WELCOME GUIDE

for International Research Staff



Universidade Vigo

International Projects Office

MINISTERIO DE CIENCIA, INNOVACIÓN Y UNIVERSIDADES

AGENCIA ESTATAL DE INVESTIGACIÓN

euraxess RESEARCHERS IN MOTION

HR EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH

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WELCOME GUIDE

for International Research Staff

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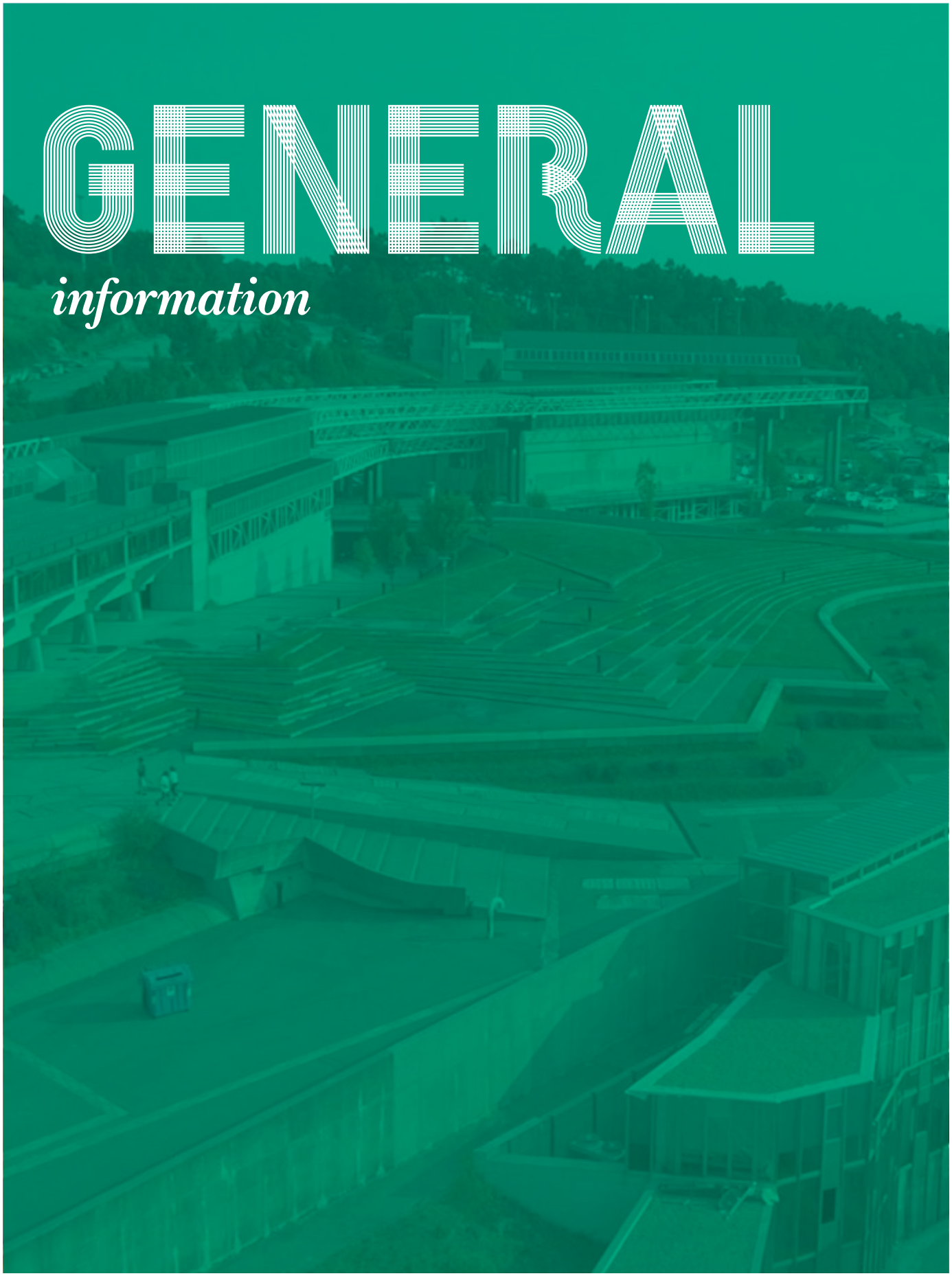


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Meet the University of Vigo

more than 30 training centres

more than 45 departments

7 research centres

5 research institutes

2 research support centres

more than 10 libraries

Language centre

Sports and leisure facilities

Cultural program



The ***University of Vigo*** (UVigo) is a young and dynamic public university with an international outlook, promoting mobility, collaboration, and talent attraction. We are present in the cities of Vigo, Ourense, and Pontevedra with three specialized campuses where you will find ***more than 30 training centres***, ***more than 45 departments***, ***7 research centres***, ***5 research institutes***, and ***2 research support centres***. We also have ***more than 10 libraries***, a ***language centre***, ***sports and leisure facilities***, and a continuous ***cultural program***.

UVigo offers high-level training in all areas of knowledge, with ***more than 70 degrees***, ***more than 60 master's degrees***, and ***more than 40 doctoral programs***.

UVigo has extensive green areas, especially on its Vigo campus, where almost 80% of the surface area is occupied by green spaces, contributing to the quality of life of the university community by offering spaces for rest, recreation, and contact with nature.

We have been participating in the most relevant national and international higher education ***rankings*** for several years.

This environment is yours too.

Welcome to UVigo!



Research at UVigo

Research at UVigo is considered the foundation of teaching and a means for the scientific and cultural development of society. Further information on research at UVigo can be found at the following ***link***.

Equal opportunities and diversity

Since 2017, UVigo has held the **HR Excellence in Research** seal, which reflects our commitment to continuously improving human resources policies in line with the European Charter for Researchers and the Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers, as well as developing a transparent, open, and merit-based recruitment policy (OTM-R).

On the other hand, our ***III Gender Equality Plan*** establishes specific measures to prevent any form of discrimination based on sex, age, origin, religion, sexual orientation, disability, political opinions, or economic status. It also actively promotes gender balance at all levels of the workforce, including supervisory and management positions. UVigo has an ***Equality Unit*** and an Equality Commission that oversee the implementation and monitoring of these policies.

UVigo also has a ***Diversity Unit and a Diversity Commission***, which promotes the positive inclusion of diverse identities and equal opportunities for participation across the entire university community. This unit works in areas such as affective-sexual diversity, functional diversity, and sociocultural diversity, organizing awareness-raising, training, and support activities.

These initiatives position UVigo as an institution committed to equity, diversity, and excellence in research, creating an environment conducive to the professional and personal development of its research community.

International research projects

Through its International Projects Office (OPI), UVigo plays an active role in the promotion, coordination, and participation in international research projects. The OPI leads initiatives to attract, develop, and retain research talent, reinforcing the university's commitment to scientific excellence and internationalization.

Visit the ***International Projects Office (OPI) website*** for more information.

Knowledge and intellectual property transfer

The R&D Office promotes knowledge transfer through patents, collaborative projects, and the creation of knowledge-based companies (see our *catalog*). Visit the *R&D Office website* for more information.

Research management

Under the joint coordination of the Vice-Rectorate for Research and the Vice-Rectorate for Transfer, the various UVigo services and bodies related to research interact and collaborate with each other to achieve the objectives of an innovative institution such as ours. Check out our *research support services*.

Funding

UVigo has a comprehensive funding system: *internal*, *regional*, *national* and *international grants*, as well as collaborations with external entities. This allows researchers and groups to access resources for a wide range of projects, from preparation and consolidation to transfer and business structuring.

Check out *UVigo's open calls*. All calls are available in English, Galician, and Spanish.

Research Career

UVigo adopts the European model of professional development, which classifies research careers into four levels:

R1 – First Stage Researcher (doctoral candidate)

R2 – Recognized Researcher (with initial postdoctoral experience)

R3 – Established Researcher (with a consolidated track record and leadership in projects)

R4 – Leading Researcher (with strategic management and international leadership skills)



Each stage has specific competencies and funding and training opportunities associated with it. Consult the ***chart showing the different stages of the research career***, which identifies the different grants you can apply for at each stage.

UVigo offers research stays through regulations for hosting visiting researchers (national or international) and mobility programs (national and international). In addition, there are internal grants to finance both travel and stays, with the aim of improving internationalization and knowledge exchange. More information is available at the following ***link***.

On the other hand, UVigo offers **continuing education for teaching and research staff** through its ***Centre for Postgraduate and Lifelong Learning (CPFP)***, complemented by training resources, tutorial videos, and supervision and mentoring programs. Check out the following ***link*** for more information.

