

FAQs

(Frequently Asked Questions)

Master in Global and International Studies at University of Salamanca

How much is tuition?

Total tuition for the two-year Master Program is 15,980€. A non-refundable processing fee of 300€ is requested approximately 30 days after you accept admission into the program and locks in your slot.

When do I pay tuition?

Fall 2027 and Fall 2028 First Semester: Tuition in the amount of 3,995€ is due by *no later than September 1*.

Spring 2028 and Spring 2029 Second Semester: Tuition in the amount of 3,995€ is due by *no later than February 1*.

Once you have paid the initial 300€ to lock in your slot, you will be provided a specific gateway to access your online account. If you need assistance accessing the link or wish to set up customized payments, please contact Roberto Pelazas Manso (pelazas@usal.es) who heads the MGIS business office. Should you wish to pay up-front tuition for the entire two-year program, please ask about payment in advance discounts.

After tuition and the initial processing fee, are there any additional *academic costs*?

Once you arrive in Salamanca, there is no additional travel requirement as part of your academic studies. Any additional expenses for class materials depend on your emphasis of study and course requirements. Professors will recommend books and other readings; a virtual library may be accessed online.

Are MGIS/USAL scholarships available?

Yes, we offer Merit, Economic Need, Back to School and University of Salamanca scholarships (for students already attending the university). At this time, MGIS does not grant full tuition scholarships. All scholarships for this academic year are designed to provide students with reduced tuition opportunities or specific payment plans that adjust to their needs. Once you have received an offer of admission and have accepted that offer, students may apply for **one** MGIS/USAL scholarship. The 3000€ scholarships are a discount on the total tuition for the two-year program. Please refer to your welcome package for detailed information on scholarships. Scholarship requests must be submitted to Graduate Advisor, Melody Johnson, mjohnson@usal.es, and she will forward to the scholarship committee for consideration.

Are there other scholarships, grants or funding options to make study abroad more affordable?

You may get a steady income of 300-400€ a month depending on your skills. The difficulty is being hired because you need to have a residence permit. What you need to do is to go to [asking for a NIE](#) (Número de Identidad de Extranjero) as soon as possible. That will ease every step to get a contract. That link goes to the General Consulate of Spain in New York. Please find the closest consulate for you and complete that procedure. Proficiency in the native language also strengthens your chances of getting a job.

Once you pick a study abroad program, Google to find financial aid options available through that specific program. Check with the government of the country you want to study abroad in -- some give financial support to international students. Ask your study abroad advisor if there are any scholarships specific to your major. Ask Melody Johnson, MGIS Graduate Advisor for more specific information on opportunities to teach English in Salamanca. See other links below:

- <https://www.gooverseas.com/blog/study-abroad-scholarships-grants#paragraph-item-38436-target>
- <https://www.scholarshipportal.com/scholarship/private-students-loans-for-college-with-repayment-period-of-more-than-15-years>
- <https://www.iie.org/en/Programs>
- <https://www.unigo.com/scholarships/graduate-students/scholarships-for-masters-degree>
- <https://www.experian.com/blogs/ask-experian/what-is-student-loan-forgiveness/>

Fulbright U.S. Student Program

One award is available to pursue a full-time Master's degree in Global and International Studies (MGIS) at the Universidad de Salamanca (USAL), one of the oldest and most prestigious universities in Spain. For more information, please visit <https://us.fulbrightonline.org/countries/europe-and-eurasia/spain/1847>.

When should I travel to Salamanca to begin the fall academic term?

Classes *usually* begin mid to the last week in September or the first week in October. Each academic year varies. You will be notified as information becomes available.

When is orientation?

Academic orientation is *mandatory* and is usually held one week prior to the start of classes.

Where can I find the academic calendar?

For MGIS, the University of Salamanca finalizes its academic calendar in April of each year. You will be provided a copy of the academic calendar when it is available.

When will Global and International Studies class schedules be available?

Class schedules will be determined early summer based on confirmed numbers of students in each track. However, you may not receive a copy of your class schedule until just before you arrive or at orientation in September.

What is the ratio of students to professor in the classroom?

The number of students participating in each track is determined by the number of applicants/ acceptances each academic term. We strive to keep the size of the classes small, usually no more than 10 students per professor in a given track.

Are classes only taught in English?

Our Global and International Studies courses are taught only in English.

Where are classrooms located?

Most of our classrooms are located in the Law School building. Information will be provided at orientation.

Are Spanish classes available?

