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The university of Cantabria



1.1. General Description

The University of Cantabria (UC) is the only on-site public institution to offer official university study courses in the self-governed region of Cantabria. It is a young, dynamic public university, founded in 1972, whose main objective is to contribute to social progress via its commitment to teaching and scientific excellence. To achieve these goals, it aims at constant quality control of its work, which means that all its teaching, research and administrative activities continually undergo review and improvement processes. It is precisely this demanding nature that has led it to be considered as one of the ten best universities in the country for quality and scientific productivity.

The University of Cantabria offers its students all the necessary resources for the widest preparation possible. In the academic area, the study plans strive to find the perfect balance between practice and theory, and which the student can further enrich through several different complementary services: work placement programmes, language courses, access to new technologies, orientation and tutoring activities and exchange programmes with universities of other countries are to mention but a few.

In this sense, the UC has clearly made a great effort over the last few years to promote itself internationally. At the present moment it is both a member of national university networks such as *Grupo 9 de Universidades*, and of such international networks as the *Compostela Group* and the *Santander Group*, it being a founder member of the latter. Likewise, it has signed some 250 Bilateral Agreements with European universities in

the SOCRATES-ERASMUS Programme Framework. Beyond Europe the UC has established co-operation links with US, Canadian and Australian universities and has furthered its relations with Asia and Latin America through bilateral agreements and under the auspices of collaboration programmes established not only by UNESCO (*UNITWIN* Chairs), but also through the European Union (*ALFA* Programme) or the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation (*MAE* Grants, *Carolina Foundation*, *ALBAN* Programme).

Within this general performance framework, the mobility of students, academic staff, and administration and service staff is considered to be one of the key activities in its internationalisation process.

1.2. The UC in figures (*)

Students

First and Second Cycle: 11.336

Postgraduate: 536

Doctorate: 604

Teaching and Research

Lecturers and Researchers: 1.088

External Researchers: 137

Programmes and Centres of Study

Degrees awarded: 37

Faculties and Schools: 13

Departments: 33

Postgraduate Programmes: 43

Doctorate Programmes: 39

Library

Number of books: 278.900

Journal Collections: 8.027

Electronic Journals available on-line: 2.083

Language Courses

Spanish as a Foreign Language Courses: 525

Mobility Programmes

National Students: 32

International Students: 556

Work Placements

Agreements: 823

Placement Grants: 1,242

Sports

Number of activities: 25

Students on leisure and recreational courses and activities: 2.973

Summer Courses

Number of Courses: 107

Organising Centres: 11

(*) These figures correspond to the academic year 2005-2006.

1.3. Schools and Faculties, Institutes

1.3.1. Organisation of Studies in the UC

1st and 2nd Cycle Diplomas and Degrees

Faculty of Sciences

- Engineer in Computer Science (5 years)
- Degree in Physical Sciences (5 years)
- Degree in Mathematics (5 years)

Faculty of Economics and Business Studies

- Diploma in Business Studies (3 years)
- Degree in Business Administration and Management (4 years)
- Degree in Economics (4 years)

Faculty of Law

- Diploma in Labour Relations (3 years)
- Degree in Law (5 years)

School of Teacher Training

- Teacher speciality in Physical Education (3 years)
- Teacher speciality in Children's Education (3 years)
- Teacher speciality in Primary Education (3 years)
- Teacher speciality in Foreign Languages (3 years)
- Degree/ Bachelor in Psychopaedagogy (2nd cycle – 2 years)

Faculty of Humanities

- Degree in Geography (4 years)
- Degree in History (5 years)

Faculty of Medicine

- Degree in Medicine (6 years)

School of Civil Engineering

- Civil Engineer (5 years)
- Technical Engineer in Public Works, Civil Constructions (3 years)

School of Industrial Engineering and Telecommunications

- Industrial Engineer (5 years)
- Chemical Engineer (5 years)
- Telecommunications Engineer (5 years)
- Technical Industrial Engineer, speciality in Electricity (3 years)
- Technical Industrial Engineer, speciality in Industrial Electronics (3 years)
- Technical Industrial Engineer, speciality in Mechanics (3 years)
- Technical Industrial Engineer, speciality in Industrial Chemistry (3 years)
- Technical Telecommunications Engineer, speciality in Electronic Systems (3 years)

School of Nautical Studies

- Diploma in Marine Engineering (3 years)
- Diploma in Marine Navigation (3 years)
- Diploma in Naval Engineering: Propulsion and Ship Services (3 years)
- Degree in Marine Engineering (2nd cycle – 2 years)
- Degree in Maritime Studies and Transportation (2nd cycle – 2 years)

School of Nursing 'Casa de Salud Valdecilla'

- Diploma in Nursing (3 years)

School of Technical Mining Engineering

- Technical Mining Engineer, speciality in Mining Exploitation (3 years)
- Technical Mining Engineer, speciality in Minerallurgy and Metallurgy (3 years)
- Degree in Environmental Engineering –Specific University Degree- (2nd cycle - 2 years)

"Gimbernat Cantabria" School of Physiotherapy (ascribed institution)

- Diploma in Physiotherapy (3 years)

"Altamira" School of Tourism (ascribed institution)

- Diploma in Tourism (3 years)

Postgraduate (3rd Cycle) or Doctorate Studies

The UC offers a wide range of Postgraduate or Doctorate study courses linked to lines of research in any of its 33 departments. The Doctorate Programme or Postgraduate Course is divided into two stages:

- a) A first stage in which 32 credits must be obtained. Twenty of these credits are awarded for foundation courses and the remaining 12 for a research project.