Dissemination of Research and Exploitation of Results

Our strategic priority is to reach all audiences and raise awareness of the impact and profitability of research work in all areas.

Our research activity and research results are disseminated through various media.

You can find more information at this ***link***.

Open Science

Open Science at UVigo promotes more open, transparent, and accessible research, including publications, data, and research processes. In line with its ***2020–2026 Strategic Plan***, UVigo is committed to promoting Open Science through a range of actions.

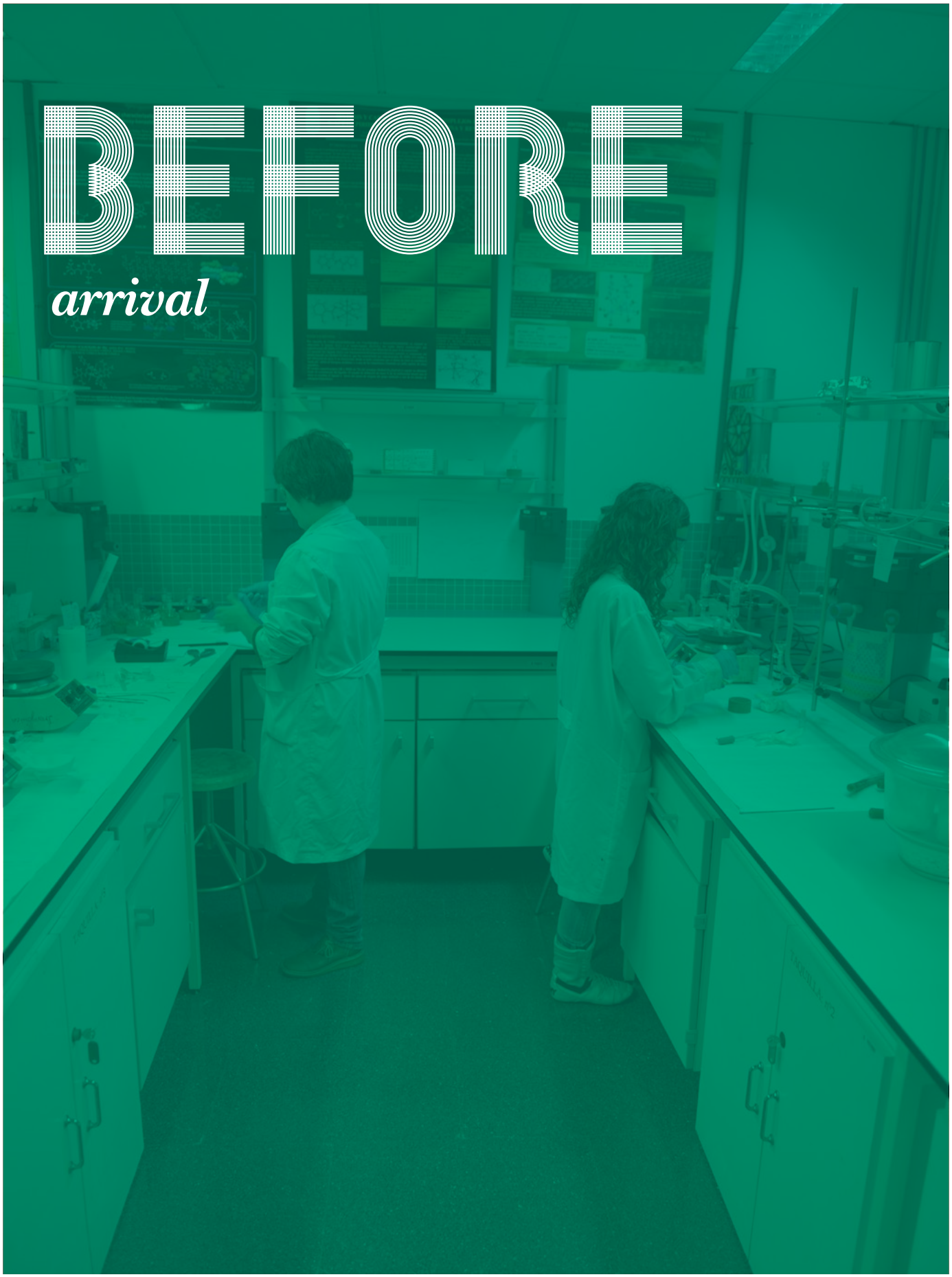
Further information

UVigo Research Portal

UVigo Research support tools and resources

UVigo calls





BEFORE

arrival

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Visa Procedure

UVigo is not responsible for any possible modifications that may occur in Spanish legislation after the publication of this information. Therefore, we strongly recommend that you duly check your obligations related to residence in Spain at the Spanish Consulate before your arrival or at an Immigration Office (Oficina de Extranjería) or National Police Station once in Spain.

If you already have a contact person at UVigo to come as a newly hired researcher

Your contact person should act as a liaison with UVigo's Research Human Resources Service [Servizo de Recursos Humanos de Investigación] and contact them as soon as possible to find out which documentation and procedures you need to complete, depending on your individual circumstances:

contratacion.rhi@uvigo.gal

+34 986 81 35 99

Edificio Filomena Dato.
As Lagoas, Marcosende,
36310 Vigo

Map:
Opening hours: Monday to Friday, 9 am to 2 pm.

If you are a citizen of an EU Member State, the EEA, or Switzerland

You may enter Spain freely; no visa or prior residence authorization is required. However, in order to sign your contract with UVigo, you will need to first obtain your NIE (Foreigners' Identification Number) which is a mandatory immigration procedure that must be completed upon arrival.

See section *Compulsory Immigration Procedures Upon Arrival.*

If you are not a citizen of an EU Member State, the EEA, or Switzerland

Step 1 — *Initial Residence Authorization Request*

UVigo's Research Human Resources Service will submit a request for your initial residence authorization to the Spanish authorities.

This authorization is a mandatory legal step before you can apply for a visa at the Spanish Consulate in your country of legal residence.

You do not need to take any action during this phase, as the procedure will be handled by your contact person at UVigo together with the Research Human Resources Service.

If you are coming with accompanying **family members** (e.g. a spouse or dependent children), their residence authorization applications should also be submitted through the Research Human Resources Service at the **same time as your own application**.

Step 2 *Approval from the Spanish Authorities*

A resolution is typically issued within **approximately 20 working days**, provided that the documentation is complete.

Once UVigo receives a favorable resolution, a copy will be sent to you. You will then use this official approval to apply for a visa at the Spanish Consulate.

If residence authorization applications for accompanying family members were submitted together with your own, copies of the corresponding favorable resolutions will also be provided so that they can apply for their visas at the Spanish Consulate.

Step 3 *Visa Application at the Spanish Consulate*

Once you have received the approval of your initial residence authorization from the Spanish authorities, you must apply for the visa in person at the Spanish Consulate corresponding to your legal place of residence. The same requirement applies to accompanying family members, where applicable.

Contact the consulate in advance to confirm the exact documentation required for the visa application, as requirements may change and should always be verified directly with them.

Step 4 *Visa Issuance*

If your visa application is approved, the Spanish Consulate will issue your visa and affix it to your passport. The visa will include your NIE (Foreigner Identification Number), which you will need for many administrative and legal purposes, including procedures related to working in Spain.

When you receive your visa, take note of its expiry date, as you will need to complete further procedures to renew your authorization before it expires.

Do not begin preparing documents for your visa application until your residence authorization has been approved, in order to avoid unnecessary procedures and expenses that may need to be cancelled.

Please note that obtaining an appointment at the consulate can sometimes take time. Therefore, it is strongly recommended that you check appointment availability as early as possible.

Estimated Timeline: From the start of the work and residence authorization request to visa issuance, the realistic timeframe is **approximately 3 to 4 months.**

If you do not yet have a contact person at UVigo

You may explore our ***Research Portal*** to identify a department aligned with your interests. If you are interested in collaborating with one of our research groups, contact the head of the department to which the group belongs, or ***reach out to us***.

Alternatively, you may check our ***open calls***. All calls are available in English, Galician, and Spanish.

For information on funding opportunities, see ***the research career path at UVigo***.



Health Insurance



Before signing your contract with UVigo

If you are a citizen of an EU Member State, the EEA, or Switzerland

If you plan to arrive in Spain some time before signing your contract, you can use your European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) during the period in which you will not yet have access to the Spanish Social Security system (public healthcare for registered workers in Spain), but it will cover only medical emergencies, unforeseen illnesses, pregnancy, childbirth, urgent pediatric care, and medication necessary during your stay (as determined by medical personnel). Therefore, it is recommended that, in addition to the EHIC, you take out additional medical insurance with any company that includes accidents, international medical transport, travel assistance, and repatriation in the event of an accident or serious illness.