There are many options. The University of Salamanca offers intensive Spanish language courses to all students. One option requires students to pay for class materials and the language consulting service. Students receive a certificate

upon completion of the course, provided they have attended at least 90% of the classes. Additional less intensive Spanish class options also are available. Information may be provided at orientation but Spanish classes are not part of our MGIS/USAL curriculum.

What type of degree will I receive upon graduation?

You will receive a post-graduate certified Master Degree from the University of Salamanca, a university with the autonomy to issue degrees that follow their own procedures. These degrees, known in Spanish as “título propio”, or “own degree”, are approved by the University itself and have more flexible regulatory standards than degrees issued under the Spanish Ministry of Education. The requirements for the degree follow the regulation approved by the ministry for universities to generate their own degrees according to national and European regulations following the European credit system. The degree is a Master Titulo Propio but it is a professional degree which means if you are interested in knowing how to navigate (and do things!) in your field of interest, you come to us for a mix of academics and practitioners. We are able to have faculty members from outside the University of Salamanca while other official master’s program must have nearly 100% of their faculty from USAL. All degrees are valid in all job places except to work for the Spanish government. In order to work for the Spanish government, it is necessary to pass state-level competitive examinations and civil service exams for the State Administration.

Will I receive a diploma or certificate?

You will receive an official diploma for the Masters in Global and International Studies and your MA concentration will appear on the diploma.

Is service provided for professional development and for internship placement?

There is a required professional development course, *Global Experiential Learning: Context, Self-Reflection and Professional Development*, taught third semester. Together, with faculty and staff, students are advised, provided workshops, and helped facilitate internships that fit professional goals. MGIS does not place students in internships; our role is to advise and mentor.

Is there a graduate ceremony?

At USAL there usually isn’t a graduation ceremony for masters and graduate programs. The “defense days’ celebration” is the equivalent to graduation. If MGIS students opt to have an official graduate ceremony, it will be considered.

May I work toward a PhD after I receive my MA?

With a Titulo Propio degree, students can gain access to the doctoral program at USAL, provided their home university meets certain requirements. We have former and current students enrolled in the USAL doctoral program. Please keep in mind that receiving a master’s degree in our program does not guarantee you entrance into a USAL PhD program. Acceptance into any PhD program is determined by the department at the university where you apply, USAL or elsewhere. In this link <https://doctorado.usal.es/en/preregistration-matriculation> you can find all the information you need if wishing to explore a PhD at USAL (in English).

Are online programs available?

There is a 3-semester residency requirement in Salamanca. *Online and distance course options may be available* during the fourth semester when *optional* internships take place. However, remaining in-residence in Salamanca is highly encouraged for the full two years.

What is the grading system?

The equivalence between the grades of the Spanish and American universities, according to the criteria applied by the University of Salamanca, is as follows:

GRADES IN UNITED STATES	GRADES IN SPAIN (0-10)	GRADES IN SPAIN
A+	9.5-10	SOBRESALIENTE
A	9.5	SOBRESALIENTE
A-	9.0	SOBRESALIENTE
B+	8.3	NOTABLE
B	7.7	NOTABLE
B-	7.0	NOTABLE
C+	6.3	APROBADO
C	5.7	APROBADO
C-	5	APROBADO
F	0-4.9	SUSPENSO

Do I need a student visa?

You should apply at the Spanish Consulate in your country. ***It usually takes at least two to three months to process student visas to Spain so make sure to allow ample time.*** Your letter of admission (verification letter provided by Melody Johnson, Graduate Advisor, when accepted) and some sort of proof of financial solvency is required, among other details that are explained on the consulate website: www.interior.gob.es. *Note: Please email mjohnson@usal.es to indicate your nationality; this information is needed for the official visa letter from University of Salamanca.*

To obtain a visa you must check with your local consulate. The usual process is to request an appointment for a Student Visa and include your last name, first name and date the study program in Spain begins. Also include in a PDF the following: 1) Acceptance letter from School as student; 2) Copy of your valid ID/Driver's license (as proof of residence in consular jurisdiction); 3) Copy of your valid passport; 4) Airline itinerary. On the date of your appointment you will be required to bring all the required documents listed in the instructions for your visa.

Should you have difficulty obtaining a **student** visa, there is a Subdelegacion office in Salamanca that *usually* can process and switch students' visas that either need to be extended or switched from tourist visas into student visas. *Original documents* must be presented when working with the office. For specific information, check out this link: <https://www.linguaschools.com/blog/2020/09/24/how-to-apply-for-a-student-visa-while-in-spain/> or [https://balcellsgroup.com/student-visa-in-spain/#How to Get a Student Visa in Spain](https://balcellsgroup.com/student-visa-in-spain/#How_to_Get_a_Student_Visa_in_Spain).

