

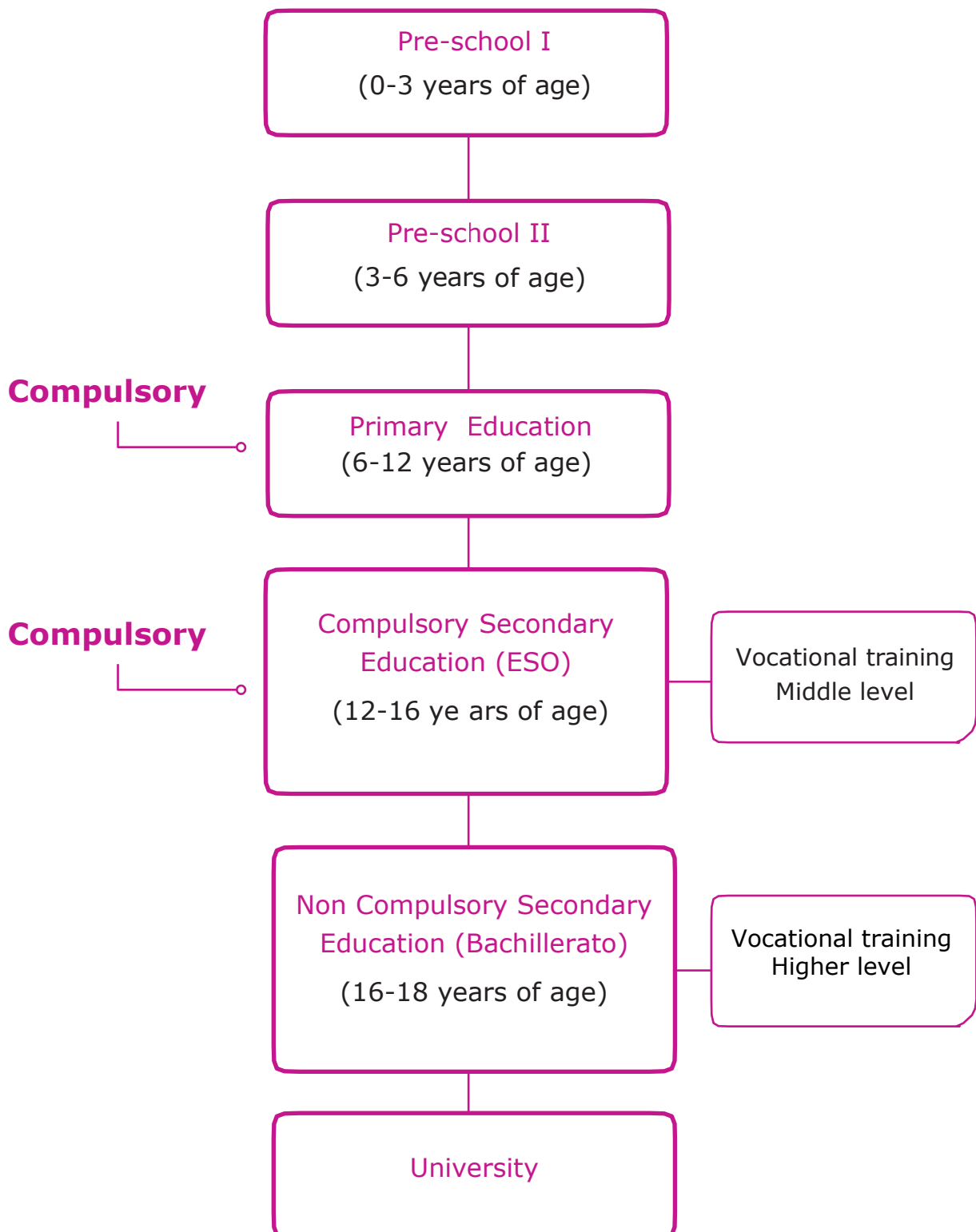
Practical Guide for foreign researchers in the Valencia Region

The Education System



General Information

In the Valencia Region, as in the rest of the Spanish State, education is compulsory between 6 and 16 years of age, the latter being the minimum legal age in Spain to start working but having the right to remain in the education system until eighteen years old. The education system is organised according to the following stages:



Education during the compulsory period is free (at state schools and government-subsidised schools). In addition, it is possible to apply for economic aid in order to acquire school materials and/or to compensate other possible shortages. On the other hand, pre-school education (up to 6 years of age) is not compulsory. However, all the education centres supported by public funding have places which are available via the usual school enrolment procedure, and which are free in the case of pupils between 3 and 5 years of age.

● Types of education centres:

In our region there are public centres, government-subsidised schools, private schools, international schools and special education centres.