More information about the European Health Insurance Card is available at ***European Health Insurance Card (EHIC)***

If you are not a citizen of an EU Member State, the EEA, or Switzerland

If you plan to arrive in Spain some time before signing your contract, it is recommended that you take out private travel insurance to cover the period during which you will not yet be covered by the Spanish Social Security system (public healthcare for registered workers in Spain). The insurance can be purchased from any provider, preferably including coverage for accidents, international medical transport, travel assistance, and repatriation in the event of an accident or serious illness.

After signing your contract with UVigo

Once you sign your contract with UVigo, you will be entitled to the Spanish Social Security (public healthcare). It is free of charge to anyone living and working in Spain. It is funded by Social Security contributions. The amount of your Social Security contribution will be determined by your contribution base (monthly gross salary) and the applicable contribution rate.

The benefits provided by the Spanish Social Security include, among others: access to public healthcare, pensions (retirement, widow/widower, etc.); allowances (for temporary disability, maternity or paternity, etc.); unemployment benefits (depending on the type of contract) and family protection benefits.

If a direct family member accompanies you, you may also apply for their access to this service. Please make sure to bring official documents proving the family relationship, such as a birth certificate, marriage certificate, etc.

It is not mandatory to have private health insurance to get medical treatment in Spain for people who are working and registered within the Spanish public healthcare system. However, note that dental treatment in Spain is generally not covered by the public healthcare system and must be paid out of pocket unless you have private health insurance.

For information on how to access medical care see section *Access to Medical Care*

Please note that the Spanish Social Security system does not cover repatriation costs, regardless of whether you are a European or non-European citizen. Therefore, it is highly recommended that you take out repatriation insurance. There are numerous insurance companies that offer specific policies that cover these events. These policies vary in extent of coverage and price.

Useful links

- *Health insurance and medical care in Spain | EURAXESS*
- *Spanish Social Security and Pensions | EURAXESS*
- *Pensions for researchers | EURAXESS*
- *Unemployment procedures and benefits in Spain | EURAXESS*
- *Subsidies in Spain | EURAXESS*
- *Indemnities in Spain | EURAXESS*

Recognition of foreign qualifications

Postdoctoral researchers

For employment purposes, UVigo will require you to apply for the recognition (equivalence) of your doctoral degree. You will not be able to sign your employment contract unless you provide either a statement of equivalence or proof that you have submitted an application for the recognition (equivalence) of your foreign degree.

If you are a non-EU citizen, do not start this procedure until your initial residence authorization has been granted (see section ***Visa Procedure***), so that you avoid unnecessary paperwork and expenses that might otherwise have to be cancelled.

The service responsible for managing doctoral degree equivalence applications at UVigo is the Postgraduate Studies Management Service [Servizo de Xestión de Estudos de Posgrao]. Contact them for the latest information on the process and requirements:

seccion.doutoramento@uvigo.gal

+34 986 81 35 99

Edificio Filomena Dato.
As Lagoas, Marcosende,
36310 Vigo

Map:
Opening hours: Monday to Friday,
9 am to 2 pm.

Predoctoral researchers

As part of the hiring procedure, you will be required to submit a copy of the degree qualification required for the position. In addition, you must provide either a statement of equivalence or proof that an application for the recognition/equivalence of your foreign degree has been submitted.

In Spain, the recognition of foreign Bachelor's and Master's degrees is carried out by the Ministry of Science, Innovation and Universities. Information on the procedure is available at the following ***link***.

We recommend that you wait until you arrive in Spain to start this procedure, in order to avoid unnecessary procedures and expenses that may need to be cancelled.



Housing

If you plan to come with your family, start looking for accommodation as soon as possible. The allocation of places in schools or nurseries usually depends on the location of your home.

For short stays

UVigo has its own residences or agreements with residences that offer a wide range of services. ***Check the list of residences in Vigo, Pontevedra, and Ourense***, as well as the ***list of hotels*** that have agreements with UVigo. We recommend ***contacting us*** to obtain the latest information on availability and any special discounts that may apply.

For long stays

The real estate market in the provinces of Pontevedra and Ourense has seen an increase in housing prices in recent years, with limited supply in certain areas and varying levels of affordability. The average rent in Vigo for a two-bedroom apartment is around €1000 per month. Areas such as the centre of Vigo tend to have higher prices than other more remote areas. In the cities of Pontevedra and Ourense, the average rent for a two-bedroom apartment is around €700 per month.

To look for accommodation, you can contact a real estate agency (*Inmobiliaria*). These agencies can help you search for apartments, houses, or rooms that match your needs and budget. You can reach out to them directly by phone or email or visit their offices in person. Many also advertise available properties on their websites and through housing platforms. The main housing platforms are IDEALISTA, FOTOCASA, and HABITACLIA.

You can also walk around the neighborhoods you are interested in and look for "For Rent" signs (*Se alquila*) or talk to neighbors in those areas and ask about the availability of apartments. They can offer valuable information about the community and the neighborhood and may know of any apartments or rooms for rent firsthand. Similarly, local cafés are often community gathering places. Visit a few in your desired area and ask people if they know anyone who is looking for tenants.



Useful tips

1. Start your search in advance:
Before moving, explore the different accommodation options available. This will give you more scope to compare prices, locations, and conditions.

2. Visit the accommodation in person:
Whenever possible, try to view the apartment or room before signing any contract or handing over any money. This will help you avoid unpleasant surprises.

3. Make payments securely:
Ideally, you should pay by bank transfer. If this is not possible, make sure that the landlord gives you a receipt for each payment, including the deposit.

4. Check who is offering the apartment:
Make sure you know whether you are dealing directly with the owner or with a real estate agency. The agencies should not ask you for a commission (this is normally charged to the landlord).

5. Request receipts for all payments:
Keep receipts for each transaction, especially the security deposit, as you may need them in the future.

6. Check whether the monthly price includes community fees:
These fees cover the general maintenance of the building and may vary depending on the services available.

7. Ask about monthly utility costs:
It is useful to know approximately how much you will pay for electricity and water in the apartment you are considering.

8. Check the amount of the deposit:
This is usually equivalent to one month's rent. If everything is in good condition at the end of the contract, the landlord must return it to you. Make sure you take and keep photos of the condition of the accommodation to prove that no damage has been done, so that you can ensure you get your deposit back.

9. Consider the climate:
Although winters are not as extreme as in other areas, humidity can make the cold feel more intense. In summer, temperatures can reach 35°C in Vigo and Pontevedra, and over 40°C in Ourense. Check that the apartment is well insulated and has heating.

10. Read the rental contract carefully:
Before signing, make sure you understand all the clauses.

More information about types of contracts and your rights
Ministerio de Vivienda - Contratos de alquiler (only available in Spanish)

Family: education system and school enrolment

Education system

In Spain, the education system is organized into three main types of schools, many of which offer bilingual education (Spanish & Galician):

- Public schools: These are run by the state and funded entirely by public money.
- State-subsidized private schools: Although privately run, these schools receive partial funding from the state to cover part of their expenses.
- Private schools: These operate completely independently and usually require tuition fees. Some of them are linked to religious institutions, especially Catholic ones.

The choice of a public or subsidized private school usually depends on the location of the home. In some subsidized private schools, the family's income level is also considered during the admission process.

More information about the ***education system in Spain*** 

School enrolment

To arrange schooling for your children, you will need to provide legal proof that you are their mother, father, or legal guardian. Therefore, it is important that you obtain official documents such as birth certificates and family registers (or their equivalent) from your country of origin before traveling.

The allocation of places in schools or nurseries usually depends on the location of your home, so it is important to register in the city as soon as possible.

More information in the ***City Registration*** section of this guide 

In general, the period for submitting applications for admission to public and state-subsidized private schools takes place between March and April, before the start of the new school year. In Galicia, the academic year usually begins in early September and ends in late June. In the province of Pontevedra, procedures related to official schooling are managed by the *Xefatura Territorial de Educación de Pontevedra*, which is responsible for coordinating the entire administrative process. It is recommended to consult the website of the ***Consellería de Educación, Xunta de Galicia*** (only available in Spanish and Galician) for detailed and up-to-date information on the process and specific deadlines for each stage of education. It is also often helpful to **contact schools directly**, as they can provide guidance throughout the admission process, assist with the required procedures, and, in many cases, allow enrolment to be completed in person.