For those of you who are unable to move ahead because you are waiting for the Apostille to arrive, former students have recommended that you have it delivered to your **home address** and then have a trusted contact priority mail it to your address in Spain with tracking information. It is NOT recommended that the Apostille be sent to your address in Spain because it may arrive months later. Please keep in mind that non-European students must get their medical certificate apostilled as well.

Who may I contact for questions related to my visa?

For questions related to problematic visa issues, please reach out directly to our MGIS/USAL team member Andrea Paola Escalera Escalera.andreapaola@gmail.com.

Will my spouse need a visa?

Please check with the Spanish consulate in your country since each consulate has different requirements.

How much are visa application fees?

See <http://www.studying-in-spain.com/visa-and-entry-requirements-into-spain/>.

Do you need to list a residence in Salamanca in order to process your student visa?

Here are a couple of suggestions. Take a look at homyflat.com or rooms or apartments in idealista.com. Look for offers for students from September onwards and you can reserve a room or an apartment. If you need to provide an address of your Salamanca residence, documentation will be provided by landlord and you can provide this information to the consulate.

Is there a university office dedicated to graduate students?

MGIS staff is always available to assist and we have a dedicated USAL Graduate Student who can help you on campus. In addition, there is The Servicio de Relaciones Internacionales office.

May I work while on a student visa in Spain?

Yes, provided that the work is compatible with the activity for which the visa was granted, and that the income derived from such work is not required to support you in the country. If you wish to be employed or self-employed, you must first apply for a work permit and must meet the requirements according to the activity you want to engage in. Further information regarding procedures can be found at <http://extranjeros.mtin>. If you are interested in working part-time while studying in Spain, please be sure to ask about restrictions related to your visa. The links below may be helpful.

<https://www.global-business-school.org/announcements/can-work-student-visa-barcelona>

<https://www.studying-in-spain.com/living-in-spain/working-in-spain/#:~:text=International%20students%20on%20a%20student,pursuing%20your%20studies%20in%20Spain>

http://extranjeros.empleo.gob.es/es/InformacionInteres/FolletosInformativos/archivos/triptico_estudiantes_eng.pdf

What is a Foreigner Identity Card?

When the duration of the authorized stay exceeds six months, foreign citizens holding a visa to study, carry out research, training or unpaid internship activities, participate in student exchanges, or perform volunteer services, must apply for the foreign student identity card at the corresponding Foreigners Office or Police Station (located in Salamanca).

What is the ID tax code?

There are two different institutions. For the University of Salamanca (use MEC Code 014) and for The General Foundation of the University of Salamanca, in charge of the economic management of the Masters, for tax purposes, use ID: ES G37338118.

Am I required to have health insurance?

The embassy asks for proof of basic public or private health insurance for all students and even tourists. Students without a European Health Card but holders of a private health insurance should take into account the rules and procedures of their particular health coverage. Regarding dental care, the Spanish social security system only covers tooth extraction. If you require any other treatment you will have to go to a private dentist and at your own expense. MGIS students have used Swisscare Student Insurance or Caser, a Spanish health insurance company, which fulfills the requirements to obtain a Spanish student visa. Other suggestions include [Sanitas](#), [Adeslas](#), [Allianz](#) or those listed below.

- <https://www.seguromedicoextranjeros.es/seguro-medico-estudiantes-extranjeros/>

- <https://www.visitorscoverage.com/student-health-insurance/>
- <https://www.spainmadesimple.com/insurance/companies/caser-seguros/>

What accommodations are available?

There are a variety of accommodation options in Salamanca. Students can choose to live with a Spanish host family to deepen their experience of Spanish culture or live in a shared student flat, which provides an economical option and a great way of meeting fellow international students. Also offered are individual studio apartments for students who prefer living on their own. Please keep in mind that University of Salamanca offers subsidized housing for students and professors. ***If considering residing in a USAL residence hall, be sure to tell them you are a graduate student – not undergraduate!*** See the links below for more information