- b) Once the Doctorate Courses and guided Research Project have been successfully undertaken, an intermediate award, the “Advanced Studies Diploma” (DEA) is granted, which is homologable at all Spanish universities.

Further information in:

Negociado de Tercer Ciclo

Pabellón de Gobierno

Servicio de Gestión Académica

☎ + 34 942 20 11 09

☎ + 34 942 20 10 60

E-mail: doctorado@unican.es

Web: <http://www.unican.es/infoacademica/default.htm>

Master’s Programmes, University Expert and Specialisation Courses

The University of Cantabria also offers other postgraduate studies which provide further preparation in many different areas of specialisation and which are directly focused on the professional applications of the disciplines being taught.

Further information in:

Negociado de Estudios Propios

Pabellón de Gobierno

Servicio de Gestión Académica

☎ +34 942 20 10 36

☎ + 34 942 20 10 60

E-mail: postgrado@unican.es

Web: <http://www.unican.es/infoacademica/default.htm>

1.3.2. Non-regular Courses

Courses in Spanish Language and Culture

The University of Cantabria Language Centre (CIUC) organises two types of programmes: general courses and those specially tailored to meet specific requirements.

Within the first category, there exist two different types of course: summer courses (80 hours of class, with four hours per day over a 4 week period), and intensive courses throughout the year (a total of 60 hours are given in daily 3-hour sessions).

As regards the specific requirement courses, regular courses at the university are combined with the CIUC Spanish courses. When a foreign university so requires, there also exists the possibility of exchange programmes of varying length and which can include teaching staff both from the UC and the CIUC itself or the Department of Philology.

Also, those students that reach the highest learning level of those offered by the CIUC are perfectly capable of successfully passing the exams to obtain the “Diploma de Español” (DELE) awarded by the Cervantes Institute, corresponding to the Ministry for Education and Culture, and which the Department of Philology of the University organises twice a year. For further information, see section 1.4. on this guide.

Summer Courses

The UC organises summer courses on monographic areas, which are, depending on the course, either general or specialised, and are of between 20 to 30 hours. Various institutions and firms collaborate in these courses which are held in the following places all over Cantabria: Laredo, Reinosa, Suances, Santander, Castro Urdiales, Torrelavega, Cabezón de la Sal, Reocín, Medio Cudeyo, Colindres and Aguilar de Campoo (which is located in the neighbour province of Palencia).

Throughout the summer and in its different centres, the Summer Course Organisation programmes a series of parallel activities such as conferences and concerts, all open to the general public.

Secretaría de los Cursos de Verano

Edificio de las Facultades de Derecho y CC. EE. y Empresariales
Avda. de los Castros, s/n.

39005 Santander

☎ +34 902 20 16 16

☎ + 34 942 20 09 75

E-mail: cursos.verano@gestion.unican.es

Web: <http://www.unican.es/WebUC/cverano>

During the summer period the Summer Courses Office moves to Laredo and any enquiries should be directed to:

Casa de Cultura “Dr. Velasco”.

C/ López Seña, 8.

39770 Laredo

☎ +34 902 20 16 16

☎ + 34 942 61 18 30

E-mail: cursos.verano@gestion.unican.es

1.4. General services at the UC

These services help students to find suitable tools to complement their studies, or support in academic and university work.

The University Library (BUC)

The Library is the UC service that meets the needs of university teaching and research by means of scientific documents, and also manages and circulates the University's bibliographic material. The main offices are located in the Edificio Interfacultativo, and there are nine divisions or service points in diverse University centres, which provide users with direct service and house collections relating to the specific nature of the centre where they are held. Informative leaflets are available at the different divisions. For more details:

Biblioteca de la Universidad de Cantabria

Avenida de Los Castros s/n. 39005 Santander

☎ +34 942 20 11 80 ☎ + 34 942 20 11 83

Web: <http://www.buc.unican.es/>

Extramural Services and Activities

The University Extramural Services are run directly by the Vice-Rectorate for Extramural Studies. Their aim is to promote and divulge activity both on and off campus, in collaboration with public and private institutions. They also subsidise projects that emerge from the university community and put into circulation throughout the University all information on courses, competitions, prizes, seminars, meetings and all types of cultural activities, organised both in Spain and abroad. Programmes are run by Science, Cinema, Sound and Image, Arts, Music, Cultural Heritage, Theatre and Theology Groups, by the “Isabel Torres” Women's and Gender Studies Interdisciplinary Group and by the International Co-operation Group.