More information about the ***procedures for enrolling in school*** (only available in Spanish and Galician). 

Below you will find the links to the directories of educational centres in Vigo, Ourense and Pontevedra:

- ***Directory of schools in Vigo*** (only available in Galician)
- ***Directory of schools in Ourense*** (only available in Galician)
- ***Directory of schools in Pontevedra*** (only available in Galician)

Private International Schools

There are several private international schools in the Vigo and Pontevedra area, such as O Castro British International School (Vigo) and SEK International School Atlántico (Pontevedra), both of which offer bilingual education in English and Spanish, as well as internationally recognized academic programs.

School Calendar, Timetable and Support Services

In Spain, there are at least 175 school days, also known as teaching days. The school year begins in early September and ends in late June.

Classes are held from Monday to Friday. The school day may be split, with a break for lunch, or continuous, depending on the stage and/or educational centre.

Most schools offer additional services that extend the time children can stay at school, such as early-morning childcare (*madrugadores*), school meals, and extracurricular activities. These services are generally managed by parents' associations (AMPA/ANPA/AFA), while some school meal services are organized by the regional government (*Xunta de Galicia*). Although these services are subject to a fee, costs are generally affordable.

The *Xunta de Galicia* also usually provides free school transport from designated catchment areas to the corresponding school.

Number of hours per week

- 25 hours in the second cycle of Early Childhood Education and Primary Education.
- 30 or 33 hours in Compulsory Secondary Education.

School holidays

- **Christmas:** December 22 to January 7.
- **Holy Week or Easter:** 10 days in March or April.
- **Summer:** since the end of the school year in late June and during the entire months of July and August.
- **Holidays specific to the Autonomous Community of Galicia:** Galician Literature Day (May 17).
- Keep in mind the **holidays specific to the municipality** where you are enrolled in school.





Work-life balance

To promote work-life balance among the university community, UVigo offers a range of services of great interest:

- **UVigo Nursery schools (Ourense and Pontevedra campuses)**
  Available for children from 0 to 3 years old, with preferential access for members of the university community (teaching and research staff, administrative staff, and students)

  Ourense Campus
  Escola Infantil Concepción Sáiz Otero
  +34 988 613 063

  Pontevedra Campus
  Escola Infantil A Xunqueira
  +34 986 802 070

- **Campus Camp**
  This activity is aimed at the children of members of the university community between the ages of 3 and 15. It is organized during the months of June, July and September and requires prior registration. Its goal is to support work-life balance while also bringing the university closer to children.

  Vigo Campus
  Sección de Extensión Universitaria
  +34 986 813 817
  extension@uvigo.gal

  Ourense Campus
  Área de Servizos á Comunidade
  +34 988 387 102 / +34 988 387 089
  asc-ou@uvigo.gal

- **Lactation rooms**
  Lactation rooms are accessible, private spaces where mothers can breastfeed or express milk comfortably within the university setting.

  Vigo Campus
  - Edificio Filomena Dato (2nd floor)
  - CINBIO – Edificio Olimpia Valencia (module 4, 3rd floor)
  - ECIMAT (Thinking Corner, 1st floor)

  Pontevedra Campus
  - Facultade de Belas Artes (1st floor)
  - Escola de Enxeñaría Forestal (ground floor)

  Ourense Campus
  - Biblioteca Rosalía de Castro (entrance)

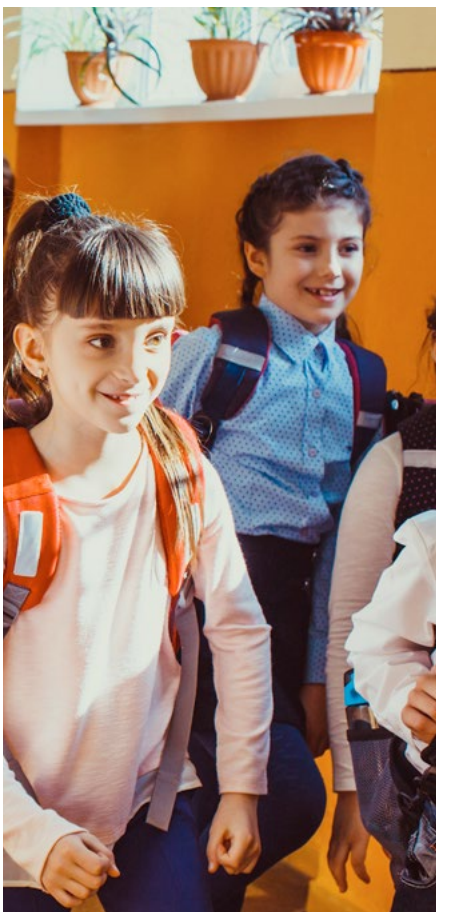
In our ***guide to balancing personal, family, and work life for UVigo staff*** (only available in Galician), you will find all the information on how to balance personal, family, and work life. It explains available leave and flexibility measures, as well as university and public resources such as childcare services, lactation rooms, and sports or cultural activities. Importantly, it also includes support for caring for dependent people, including elderly relatives, through leave options, reduced working hours, and access to public day centres and residences. At the end of the guide, you will also find a list of nurseries, play centres, municipal leisure facilities for children and young people, municipal youth information offices, libraries, civic centres, and leisure residences in the provinces of Pontevedra and Ourense.

Leisure activities for children

Vigo and surrounding area
https://www.littlevigo.com/
https://www.vigopeques.com/

Pontevedra
https://www.visit-pontevedra.com/que-hacer/pontevedra-en-familia/

Ourense
https://ourense.gal/turismo/inspirate/ourense-con-ninos/



Useful links

Xunta de Galicia – Familia e infancia
(only available in Spanish and Galician)

Xunta de Galicia - Juventud
(only available in Spanish and Galician)

Driving license

UVigo is not responsible for any possible modifications that may occur in Spanish legislation after the publication of this information. Therefore, we strongly recommend that you duly check your obligations with the ***Spanish Directorate General for Traffic (DGT)***.

In Spain, we drive on the right and overtake on the left. Seat belt use is mandatory, and using a mobile phone while driving is prohibited, except with a hands-free kit. Generally, cars approaching from the right have right-of-way. In addition, insurance from a Spanish insurance company is mandatory to cover personal injury and property damage caused to third parties. Driving without insurance can result in heavy fines, vehicle immobilization, and even criminal liability in the event of an accident. Both EU and non-EU citizens can drive in Spain, but conditions vary depending on their nationality.



If you are a citizen of an EU Member State, the EEA, or Switzerland

During the first 2 years of your residence in Spain, you can drive with your valid national driver's license issued by your country of origin. However, six months after your entry into Spain, you must register with the traffic authorities. After 2 years of residence, you must apply for an equivalence of your driving license to comply with Spanish regulations, save for the cases where there is a legal exception. This is a simple renewal process without the need to take an exam.

More information is available on the ***Directorate General for Traffic website – Renewal of EU and EEA permits***

If you are not a citizen of an EU Member State, the EEA, or Switzerland

During the first 6 months of your residence in Spain, you may drive in Spain with your foreign driving license, provided that you carry an ***International Driving Permit*** (IDP) along with your valid license. After this period, you must apply for an equivalence of your driving license to comply with Spanish regulations. Spain has agreements with several countries allowing you to exchange your license without taking an exam. You will find the list of countries that have an agreement with Spain and information on the procedure to be carried out at this link: ***Directorate General for Traffic – Exchanges of foreign permits.*** If your country does not have an agreement, you must obtain a Spanish license from scratch.

Moving with Pets

UVigo is not responsible for any possible changes to the regulations applicable to travelling to Spain with pets after the publication of this information. Therefore, we strongly recommend that you consult the most up-to-date requirements and official information available on the ***official website of the Spanish Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food*** before travelling.

Moving to Spain with a pet requires compliance with a set of general requirements that may vary depending on the country of origin (inside or outside the EU) and are subject to changes in regulations. For this reason, it is essential to always consult the most up-to-date legislation and ***official information available on the official website of the Spanish Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food*** before travelling.

In general terms, pets are usually required to have a microchip for identification, a valid rabies vaccination, and specific health documentation, with additional requirements potentially applying depending on the animal's origin. No quarantine is normally required if all documentation is in order, although border and airport checks may vary, so it is strongly recommended to verify the specific requirements for each case well in advance.

It is also advisable to start preparations at least 2–3 months in advance, check with the airline regarding pet reservations before booking the flight, carry copies of all documentation in both digital and printed form, and avoid flights with multiple stopovers when travelling with a pet, especially from outside the EU.