- **Public centres** are centres where all the education is subsidised by the government and is free.
- **Government-subsidised schools** are private centres that have an agreement with the Administration that pays the teaching staff and subsidises running costs. They must have the same rules, timetables, programmes and organisation systems as public centres and usually involve certain monthly costs for the students.
- **Private centres** are not subsidised by the State, and therefore have a higher monthly cost.
- **International schools** combine the Spanish education system with the education system of the country they represent, offering students knowledge about the two cultures and entrance to Spanish and foreign higher education.
- **Special Education Centres** can be public, private or government-subsidised schools, adapted to the requirements of children with special education needs.

Through its website, the Department of Education of the Generalitat Valenciana provides a search tool of education centres located in the three provinces of the Valencia Region: <http://www.cece.gva.es/ocd/areacd/val/guiadecentros.asp>

Our region is bilingual, and has two official languages, Spanish and Valencian, which are taught in the education centres. In addition, the education system in the Valencia Region is co-educational, i.e. boys and girls share the learning activities in the school classrooms.

In order to obtain a place at a school supported by public funding (public or government-subsidised private school), the first step is to apply for admission or conduct a pre-enrolment. After receiving all the pre-enrolment applications, the centres will then inform the applicants of the number of places awarded and registration can then take place.

In each academic year, authorities establish the timetable and admission process of the pupils at non-university education centres supported by public funding. Regulations on admissions and registration periods in the Valencian Region are published at the following website: <http://www.cece.gva.es/abc/admisal/es/>

In the ordinary registration period, the deadline of application for a spot in the school for the next course normally begins in March at the education centres themselves. For pupils who need to be registered after the ordinary period, the assignment of school places will be made through the coordinating centres in each area and the **Oficina Municipal de Escolarización (municipal schooling office)** at the local town hall.

Generally, the following documents will be needed for student or pupil registration:

- Application for admission, accompanied by the specific documents that each centre may require for registration.
- Photocopy of the ID card or passport of the father, mother or legal tutor.
- Photocopy of the *libro de familia* (family record book) recording marriage, birthdates, etc. or equivalent.
- Health card.

The school course begins in September and ends in June. It is divided into terms, which are followed by holiday periods.

- First term: from September to Christmas.
- Second term: from January to Easter (April).

- Third term: from Easter to June.

Lessons are taught from Monday to Friday. Pre-school and Primary schools usually have a midday break, with lessons from 9 to 12 h. and from 15 to 17 h. However, these times can vary and it is advisable to check these out at the school, just as the timetables of the Secondary Education stages.

Most schools have a dining hall, as well as specialised staff to attend pupils or students with special educational needs (physical and/or psychological problems).

Families participate in the control and management of the schools through their representatives in the respective School Council. In addition, there are parent associations (AMPA), which usually organise numerous activities for students after lessons have ended.

Educational Attention to immigrant pupils

The Welcome Programme to the Education System (PASE) represents a measure of temporary support (maximum one year) aimed at foreign students that have just arrived. In the first phase, the education centre provides support for language acquisition and at a later stage supports students with deficiencies in areas or subjects to facilitate their rapid integration.

State-funded schools also have Compensation Programmes (PCE) for the rest of foreign students, providing personal and material resources, according to the specific plan submitted by each school depending on the educational needs of their students.

Furthermore, each of the Territorial Offices of the regional education department will be able to offer any information that pupils or parents may need, from acquainting families with the basic aspects of the education system in the Valencia Region, as well as with the school enrolment process and the organisation of the school centres, to possible scholarships and grants for schooling, recognition of certificates, requests for translators and other complementary services.

● INFORMATION and CONTACT:

CONSELLERÍA DE EDUCACIÓN, INVESTIGACIÓN, CULTURA Y DEPORTE
Avda. Campanar, 32. Valencia.
Tel. 963175202
Website: <http://www.cece.gva.es/>

Dirección Territorial de Valencia
Tel. 012. Avda. Gregorio Gea, 14. Valencia

Dirección Territorial de Castellón
Tel. 012. Avda. del Mar, 23. Castellón

Dirección Territorial de Alicante
Tel. 012. C/ Carratalá, 47. Alicante

Higher Education. University studies

The Declaration of Bologna of 1999, signed by the European ministers of education, signaled the beginning of the process of convergence towards a European Higher Education Area (EHEA), in Spanish: [Espacio Europeo de Enseñanza Superior](#)

The European Higher Education Area (EHEA) is a collective effort of public authorities, universities, teachers, and students, together with stakeholder associations, employers, quality assurance agencies, international organisations, and institutions, including the European Commission.

