



THE UNIVERSITY  
of NORTH CAROLINA  
at CHAPEL HILL

COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES

STUDY ABROAD OFFICE

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Administrative Board of the College of Arts and Sciences  
Office of General Education  
UNC-CH

Dear Colleagues,

**Exchange Program between the Complutense University of Madrid, Spain and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.**

The Department of Romance Studies and the Study Abroad Office are seeking your approval for a new student exchange program in Madrid, Spain, to be available to UNC-Chapel Hill students commencing Fall 2018 and every semester thereafter. If approved, this undergraduate student exchange program would also be open to students in the School of Media and Journalism.

*Rationale*

A MoU between the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (UNC-CH) and the Complutense University of Madrid (UCM), Spain was signed in July 2012 in the light of two earlier visits to UCM by Dr. Bob Miles (Associate Dean for Study Abroad and International Exchanges) to explore the possibility of establishing a student exchange program at a UNC-CH peer university in Madrid. At that time, the Complutense University of Madrid indicated that it was not ready to sign any further agreements although it is one of the universities that participates in the TASSEP Consortium, and a number of UNC students have studied science at UCM over the years.

In the Fall of 2015, UCM approached UNC-CH with a request to participate as a partner in the Erasmus + project for 2016-2017. The Erasmus + project is funded by the European Commission and European universities must apply and be selected to receive the funding. UCM was selected and an agreement between the two universities was signed in 2016. The terms of the project included two types of exchanges: in the Fall of 2016, UNC-CH sent three (3) undergraduate students to UCM and in turn, UCM sent a Doctoral student to Chapel Hill who worked on a project in the Department of Computer Science. In Spring 2017, a staff member from the Study Abroad Office, UNC-CH, spent one week in the International Relations Office of UCM and a faculty member from the School of Communications and Journalism at UCM spent one week in Chapel Hill in our School of Media and Journalism. Additionally, UCM requested that we send another faculty member in June (another university was not able to send a faculty member for the exchange) and, after reviewing the CVs of a number of interested faculty from the School of M&J, they have invited two faculty for a week in June, fully funded by the European Commission. UCM submitted a second request for funding with similar terms to the European Commission for 2017-2019 and it was approved this summer.

Lynn Neddo from the Study Abroad Office, who spent the week in the UCM International Relations Office, had the opportunity to discuss a possible exchange agreement and other opportunities for collaboration with the Director of the office and the response was very positive. There is interest in student exchanges but also in other types of collaboration such as faculty exchanges, faculty summer courses taught both in Madrid but also at Chapel Hill, more collaboration in the sciences and also with the School of Media and Journalism.

More information on UCM is available here: <https://www.ucm.es/english>

### *Description*

The Complutense University is recognized as one of the leading universities in Spain. It dates back to the 13<sup>th</sup> century and survived numerous transitions and changes. After the death of Franco, and the integration of Spain into the European Union, the Complutense University joined other European Universities in establishing a new higher education framework so that studies are equally validated and transferred through the European Higher education area. The Complutense has three cycles: Undergraduate, Masters and PhD programs with studies possible in many areas – Fine Arts, Humanities, Law, Sciences, Human and Veterinary Medicine, Communication and Journalism, Education, Social Work, Commerce and Tourism, Computer Science and Engineering – a total of 26 Faculties and Schools.

### *Courses and Faculty*

Students may take courses across the faculties although they will enroll in one major faculty, most often the one where they intend to take at least two courses; this is where their Academic Advisor will be. Students from the College of Arts and Sciences will be encouraged to take courses in Spanish as much as possible, especially those majoring in Spanish. UCM has undertaken a plan for Curricular Internationalization and has added a number of Undergraduate and Postgraduate programs in English or combined with English courses. It is hoped that STEM students will continue to see UCM as a location to take science courses.

### *Academic Requirements and Credit*

UNC-Chapel Hill students participating in this program will need to have a 2.75 GPA to be eligible and at least second year status. The language pre-requisite is a minimum of 5 semesters of Spanish for students in the School of Arts and Sciences. A special case may be made for students with a lower level of Spanish who intend to take most of their coursework in English, but in such circumstances a Spanish language course will be required. Students will take a minimum of 24 ECTS up to 30 ECTS per semester or 5-6 courses.

TREQ credit will be awarded as long as the student receives a C or better in each course taken. UCM will send an official transcript of all completed courses to the home institution.

### *Logistics, Health and Safety*

#### Facilities

UCM has its main campus on the west side of Madrid and is easily accessible by metro and bus; other sections of the campus are just a short bus ride away and there are frequent shuttles available to students. There is an International Relations Office which offers support to students although much of their academic guidance will come from the International Coordinator in their main Faculty.

## Housing and Transportation

Students will be responsible for finding their own housing although the UCM accommodation office does provide information about accommodation and assists both Spanish and international students. It is relatively easy to find shared housing with other students, both Spanish and international. There are also a number of new companies which now offer rental apartments specifically to international students (Comforts of Home, Housing Anywhere, etc.).

Many forms of public transportation are available and Madrid has an extensive metro system with a track that goes all the way to the Barajas airport, and also connects the two main train stations. Students can easily travel throughout Spain and to other European countries from Madrid.

## Other activities

With the University being located in Madrid, students have immediate access to all the activities and events of a major city, the capital of Spain. The Erasmus Student Network is very active and organizes specific cultural activities, events and even trips to nearby cities. Students have access to sport facilities and may join clubs to remain active and meet local students.

## Health and Safety

UNC-CH students are covered by the HTH/GeoBlue international health insurance while they are studying in Madrid. Students must also purchase the Spanish national insurance, which gives them great access to local doctors, clinics, and hospitals. Through the GeoBlue website, they can also easily find local doctors who speak English.

Spain, along with other European countries, remains at a higher level of alert. The travel.state.gov website reports the following:

*Like other foreign governments, Spain has taken actions to guard against terrorist attacks, including arrests of suspected extremists allegedly involved in terrorist plots. Credible information indicates terrorist groups continue plotting possible attacks in Europe. All European countries remain potentially vulnerable to attacks from transnational terrorist organizations. U.S. citizens are reminded to remain vigilant with regard to their personal security.*

The most frequent forms of crime are street crimes which occur against tourists with frequent incidents of pickpocketing, mugging as well as occasional violent attacks. During our pre-departure orientations we speak directly to these types of crime and encourage students to always use their common sense and to stay alert to criminal schemes, watch out for their belongings and for each other.

## *Conclusion*


We hope this proposal has given a clear representation of the desired new exchange program with the Complutense University. We are happy to provide you with any additional information you might need to aid in your evaluations of this proposal.

Sincerely,



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Dr. Samuel Amago, Chair of the Department of Romance Studies      9/12/2017  
Date



9.22.17

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Dr. Robert Miles, Associate Dean: Study Abroad and International Exchanges      Date