Plan Your Trip: How to Get to Galicia

Galicia is located in the northwest of Spain and is well connected by air through several regional and international airports, as well as major transport hubs in nearby cities.

Main airports in Galicia

There are three airports in the region that handle both domestic and some international flights:

(VGO)

Vigo Airport

The closest airport to the University of Vigo, mainly focused on domestic connections (especially Madrid and Barcelona), with occasional seasonal international routes.

(SCQ)

Santiago Compostela Airport

The largest and most international airport in Galicia. It receives regular flights from major Spanish cities and several European destinations, especially during peak academic and tourist seasons.

(LCG)

A Coruña Airport

Another regional airport offering frequent domestic flights and limited international connections.

Common international access routes

Many international researchers travel to Galicia through nearby or better-connected airports:

(OPO)

Porto Airport

A very popular option due to its wide range of international flights across Europe and beyond. From Porto, the cities where the University of Vigo has campuses — Vigo, Pontevedra, and Ourense— are easily reachable by bus, train, or car (approximately 2–3 hours depending on the destination).

(MAD)

Madrid Barajas Airport

The main international hub in Spain. Frequent high-speed train (AVE) and domestic flights connect Madrid with Galicia, providing easy access to Vigo, Pontevedra, and Ourense. The train journey from Madrid to Galicia typically takes around 3–4 hours depending on the city.

Practical tips

1. If you are flying from outside Europe, the most common routes involve a connection through **Madrid** or another major European hub.

2. For budget and flexibility, **Porto Airport** is often the most convenient international gateway.

3. Once in Galicia, transport between Vigo, Pontevedra, and Ourense is possible by regional trains, intercity buses, or car rentals.

FIRST

steps



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How to get to UVigo

Check the following ***link*** to find out how to get to the different campuses of UVigo.

Getting to the Vigo campus

From Vigo



BUS

Vitrasa is the bus service in the city of Vigo. A standard ticket costs €1.63 and the journey from the centre of Vigo to the campus takes approximately 20 min.

With the ***PassVigo card***, the ticket price is reduced to €0.67 for all registered citizens (see section ***City Registration*** for more information) and to €0.43 for students. The PassVigo card can be ***requested online*** or in person at the Vigo City Hall (Praza do Rei, 1, 36202, Vigo). You only need to fill out a form with your details.

Several bus lines connect the city centre of Vigo with the Vigo campus. Timetables and routes can be found on the ***Vigo App*** or on the ***Moovit App***, as well as in the ***Vitrasa website***.

Note that bus services to the Vigo campus are less frequent during university holiday periods.

Bus service for UVigo staff
The Vigo campus has its own bus service to transport staff to the campus. You can check the timetables and stops at the following ***link*** or send an email to ***pmovil@uvigo.gal*** for more information.



CAR

The journey from Vigo city centre to the Vigo campus takes approximately 10–20 minutes, depending on traffic conditions. The campus is easily accessible via the VG-20 ring road and other main city roads. Parking is available on campus, although availability may vary during peak hours.



BICYCLE

The Vigo campus is located in the elevated area of As Lagoas–Marcosende, so the journey involves steep uphill sections. There are currently limited dedicated cycle lanes and cycling infrastructure on the route to campus. Bicycle parking is available on campus. An electric bicycle may make the journey more comfortable.

From Pontevedra



BUS

The company ***Autocares Rías Baixas*** connects Pontevedra with the Vigo campus. A single ticket costs between €2 and €4, and the journey takes approximately 40 minutes.



CAR

The journey from Pontevedra to the Vigo campus takes approximately 25–35 minutes via the AP-9 motorway. Parking is available on campus, although availability may vary during peak hours.



TRAIN

From Pontevedra railway station, take a train to Vigo-Guixar or Vigo-Urzáiz station. The journey takes approximately 15–30 minutes, depending on the service, and ticket prices generally range from €3 to €8. From either station, you can reach the Vigo campus by city bus (***Vitrasa***), taxi, or bicycle. The journey from the train station to the campus takes approximately 20–30 minutes by bus.

From Ourense



BUS

The companies ***Monbus*** and ***Avanza Ourense*** connect Ourense bus station with Vigo bus station. The journey takes approximately 1 hour 30 minutes and a single ticket costs between €6 and €10. From Vigo bus station, you can take a city bus to the campus. Further information on transport in Vigo can be found at the following ***link***.



CAR

The journey from Ourense to the Vigo campus takes approximately 1 hour via the A-52 motorway. Parking is available on campus, although availability may vary during peak hours.

Further information on transport in Vigo can be found at the following ***link***.



TRAIN

The regional train or high-speed train takes between 1 hour 30 minutes and 2 hours to reach Vigo Guixar railway station or Vigo Urzáiz railway station from Ourense railway station. The fare costs between €9 and €22. From Urzáiz or Guixar stations, you can take the city bus to the campus.

Getting to the Ourense campus

From Ourense



BUS

In Ourense, the city bus service is called ***Avanza***. A standard ticket costs €0.85 and the journey from the centre of Ourense to the campus takes approximately 12 minutes.

With the ***Milenio Card***, the ticket price is reduced to €0.31 for people up to the age of 26 who are enrolled in an educational programme, as well as for certain other specific groups.

Several bus lines connect the city centre of Ourense with the Ourense campus. Timetables and routes can be found on the ***Avanza Ourense website*** or on the ***Moovit App***.



FOOT

The Ourense campus is located approximately 2–3 km from the city centre and can be reached on foot in around 25–35 minutes, depending on the starting point. The route is straightforward and follows urban streets with pedestrian access throughout the journey.



BICYCLE

The Ourense campus can be reached by bicycle from the city centre in approximately 10–20 minutes, depending on the starting point and route chosen. The city has several cycling-friendly streets that provide access to the campus. Bicycle parking facilities are available on campus. Cyclists are encouraged to follow local traffic regulations and use designated cycling infrastructure where available.

From Vigo



BUS

The companies ***Monbus*** and ***Avanza Ourense*** connect Vigo bus station with Ourense bus station. The journey takes approximately 1 hour 30 minutes and a single ticket costs between €6 and €10. From Ourense bus station, you can take a city bus to the campus.



CAR

The journey from Vigo to the Ourense campus takes approximately 1 hour via the A-52 motorway. Parking is available on and around the campus.



TRAIN

From Vigo-Guixar or Vigo-Urzáiz railway stations, take a train to Ourense railway station. Depending on the service, the journey takes approximately 40–90 minutes, and ticket prices generally range from €6 to €20. From Ourense railway station, you can take a city bus (***Avanza***), a taxi, or cycle to the campus. The journey from the station to the campus takes approximately 10–15 minutes by bus or bicycle.

From Pontevedra



BUS

Monbus and ***Flixbus*** connect Pontevedra with the bus station in Ourense. The journey takes approximately 2 hours and 15 minutes, and a single ticket costs between €6 and €10. From the bus station in Ourense, you can take a city bus to the campus. Further information on transport in Ourense can be found at the following ***link***.



CAR

The journey from Pontevedra to the Ourense campus takes approximately 1 hour 15 minutes via the AP-9 and A-52 motorways. Parking is available on and around the campus.

Further information on transport in Ourense can be found at the following ***link***.



TRAIN

The regional train takes between 1 hour 10 minutes and 1 hour 35 minutes to reach Ourense train station from Pontevedra station. The fare costs are between 13 and €35. From Ourense station, you can take the city bus to the campus.

Getting to the Pontevedra campus

From Pontevedra



FOOT

All faculties are within walking distance from the city centre, approximately a maximum of 15 minutes.



BICYCLE

The Pontevedra campus can be reached by bicycle from most parts of the city in approximately 5–15 minutes. Pontevedra is widely recognized for its pedestrian-friendly urban design and traffic-calming measures, making cycling a convenient option. Bicycle parking facilities are available on campus.

From Vigo



BUS

The companies ***Autocares Rías Baixas*** and ***Monbus*** connect Vigo bus station with Pontevedra bus station. A single ticket costs between €2 and €4, and the journey takes approximately 45 min. From Pontevedra bus station, it is only a few minutes' walk to the campus.



CAR

The journey from Vigo to the Pontevedra campus takes approximately 25–35 minutes via the AP-9 motorway. Parking is available on and around the campus.



TRAIN

From Vigo-Guixar or Vigo-Urzáiz train stations, take a train to Pontevedra-Universidad. The journey takes approximately 35 minutes and costs between €4 and €6. From Pontevedra-Universidad station, it is only a few minutes' walk to the campus.