Colegio Mayor San Bartolomé
El Colegio Mayor San Bartolomé, fundado en 1.401, combina las modernas instalaciones en las que actualmente se encuentra, junto al Campus Unamuno, con el sabor de la tradición que nos da el ser el Colegio Mayor más antiguo de España.
Colegio Mayor Fray Luis de León
The Colegio Mayor Fray Luis de León, created in 1954, is a center of the University of Salamanca that provides accommodation for academic courses and short stays to students, researchers and professors.
Colegio Mayor de Oviedo
The Colegio Mayor de Oviedo was inaugurated in 1995. It has a total of 345 beds, 254 in a double room and 89 in a single room. There are 2 rooms suitable for people with mobility issues.
RUCM Hernán Cortés
After a careful and complete remodeling, the historic Colegio Mayor Hernán Cortés reopened its doors. It has single and double rooms.
R.U. Colegio de Cuenca
The Colegio de Cuenca University Residence, located on the Miguel de Unamuno University Campus, has been in operation since October 2001 and was officially inaugurated on October 3, 2002.

- **Colegio de Cuenca Residencia Hall:**
<http://www.resa.es/en/residences/salamanca/residence-hall-colegio-de-cuenca/residence>
- **Hernán Cortés Residence Hall:**
<http://www.resa.es/en/residences/salamanca/residence-hall-herman-cortes/residence>
- Our partner "**Cursos Internacionales**" can also assist you with home stays:
<https://cursosinternacionales.usal.es/en/accommodation-salamanca-0>

Other options:

- <https://cursosinternacionales.usal.es/en/accommodation-salamanca-0>
- <https://erasmusplay.com/en/salamanca.html>
- <https://housinganywhere.com/s/Salamanca--Spain/student-accommodation>
- <https://www.uniplaces.com/accommodation/salamanca>
- https://www.spanish-town-guides.com/Salamanca_Accommodation_Student_Room_Rental.htm
- <https://www.nestpick.com/salamanca/>
- <https://www.student.com/es/salamanca>
- https://www.studentmundial.com/accommodation/salamanca-spain?min=&mout=&types=all&features=&rules=&beds=&nearby=&p_min=195&p_max=413&r_min=1&r_max=9&sort=recent&bath=1&page=1

Is food included in the housing fee?

Check with residential services to see if food is included in the overall cost. For those who prefer living in an apartment, there are many markets, restaurants, coffee shops and pubs throughout the city. Food is usually organic and offered at very reasonable prices (e.g., a coffee will cost €1.50 and an average meal approximately €7). The hour at which meals are served may be different from your current schedule. In Salamanca, breakfast is usually coffee and toast or pastry. Midmorning coffee is served somewhere between 11 a.m. and noon. Lunch is primarily composed of soups, vegetables, pasta, meat or fish and starts between 2 and 3 pm. After lunch there is a siesta and afternoon coffee hour begins at 5 p.m. Dinner is usually served at 9 p.m. or later. It goes without saying that your actual cost of living depends a lot on your spending habits. If you enjoy eating out for most meals or insist on living alone, your monthly expenditures will obviously be much higher than a thrifter person who is willing to compromise and cut some corners. For more information on the cost of living in Salamanca, please see <https://www.numbeo.com/cost-of-living/in/Salamanca>.

What cultural activities are available?

The Office of Cultural Activities organizes film festivals, concerts, plays, dance, jazz, art exhibits, chamber music, and other activities. You can consult the program of cultural activities organized for each term at accult.usal.es.

Are there opportunities to participate in sports and other recreational activities?

Salamanca University has two main sports complexes; the Polideportivo Universitario "Miguel de Unamuno" and the Complejo Deportivo Salas Bajas. Here you can practice almost all types of indoor and outdoor sports, including tennis, football, badminton, rugby, volleyball, etc. Both complexes are located within walking distance of the old center and it is possible to participate in sport activities at competition level or just as a hobby. There also are exercise classes, hiking groups, skiing, mountain biking, tennis, bio dance, chess, fencing, kayaking, archery, golf, rock climbing, and music classes, to mention a few.

How do I open a bank account?

In order to open a banking account, you must have a foreign resident card which may take up to a month or more to receive. We strongly recommend you have a way to access money easily in the interim. Note: The Post Office in Salamanca works with Western Union.

What is the most common means of public transportation?

In Salamanca there are city buses; taxis use the app Pide Taxi. RENFE and Blabla are long distance car rental companies.

Is there diversity on campus?

The student population is approximately 40,000 comprised of students and professionals from more than 60 nationalities.

Additional questions or concerns?

You are encouraged to reach out to Melody Johnson, Graduate Advisor, MGIS/USAL, at mjohnson@usal.es.