zaragoza, together with the Public University of Navarra, La Rioja University and Lleida University formed the Ebro Valley Campus honoured with the title of International Campus of Excellence.

A consortium has been created overcoming the geographical and administrative boundaries of four autonomous regions. The areas of expertise are set according with their capabilities to claim their international position with defined scientific challenges and ground-breaking activities in sustainable energy, technology for citizens’ health, food and nutrition, and conservation of cultural heritage.
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 52 universitary masters and 44 doctorate programmes, in addition to 97 own programmes.
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<th>Health Sciences</th>
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- 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)
  (affiliated)
  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)
  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)
  (affiliated)
  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)
- Applied Mechanics
- Architecture
- Biomedical Engineering
- Electronic Engineering
- Information and Communications Technology in Mobile Networks
- Introduction to Research in Chemical Engineering and the Environment
- Mechanical Systems
- Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency
- Systems and Computer Engineering

Faculty of Health Sciences (Zaragoza)
- Nursing Sciences
- Social Gerontology

Faculty of Sciences (Zaragoza)
- Chemical Research
- «Erasmus Mundus» Membrane Engineering
- Introduction to Geological Research
- Introduction to Mathematical Research
- Mathematical Modelling, Research, Statistics and Computer Science.
- Modelling in Mathematics, Statistics and Computing
- Molecular and Cellular Biology
- Physics and Physical Technologies

Nanostructured Materials for Nanotechnological Applications
- Sustainable Chemistry

Faculty of Economic and Business Sciences (Zaragoza)
- European Union
- Finance and Accounting
- Global Defence and Security
- History of Economics
- Organisational Management
- Research in Economics
- Sociology of Public and Social Policy

Faculty of Labour and Social Sciences (Zaragoza)
- Gender Relations

Faculty of Law (Zaragoza)
- 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
- Philosophical Studies
- 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

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

Higher Polytechnic School (Huesca)
- Introduction to Research in Agricultural Sciences and the Environment

University School of Business Studies (Huesca)
- Tourism Management and Planning

Faculty of Humanities and Education (Huesca)
- Advances Studies in the Humanities
- Teaching Programme for Secondary Education, Vocational Training, and Languages, Art, and Sport
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 58 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**

  41,383  Members of the university community
  30,415  Degree students
  1,315  Master’s students
  2,286  Doctorate students
  1,650  Students on own programmes
  1,356  Students who come to the University via international mobility programmes
  899  University of Zaragoza students who participate in international mobility programmes
  6,211  Scholarship students
  5,472  Degree graduates
  1,149  Universitary master graduates
  267  PhD theses defended
  3,522  Work placements
  1,474  Partner companies for student work placements
  3,911  Teaching and research staff members
  1,806  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
  52  Universitary masters
  44  Doctorate programmes
  97  Own programmes

- **Research and transfer**

  15  Institutes and research centers
  16  Research support services
  226  Research groups
  2,990  Researchers in research groups
  57  institutional and company Chairs
  26  Spin-off