From Ourense



BUS

The company ***Monbus*** operates regular services between Ourense and Pontevedra. The journey takes approximately 1 hour 45 minutes to 2 hours, and a single ticket usually costs between €8 and €12. From Pontevedra bus station, the campus is only a few minutes' walk away.



CAR

The journey from Ourense to the Pontevedra campus takes approximately 1 hour 15 minutes via the AP-53 and AP-9 motorways. Parking is available on and around the campus.

Further information on transport in Pontevedra can be found at the following ***link***.



TRAIN

From Ourense train station, take a train to Pontevedra. Depending on the service, the journey takes approximately 1 hour 15 minutes to 1 hour 45 minutes. Ticket prices generally range from €8 to €20. From Pontevedra railway station, the campus is around a 15-minute walk away, or a short bus or taxi ride.

Contract signing

Before you can sign your contract, you must provide the Research Human Resources Service [Servizo de Recursos Humanos de Investigación] with various documents and information required to prepare your employment contract. These include your NIE number, your Spanish bank account number, proof that you have applied for the equivalence/recognition of your foreign qualifications, and other documentation.

For this reason, you or your contact person at UVigo should contact the Research Human Resources Service as soon as possible, well in advance of your expected contract start date, to find out what documentation and procedures are required in order to prepare and sign your contract. It is important to allow sufficient time for all the necessary documentation and procedures to be completed so that you can sign your contract and start on the expected date.

Please note that you must obtain a digital certificate before you can sign your contract. This procedure must be completed in person after your arrival in Spain. Please see the ***Digital Certificate*** section of this guide for further information.

If you are an EU citizen, you must obtain your NIE before you can sign your contract with UVigo. Please note that obtaining it may take some time due to the limited availability of appointments at the police station. Appointment waiting times may vary and are beyond our control. We therefore recommend that you plan your arrival accordingly and allow approximately two weeks to complete this requirement. See the section ***Compulsory Immigration Procedures*** upon Arrival for further information.

Contact the Research Human Resources Service as soon as possible and ask them for information about the documentation and procedures you need to complete in order to sign your contract:



contratacion.rhi@uvigo.gal



+34 986 81 35 99



Edificio Filomena Dato. As Lagoas, Marcosende, 36310 Vigo



Map: Opening hours: Monday to Friday, 9 am to 2 pm.

Compulsory Immigration Procedures upon arrival

UVigo is not responsible for any possible modifications that may occur in Spanish legislation after the publication of this information. Therefore, we strongly recommend that you duly check your obligations at an Immigration Office (Oficina de Extranjería) or National Police Station.

If you are a citizen of an EU Member State, the EEA, or Switzerland

If you are an EU citizen, there are **two separate immigration procedures** you must complete after arriving in Spain: obtaining your NIE (Foreigner Identification Number), which is required to sign your UVigo employment contract and to register with the Spanish Social Security system, as well as for many other procedures with the Spanish public authorities; and obtaining your EU Citizen Registration Certificate (CUE), which must be obtained within 3 months of entering Spain. Please make sure to complete both procedures.

1. Obtain your NIE (Foreigner Identification Number)

You must obtain your **NIE** (Foreigner Identification Number) before you can sign your UVigo employment contract, as it is required to register with the Spanish Social Security system and for many other procedures with the Spanish public authorities.

Procedure:

You must **request an appointment online** in advance. Please note that obtaining it may take some time due to the limited availability of appointments at the police station. Appointment waiting times may vary and are beyond our control. We recommend checking for available appointments early in the morning, as new appointments are often released at that time. The system may occasionally offer appointments in other locations, such as Tui or Salvaterra de Miño. If an appointment is available in one of these locations, we recommend accepting it.

If you hold a **valid electronic signature** issued and recognized in your home EU country, you may use it under the **EU eIDAS framework** to access the online appointment booking system. Using electronic identification may provide **access to a wider range of available appointment slots**.

You can request an appointment ***via this link*** (only available in Spanish), selecting the province where you are located (Pontevedra or Ourense, as applicable), and then, in the drop-down list under "TRÁMITES POLICÍA NACIONAL," selecting the option "POLICÍA – CERTIFICADOS Y ASIGNACION NIE".

- **Vigo National Police Station:** Álvaro Cunqueiro, 6, 36211 Vigo
- **Ourense National Police Station:** Mestre Vide, 4, 32004 Ourense
- **Pontevedra National Police Station:** Joaquín Costa, 17, 36001 Pontevedra

You will need to attend your appointment with **your ID, proof of employment** (proforma contract or equivalent), **completed application form**, and **proof of payment of the applicable fee** (the fee must be paid in person at a bank branch).

Check in advance the documentation to be submitted in the following ***link***.

2. Obtain your EU Citizen Registration Certificate (CUE)

Within **3 months of entering Spain**, you must register as an EU citizen resident in Spain and obtain your EU Citizen Registration Certificate (CUE). This is a mandatory procedure for EU citizens who will be working and residing in Spain for more than three months.

If you are coming to Spain with your family, each accompanying family member must also obtain their own CUE.

You can request an appointment via this ***link*** (note that the link can only be accessed from Spain and that the platform is only available in Spanish), selecting the province where you are located (Pontevedra or Ourense, as applicable), and then, in the drop-down list under "TRÁMITES POLICÍA NACIONAL," selecting the option "POLICÍA – CERTIFICADO DE REGISTRO DE CIUDADANO DE LA E.U.".

- **Vigo National Police Station:** Álvaro Cunqueiro, 6, 36211 Vigo
- **Ourense National Police Station:** Mestre Vide, 4, 32004 Ourense
- **Pontevedra National Police Station:** Joaquín Costa, 17, 36001 Pontevedra

You will need to attend your appointment with **your ID, proof of employment** (employment contract/pay slips), your **certificate of city registration** (more information can be found in the section ***City Registration***), **completed application form**, and **proof of payment of the applicable fee** (the fee must be paid in person at a bank branch).

Check in advance the documentation to be submitted in the following ***link***.

When leaving Spain, it is recommended to notify the National Police Station of your departure.

If you are not a citizen of an EU Member State, the EEA, or Switzerland

After arriving in Spain, you **must apply for a Foreigner Identity Card (TIE)** in person at the National Police Station in the city where you will be living. The **TIE application must be made within one month (30 days)** of entering the country. This application must be made in person at the National Police Station in the city where you will be residing. If you are coming with your **family**, they must also apply in person for the **TIE within 1 month (30 days)** of entering the country.

Your **TIE will include the same NIE** (Foreigner Identification Number) that was assigned to you in your visa.

Procedure:

You must request an appointment online in advance. Please note that obtaining it may take some time due to the limited availability of appointments at the police station. Appointment waiting times may vary and are beyond our control. We recommend checking for available appointments early in the morning, as new appointments are often released at that time. The system may occasionally offer appointments in other locations, such as Tui or Salvaterra de Miño. If an appointment is available in one of these locations, we recommend accepting it.

You can request an appointment ***via this link*** (only available in Spanish), selecting the province where you are located (Pontevedra or Ourense, as applicable), and then, in the drop-down list under "TRÁMITES POLICÍA NACIONAL," selecting the option "POLICÍA-TOMA DE HUELLAS (EXPEDICIÓN DE TARJETA), INICIAL, RENOVACIÓN, DUPLICADO Y LEY 14/2013".

- **Vigo National Police Station:** Álvaro Cunqueiro, 6, 36211 Vigo
- **Ourense National Police Station:** Mestre Vide, 4, 32004 Ourense
- **Pontevedra National Police Station:** Joaquín Costa, 17, 36001 Pontevedra

You will need to attend your appointment with **your passport** (including the **entry stamp** or, if your passport was not stamped, your **boarding pass** or other **proof of entry**), **your residence authorization/visa**, **proof of employment** (employment contract), **a passport-sized color photograph**, **completed application form**, and **proof of payment of the applicable fee** (the fee must be paid in person at a bank branch).

Check in advance the documentation to be submitted in the following ***link***.

When leaving Spain, it is recommended to notify the National Police Station of your departure.

Digital Certificate

A digital certificate is an electronic document that validates the identity of a person or entity on the internet, allowing you to carry out various administrative procedures and transactions online in a secure and agile manner, avoiding trips and waiting times. It also allows you to legally and securely sign documents. You will need this digital certificate to sign your UVigo employment contract and to complete administrative procedures with the Spanish Social Security Administration, the Tax Agency, and other public authorities in Spain.