The main focus is the introduction of the three-cycle system (bachelor/master/doctorate), strengthened quality assurance and easier recognition of qualifications and periods of study. Increased compatibility between education systems makes it easier for students and job seekers to move within Europe. The governments of 45 European countries have signed the agreement so far.

Europe and the States set minimum requirements, and the universities design their own plans of study. Each university can set its own contents, as long as these fulfil the minimum quality requirements that have been established by the countries. Five branches of knowledge have been defined: Arts and Humanities, Sciences, Health Sciences, Social and Legal Sciences, and Engineering and Architecture. The length of the degrees is measured on the basis of the student's work, and is set using ECTS credits. One ECTS credit is given for each 25 to 30 hours of study, and reflects the student's learning results and the volume of work carried out by the student in order to meet the educational objectives set out in the plan of study.

The Bologna Process provides Universities with greater autonomy, allowing them to design their own work plans and to diversify the training they offer, always based on very demanding quality standards.

The aspects envisaged include:

- Adoption of an easily readable and comparable system of qualifications by the implementation of a Diploma Supplement.
- Adoption of a system based fundamentally on two main cycles (undergraduate and postgraduate).
- Establishment of a credit system like the ECTS (European Credit Transfer System).
- Promotion of European cooperation to assure a level of quality by the development of comparable criteria and methodologies.
- Promotion of a necessary European dimension in higher education with particular emphasis on curriculum development.
- Promotion of mobility and elimination of obstacles to the free exercise of mobility by students, teachers and administrative personnel of universities and other European higher education Institutions.

The specific actions being conducted in this adaptation process are:

● **Implementation of European Credit Systems**

ECTS credits (European Credit Transfer System) are the standard adopted by all the universities in the European Higher Education Area (EHEA) in the process of convergence between Europe's higher education systems.

ECTS credits are based on the work completed by the student, and cover hours of class, self-study, written work, and internships. An ECTS credit represents 25 hours of study. A student studying full-time is expected to obtain 60 ECTS credits in an academic year.

Further information at: <http://www.eees.es/es/ects>

● **Degrees that are offered in the European Higher Education Area**

One of the objectives of the EHEA is the adoption of a readily comprehensible and comparable, flexible system of qualifications, which promotes work opportunities for students and greater international competitiveness.

Nowadays our official university education is broken down into three cycles: Degree (240 ECTS), Master’s Degree (60-120 ECTS) and Doctorate.

- Each cycle is completed with the awarding of an official qualification. In all cases, passing the first level gives access to the second, and passing the second gives access to the third.
- There are two types of Master’s Degrees: (1) A Master’s focused on carrying out a certain profession, and (2) a research-based Master’s, the awarding of which allows the student to move on to the second period of research, the doctorate.

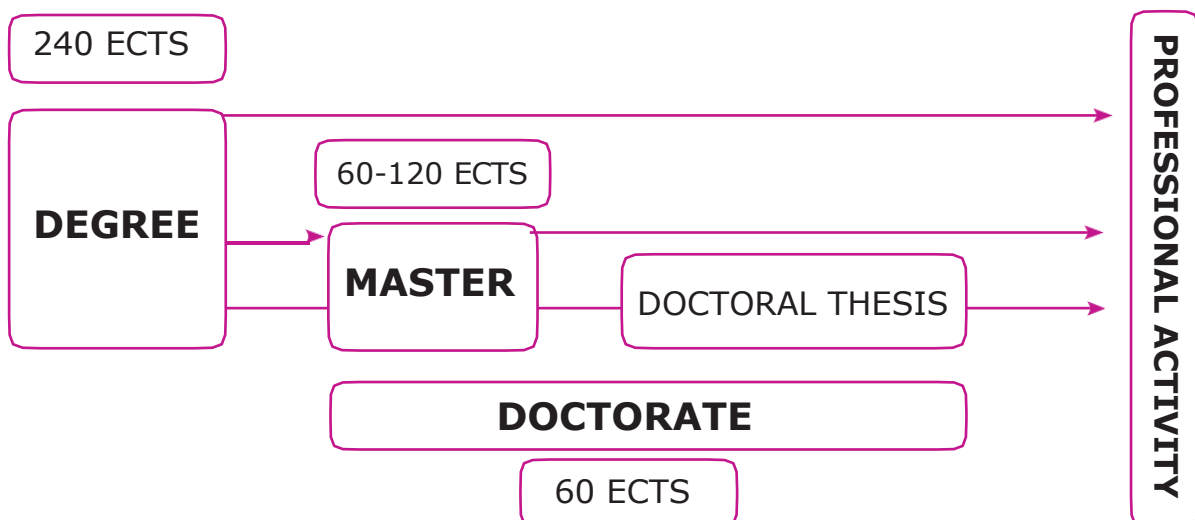
Degree Studies have the purpose of giving a general education, in one or several disciplines, orientated towards activities in the professional world.