More information:

Web: http://www.unican.es/WebUC/Internet/Vida_Universitaria

Physical Activities and Sports Service

This encourages physical education, promotes activities that include physical preparation (aerobics, keep-fit, gym exercises, weight-training, step, tai chi and yoga), sports competitions (badminton, horse-riding, judo, paddle tennis, canoeing, squash, tae kwon do, tennis, sailing and windsurfing), self-expression through movement (ballroom dancing, sevillana dancing) as well as outdoor activities (rock-climbing, pot-holing, mountain walks, multi-activities and cycling tourism). Most of these courses go on for four months (October to January and February to May). There are substantial discounts for UC students.

Servicio de Deportes

Pabellón Polideportivo

Avda. de los Castros s/n

39005 Santander (Cantabria)

☎ +34 942 20 18 81

☎ + 34 942 20 18 80

Web: <http://www.unican.es/deportes/presentacion.htm>

Language Centre

The “CIUC” is the UC’s Language Centre. It was set up in 1995 with the aim of providing the university community with a foreign language teaching service. It also covers the need for Spanish teaching for students taking part in exchange programmes. The CIUC currently offers English, German, French, Italian and Chinese courses. In addition, Spanish courses are held during the summer months and throughout the academic year for foreign students on exchange programmes or bilateral agreements and provides tailor-made language and culture programmes for foreign universities.

Centro de Idiomas (CIUC)

Edificio Facultades de Derecho y Económicas, planta -1
Avda. de los Castros s/n, 39005 Santander (Cantabria)

☎ +34 942 20 13 13

☎ +34 942 20 13 16

E-Mail: ciuc@gestion.unican.es

Web: <http://www.unican.es/ciuc/index.htm>

Information Technologies Service

This provides students with a number of especially useful services. Of these the e-mail service is of particular importance, as all communications to students from the UC will be made via this e-mail address. To be able to use this service, students must be holders of the University Student Card (TUI) –see section 4.1.4 on this guide–.

The UC’s IT Service also enables you to look up marks, academic reports, class times and examination timetables on-line, and to find teaching material. There is a space for private web-sites in addition to the UNICAN-i cordless network, which provides connection to portable equipment. For more information:

Servicio de informática

Edificio de Filología. Bajo.

Avda. de los Castros s/n.

39005 Santander.

☎ +34 942 20 10 93 ☎ +34 942 20 10 83

E-mail: Secretaria_sdi@gestion.unican.es

Web: <http://www.unican.es/Sdel>

SOUCAN (Psychological Attention Service for Students)

This service is offered by the University of Cantabria together with the Cantabria Government’s Education Department, and gives out administrative and general information, organises Study Welcome and Personal Training Courses, and provides university students with counselling. There is also a Normalisation Programme, which aims to support students who are undergoing academic difficulties or who have to deal with barriers of a physical (through disability) and social nature.

SOUCAN

Edificio Interfacultativo. 3ª planta.

Avda. de los Castros s/n. 39005 Santander.

☎ +34 942 20 12 16

E-mail: soucan@unican.es

Web: <http://www.unican.es/soucan/ofrece/index.htm>

Careers and Employment Information Centre (COIE)

This is run by the Vice-rectorate for Students, and its aims include that of adding work experience to the student’s university training. To this end it develops different job experience programmes, which may comprise voluntary work in companies and institutions, or may be a compulsory part of the course curriculum. It also administers collaboration grant awards at the UC as well as job offers outside the university ambit and provides training and careers advice.

Centro de orientación e información de empleo (COIE)

Facultad de Ciencias. Avda. de los Castros s/n. 39005 Santander.

☎ Work experience and employment: +34 942 20 14 14

☎ Careers advice: +34 942 20 20 32

☎ Training: +34 942 20 09 60

E-mail: coie.uc@unican.es

Web: <http://www.coie.unican.es/index.asp>

University Ombudsman

The Ombudsman ensures that the rights of all the members of the university are upheld and acts whenever any of the members of the community (students, lecturers, clerical workers and maintenance staff) feel their rights have been infringed upon as a result of decisions made by any (individual or collegiate) University body. The Ombudsman has five responsibilities: dealing with complaints and grievances, giving consultation, mediating between opposing parties, drawing up reports and making suggestions and recommendations.

Defensor Universitario

Facultad de Derecho, 2ª planta, zona norte
Avda. de los Castros s/n. 39005 Santander

☎ +34 942 20 20 21

☎ +34 942 20 20 23

E-mail: defensor@unican.es

Web: <http://www.defensor.unican.es/>

Students' Council (CEUC)

The CEUC is the University of Cantabria students' organisation for debate, consultation and representation. Its mission is to defend and uphold students' rights and obligations as well as to supervise that university services are working correctly. It is made up of all student members of Senate and the delegates from the various schools and faculties. It organises different activities and provides accommodation lists and books.

Consejo de Estudiantes (CEUC)

Edificio de Filología.

Avda de los Castros, s/n. 39005. Santander

☎ +34 942 20 17 06

☎ +34 942 20 12 06

E-mail: ceuc@alumnos.unican.es

Web: <http://www.ceuc.unican.es>