Procedure:
First, you must ***request the certificate on the website of the Spanish National Mint*** (FNMT) (only available in Spanish). A request code will be generated. Then, you must go in person with your documentation and that code to one of the offices listed below with your **NIE (Foreigner Identification Number)**, which is the identification number assigned to you in your visa if you are a non-EU citizen, or which is obtained through the registration with the National Police if you are an EU citizen. If you are an EU citizen and do not yet have your NIE, please consult the section ***Compulsory Immigration Procedures upon arrival***.

At the registration office, you will be required to identify yourself by presenting your NIE and the code. Once your identity has been verified, you will receive an email to **download the digital certificate** from the **same computer from which you made the request**.

Registration Offices:

Vigo campus Registration Office
Edificio Exeria - Servizos Centrais
Tel. +34 986 813 902 | 986 130 200
rexistroxeral@uvigo.gal

Ourense campus Registration Office
Edificio Administrativo. As Lagoas. Campus de Ourense
Tel. +34 988 387 103
rex-our@uvigo.gal

Pontevedra campus Registration Office
Esc. de Enxeñaría Forestal. A Xunqueira. Campus de Pontevedra
Tel. +34 986 801 955
rex-pont@uvigo.gal

To sign documents with your digital certificate, you will need to use the AutoFirma app, which you can download here:

Download AutoFirma App

Ocupational Risk Prevention

All UVigo staff have access to the Occupational Medicine Service, and all new employees are entitled to undergo a medical examination. The Occupational Risk Prevention Service at UVigo provides information and guidance on workplace health and safety, organizes occupational risk prevention training sessions, and carries out medical examinations.

Once you sign your contract, the Research Human Resources Service [Servizo de Recursos Humanos de Investigación] will inform you about the steps to follow in order to receive information on the occupational risk prevention measures related to your position, attend the corresponding training sessions, and, if necessary, arrange an appointment for an initial medical examination.

If you have any questions or enquiries for the Occupational Health and Safety Service [Servicio de Prevención de Riesgos Laborales], you can contact them at:



sprlformacionesaude@uvigo.es



+34 986 814 088



Edificio Filomena Dato. As Lagoas, Marcosende, 36310 Vigo



Map: Opening hours: Monday to Friday, 9 am to 2 pm.

Activating a User Account

Your UVigo account will be automatically created once you sign your contract. The instructions for activating it will be sent to you by the Research Human Resources Service [Servizo de Recursos Humanos de Investigación].

If you encounter any problems, you can contact the User Support and Microcomputing Service [Servicio de Atención a Usuarios/as y Microinformática]:

Vigo campus
Filomena Dato Building [Edificio Filomena Dato]
Tel. +34 986 812 668
saum@uvigo.gal

Ourense campus
Administrative Building [Edificio Administrativo]
Tel. +34 988 387 045
saum-ou@uvigo.gal

Pontevedra campus
Faculties of Communication and Public Management and Administration [Facultades de Comunicación y de Dirección y Gestión Pública]
Tel. +34 986 802 030
saum-po@uvigo.gal

City Registration

UVigo is not responsible for any possible modifications that may occur in Galician legislation after the publication of this information. Therefore, we strongly recommend that you duly check your obligations at the Concello (City Hall).

The *Padrón municipal*, or *empadronamiento*, is the official registry of residents in a city and is mandatory for people residing in Spain. It serves to certify the residence and address of individuals in a given location and allows access to essential public services (healthcare, education, public transportation, social benefits, and other services such as access to public libraries, public swimming pools, etc.), as well as administrative and legal procedures.

Procedure:

To register in the city, you can do so in person at the Concello (City Hall) of the city where you live. Applicants are attended in person without a prior appointment, Monday through Friday. Queue numbers are issued from 8:30 a.m. until all available slots for the day have been assigned. You will need to present **your NIE** (more information about the NIE can be found in the section ***Compulsory Immigration Procedures Upon Arrival***), the **completed application form**, and **your rental contract and latest rent receipt** (a **utility bill in your name** can also be accepted as proof of residence). If you live with other people who are already registered at the same address, you must provide written authorization from an adult who is already registered there (the property owner or the person named on the rental contract), along with their signature on the registration form and their original ID. If you live in a collective establishment (such as a residence), you must provide authorization signed and stamped by the director or person in charge. If you are **registering your children**, you will also need to provide the original ID cards or passports of both parents, the original ID card or passport of children aged 14 and over, the family record book or birth certificate, and the registration form signed by both parents or signed by one parent with written authorization from the other.

All the information for registering in **Vigo** in the following ***link*** (only available in Spanish and Galician).

All the information for registering in **Pontevedra** in the following ***link*** (only available in Spanish and Galician).

All the information for registering in **Ourense** in the following ***link*** (only available in Spanish and Galician).

When leaving Spain, it is advisable to deregister from the city at the Concello (City Hall).

People from outside the EU without permanent residence permits will have to renew their registration every two years.

Access to Medical Care

Spain's public healthcare system is called Sistema Nacional de Salud (SNS). It is internationally recognized for its efficiency and quality. It is mainly financed by public funds (citizens' taxes), which allows it to offer free medical care. This system guarantees access to medical consultations, emergency services, hospitalization, and subsidized medications. The public network includes health centres and hospitals distributed throughout the country.

As soon as you sign your contract with UVigo, you will be entitled to it. See section ***Health Insurance*** for more information.

Access to medical care is done by choosing a primary care physician, for which you must obtain first a **Health Card**.

The Health Card is a document that identifies each citizen for access to public healthcare services in Spain. It is used to identify you at health centres, hospitals, and pharmacies, facilitating the management of appointments, electronic prescriptions, etc.

Procedure:

To apply for a Health Card, you must **make an appointment in advance**, either by phone or in person, **at the health centre corresponding to your place of residence**. On the day of your appointment, you will need to present **your NIE** (more information about the NIE can be found in the section ***Compulsory Immigration Procedures Upon Arrival***), your **certificate of city registration** (more information can be found in the section ***City Registration***), and **your employment contract**. Make sure to present your employment contract to ensure that you are not mistakenly subject to the three-month waiting period that applies in other cases.

The Health Card is valid throughout Spain.

Health centres are the first point of contact with the system. They provide basic care and, if necessary, refer the patient to a specialist.

More information at:
Tarjeta Sanitaria SERGAS
(only available in Spanish and Galician)

Find your health centre in the following ***Map of healthcare services in Galicia***
(only available in Spanish and Galician)



Process for accessing medical care:

Initial consultation

The patient goes to their health centre, where they are seen by a primary care physician.

Referral

If the case requires it, the physician refers the patient to a specialist or hospital.

Specialized care

Specialists perform tests, treatments, or procedures at specialized centres or hospitals.

Hospitalization

If necessary, the patient is admitted to a public hospital.

Follow-up

After discharge, follow-up may continue with the primary care physician or the specialist, depending on the case.

SERGAS app

You can download the SERGAS app from the Google Play Store or the Apple App Store. It is used to manage healthcare services in Galicia, such as booking medical appointments and accessing your personal health information. To access the SERGAS app, you first need to have a health card, as you will need your health card details to log in.



More information on the following ***link*** (only available in Spanish and Galician).

In case of emergency, go to any public hospital and present your health card. The medical staff will provide the necessary care. Below is a list of public hospitals in the cities of Vigo, Pontevedra, and Ourense.

Emergency Phone Numbers

General emergencies (24 hours): **112**

Health emergencies (24 hours): **061**

Assistance for victims of gender violence (toll-free and confidential number that leaves no trace on your bill and is available 24 hours a day in 53 languages): **016**

Assistance for suicidal behavior (24 hours): **024**

Public hospitals with 24-hour emergency services

Vigo: Hospital Álvaro Cunqueiro
Estrada de Clara Campoamor, 341, 36312, Vigo
Map

Pontevedra: Complejo Hospitalario Universitario de Pontevedra
Mourente s/n, 36071, Pontevedra. ***Map***
Ourense: Complejo Hospitalario Universitario de Ourense
Ramon Puga Noguerol, 54, 32005, Ourense. ***Map***

Bank Account

To sign your UVigo's employment contract, you will need to provide a Spanish IBAN. The Spanish bank account must be opened using your NIE (more information on the NIE in the section *Compulsory Immigration Procedures Upon Arrival*). The documentation required to open a bank account may vary from one bank to another. We recommend checking with your chosen bank in advance to confirm which documents you will need before starting the application process.

Useful tips

1. Search and compare the available banking options and select the one that best suits your needs. Each bank may have different requirements and procedures.

2. The main banks in Galicia are: ABANCA, BBVA, Banco Santander, Caixa Bank, Banco Sabadell, Bankinter, etc. There are also digital banks, such as Revolut and N26, among others.