To obtain a bachelor’s degree, students must earn a total of 240 ECTS credits over four academic years (including an end-of-degree dissertation). The degree is structured as follows: basic training subjects, obligatory subjects, optional subjects, external placements, end-of-degree dissertation and cultural activities.

Master’s Degrees comprise between 60 and 120 ECTS credits, spread over one or two academic years. Official master’s studies aim to prepare students for academic, professional or research work and lead to the awarding of the master’s degree which is valid in all countries that are members of the European Higher Education Area (EHEA).

Students will be admitted on master’s programmes in accordance with the assessment criteria stipulated for the degree in question. The universities’ Commission for the Coordination of University Degrees establishes the procedures and criteria for admission to master’s programmes.

Doctorate Studies The goal of Doctoral programmes in Spain is to train the student in advanced research techniques. These programmes are divided in two parts or cycles: the first part consists of studying 60 credits, which can be part of the Master’s degree; the second is the actual research which culminates in the student’s public defence of an original research project (doctoral thesis). Regarding the duration of the programme, there is a maximum of three years studying and researching full-time, or five years part-time.



General admission requirements:

- Generally, for entering an official doctoral programme the applicants must hold one of the Spanish official qualifications such as an Undergraduate degree or equivalent, and a Master's Degree qualification. However, access may be given to students in other circumstances.
- In addition to general admission requirements, each PhD may establish some specific conditions.
- If the degree with which the students apply for the Master's Degree is not issued by a Spanish higher education institution, both the degree and the transcript must meet the following requirements: be official and issued by the competent authorities, in accordance with the law of the country concerned, and be fully authenticated and translated.

Further information at: [ROYAL DECREE 99/2011 of 28 January.](#)

Doctorate Schools

The Valencia Universities have established Doctorate Schools which focus and direct the doctoral training programmes carried out by the university, in addition to promoting collaboration with public and private research institutions or national and international businesses. These schools facilitate the organisation of the doctoral programme around one or more branches of knowledge or across multiple disciplines.

For more information on the postgraduate studies offered by Spanish universities, please visit the Ministry of Education's website.

● INFORMATION and CONTACT:

UNIVERSITAT DE VALÈNCIA

Student Service

Edifici Rectorat

Avinguda Blasco Ibáñez, 13 - Nivell 0.

46010 Valencia

Tel. 963983203

Email: All email addresses can be viewed [here](#)

<http://www.uv.es>

UNIVERSITAT POLITÈCNICA DE VALÈNCIA

Student Service

Camino de Vera, s/n. Edificio 2E

46022 Valencia

Tel. 963877904

Email: sealu@upvnet.upv.es

<http://www.upv.es>

UNIVERSIDAD DE ALICANTE

Oficina de Información al Alumnado

Ctra. San Vicente del Raspeig-Alicante s/n. Aulario II, planta baja

03690 San Vicente del Raspeig (Alicante)

Tel. 965903456

Email: informacio@ua.es

<http://www.ua.es>

UNIVERSITAT JAUME I

InfoCampus

Av. de Vicent Sos Baynat, s/n. Àgora Universitaria-Local 15

12071 Castellón de la Plana

Tel: 964387098 from 9am to 2pm, or 964387096 from 4pm to 8pm

Email: info@uji.es

<http://www.uji.es>

UNIVERSIDAD MIGUEL HERNÁNDEZ
Atención al estudiante
Avda. de la Universidad s/n, 03202 Elche (Alicante)
Tel. 966658342
Email: estudiantes@umh.es

<http://estudios.umh.es/presentacion/consultanos/>

UNIVERSIDAD CEU CARDENAL HERRERA
C/Luís Vives, 1
46115 Alfara del Patriarca (Valencia)
Tel. 961369009

<https://www.uchceu.es/futuro-alumno>

UNIVERSIDAD CATÓLICA DE VALENCIA
Oficina Plaza Almoína
Pl. Almoína, nº 3
46001 Valencia
Tel. 961927590

<https://www.ucv.es/>

Validation and recognition of foreign qualifications

Qualifications obtained abroad can be validated and recognised for academic and professional purposes.

On one hand, foreign nationals wishing to continue their studies in Spain will be able to request validation of studies completed in other countries, exclusively for academic purposes.

The validation of foreign studies shall correspond to the Spanish university at which the person wishes to continue his or her studies. Therefore, it is the target university which the student shall contact in order to carry out the relevant proceedings. These proceedings are normally handled directly through the academic secretariats of each faculty or university school and the documentation required will vary depending on the target university. In addition, for the recognition of the doctoral degree, the interested persons shall also go to the universities themselves.

On the other hand, access to certain jobs will depend on a person possessing degrees, diplomas, certificates or specific qualifications. In these cases, foreign visitors will need to apply for recognition of their qualifications, for professional purposes, to the competent authorities of the host State.

All the documents supplied for these procedures shall be official and issued by the relevant competent authorities, in accordance with the legal dispositions of the country involved.

The documentation required for this purpose will vary depending on whether a university degree is to be validated or not. The proceedings can be initiated in the country of origin at the [Spanish Consular Offices](#).

For more **detailed information**, please consult:

- <http://www.educacionyfp.gob.es/servicios-al-ciudadano/catalogo/gestion-titulos.html>
- [NARIC Network](#) (National centres for information on academic recognition)
- Subdelegación del Gobierno (Local Government Offices)
VALENCIA: C/ Joaquín Ballester, 39. Tel. 963079400
ALICANTE: Plaza Muntanyeta, 6. Tel. 965019000

CASTELLÓN: Plaza M^a Agustina, 6. Tel. 964759000

Legalisation and Official translation of documents

Legalisation is an administrative act whereby a foreign public document is validated, by verifying the authenticity of the signature on the document, and the capacity in which the signatory of the document has acted. Unless there is a legal instrument providing exemption from that obligation, all foreign public documents must be legalised in order to be valid in Spain.

The channels and proceedings for legalisation will vary depending on the type of document and country of origin. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation provides all the relevant information regarding this issue:

<http://www.exteriores.gob.es/Portal/en/ServiciosAlCiudadano/SiEstasEnElExtranjero/Paginas/Legalizaciones.aspx>

A list of all sworn translators/interpreters who have been designated as such by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation is available by clicking on [this link](#).

Language courses

The official language in Spain is Castilian or Spanish. On the other hand, some autonomous regions have their own language, as is the case of the Valencia Region, in which Spanish coexists with Valencian.

Together with numerous academies and private language centres, the Valencian universities also offer an interesting range of language courses. More information can be obtained by consulting their respective catalogues of services.

In addition, brief details are given below of the most notable public organisations in which foreigners can learn Spanish and/or Valencian.

● The Cervantes Institute

The Cervantes Institute is a public institution created in 1991 for the promotion and teaching of the Spanish language and for the dissemination of Spanish and Hispanic American culture.

The Institute's Head Office is in Madrid, and it has centres all over the world, which organise general and special courses in the Spanish language. Moreover, the Cervantes Institute organises calls for examination in Spain of the DELE certificate (Diploma of Spanish as a Foreign Language), official qualifications accrediting the degree of competence in and dominion of the Spanish language.

The Institute has teaching centres in 90 cities and provides information on Spanish courses for foreigners in associated centres.

The Institute also offers on-line courses: <http://ave.cervantes.es>

For further information: <http://www.cervantes.es/>

● Official Language Schools

The Escuela Oficial de Idiomas (Official Language Schools), EOI, is a public centre for foreign languages and for the official languages of the State. There are over a hundred such schools in Spain. In the Valencian Region, they offer Spanish and Valencian courses.

There are two teaching modes at the EOIs: official teaching with class attendance and official distance teaching. In addition, there is also the possibility of sitting exams without previously following the EOI courses.

VALENCIA

Escuela Oficial de Idiomas de Valencia

C/ Llano de Zaidía, 19.

Tel. 961206835

Web site: <http://mestreacasa.gva.es/web/eoivalencia>

Email: 46013220@gva.es

As well as Valencia city it has classrooms in Llíria, Paterna, Sagunto, Torrent, Quart de Poblet and Utiel.

CASTELLÓN

Escuela Oficial de Idiomas de Castellón

C/ José María Pradas Gallén, 8

Tel. 964399415

Web site: <http://mestreacasa.gva.es/web/eoicastello>

E-mail: info@eoicastello.es

As well as Castellón city it has classrooms in Benicarló, Borriana, Nules, Onda, Segorbe, La Vall d'Uixó, Vila-real and Vinaròs.

ALICANTE

Escuela Oficial de Idiomas de Alicante

C/ Marqués de Molins, 56-58, primera planta

Tel. 965937015

Web site: <http://mestreacasa.gva.es/web/eoialicante>

E-mail: 03011136@gva.es

It also has classrooms in Alcoy, Alzira, Benidorm, Denia, Elda, Elche, Orihuela, Torrevieja and Xàtiva.