Banks on Campus

UVigo has a partnership with Banco Santander, which has branches on the Vigo and Ourense campuses, located at:

Vigo Campus

Área Comercial – Campus Lagoas-Marcosende
36310 Vigo

Ourense Campus

Edificio Pabellón Facultades - Campus Universitario As Lagoas
32004 Ourense

SIM card

You should obtain a Spanish SIM card before signing your contract, as it is required for many public administrative procedures.



Prepaid SIM card

A prepaid SIM card enables you to purchase calls, SMS, and internet services without a contract. To obtain one, all you need is your ID card or passport. In Spain, the main companies that offer prepaid cards are Movistar, Vodafone, Orange, Yoigo, etc. You can purchase them at official points of sale. However, before buying one, make sure your mobile phone is unlocked (not tied to a specific mobile carrier or network).



Monthly plan

You can sign up for a monthly plan at official points of sale of the main companies (Movistar, O2, Vodafone, Orange, Yoigo, etc.). In general, you will need a NIE (more information in the ***Compulsory Immigration procedures upon arrival*** sections of this guide), a bank account (more information on how to open a bank account in the ***Bank Account*** section of this guide) and an address in Spain, so we recommend that you check with the company beforehand.

Tax obligations

Foreign workers residing in Spain are subject to personal income tax (IRPF), just like Spanish workers. Companies apply monthly deductions based on official tables that consider both the remuneration and the personal and family situation of each person.

Agencia Tributaria

You must file your annual income tax return with the State Tax Administration Agency (AEAT) between April and June. The income tax return is an annual procedure through which individuals inform the AEAT of the income they have earned during the previous year, to calculate whether they owe more taxes or are due a refund.

This declaration can be made online through the ***Tax Agency's website*** (available in English), with a digital certificate (more information on digital certificates in the ***Digital Certificate*** section of this guide) or at Tax Agency offices by appointment. You will only need your NIE (more information on NIE in the section ***Compulsory Immigration Procedures upon arrival***) and its expiry date.

To make an appointment, you can request one online at the following ***link*** (available in English)

It is recommended that you hire a tax adviser (*Gestoría*) to assist you with filing your Spanish income tax return.

Check the ***Tax Agency website***, for more information on personal income tax and tax returns. (available in English)

EURAXESS - Information & assistance taxes in Spain

Spanish & Galician Language courses

UVigo offers face-to-face, blended, and online Spanish courses (from beginner to advanced levels) through the Language Centre (Centro de Linguas) at reduced prices for staff.

Visit the ***Centro de Linguas website*** for more information.

Free introductory Galician courses are also offered through the Linguistic Normalization Area (only available in Spanish and Galician).

Visit the ***Linguistic Normalization Area website*** for more information.

Other languages such as English, French, German, Chinese, Italian, Persian, and Japanese are also taught at the Centro de Linguas.



University Smart Card (TUI)

The University Smart Card (TUI) identifies you as a member of the university community. It also gives you access to the book lending service in libraries.

How to obtain your University Smart Card (TUI)

1. Log in your User Account in the ***Virtual Office*** (for information on how to obtain your user account, please refer to the section ***Activating a User Account.***)

2. Check if the digital version of your TUI has been issued. Click on "A MIÑA CONTA" ("My account") in the top left menu and then click on the tab "TARXETAS UNIVERSITARIAS" ("University cards"). Then click on the button "Comprobar emisión TUI" ("Check TUI issuance") to check if the details are correct.

3. Once your details have been verified, go to one of the offices listed below to have your photo taken.



The digital version of your TUI is valid, and you can access it on your mobile phone if you install the ***UVigo App*** (more information in the UVigo App section of this guide).

You may need the physical version of your TUI to access your workplace. If so, go to one of the issuing points (listed below):

Vigo Campus
Edificio Exeria. As Lagoas, Marcosende
36310 Vigo campus
+34 986 813 902 / ***rexistroxeral@uvigo.gal***

Pontevedra Campus
Escola de Enxeñaría Forestal. A Xunqueira
36005 Pontevedra
+34 986 801 955 / ***rex-pont@uvigo.gal***

Ourense Campus
Edificio Administrativo As Lagoas
32004 Ourense
+34 988 387 103 / ***rex-our@uvigo.gal***

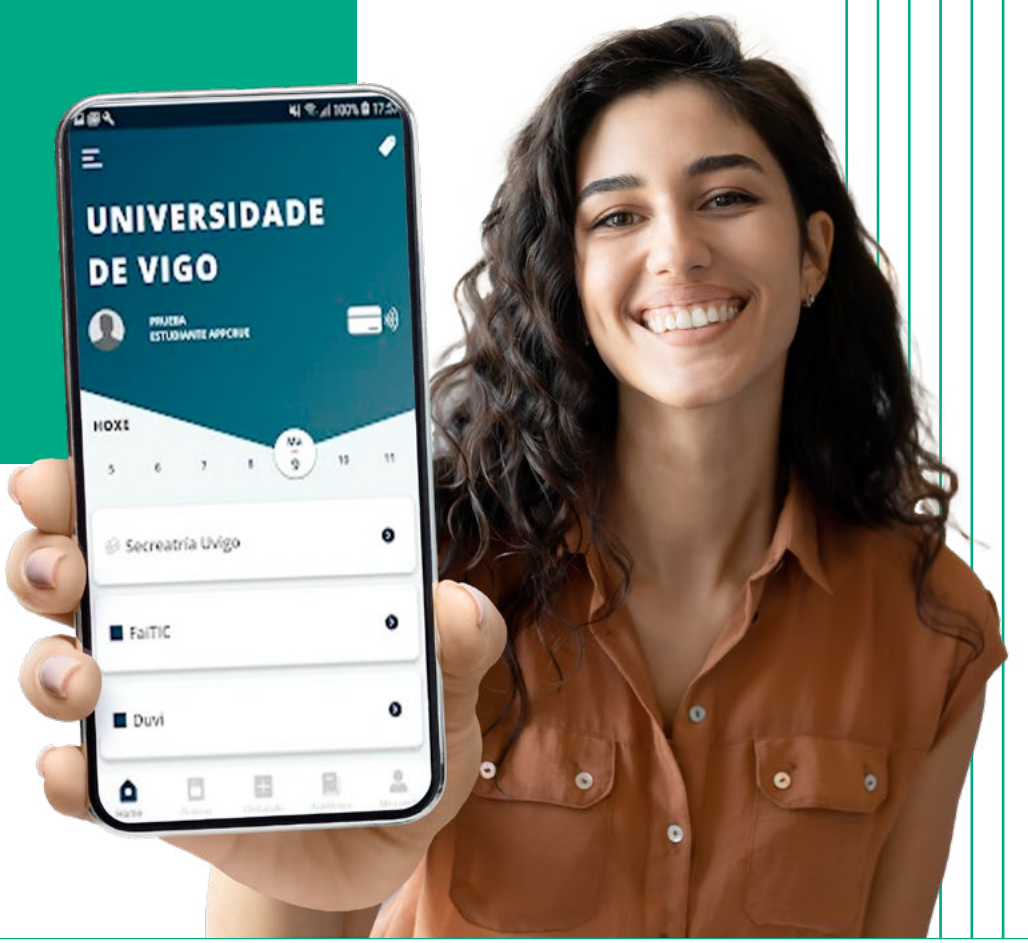
UVigo App

With the UVigo app, you can access your UVigo University Smart Card (TUI) on your mobile phone and receive notifications about university news (grants, calls, courses, etc.).

You can install the UVigo app on any iOS or Android device by searching for it directly in the app store or by accessing it through the following QR codes.

Download for Android

Download for iOS



Internet access

To access internet, you must connect to the “Eduroam” network and open a browser. Simply enter your UVigo email details.

If you need support, you can contact the Service of Attention to Users and Microcomputing (SAUM).

All information and contact details can be found at: ***UVigo IT Services*** 

UVigo mailing lists

There are several mailing lists that can be used as discussion forums for different topics.

As a researcher, it is recommended that you subscribe to the following mailing lists to stay informed about news, calls for applications, courses, events, etc.:

- *avisos@listas.uvigo.es*
- *comunidade@listas.uvigo.es*
- *imasd@listas.uvigo.es*
- *pdi@listas.uvigo.es*

It is also advisable to subscribe to the mailing list of your research centre or research institute, as well as that of your faculty or school.

In this link you can find all available mailing lists: ***UVigo mailing lists*** 

To subscribe, you just need to select the list you are interested in, sign up, and then log in.

CAMPUS

life



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University Library

The University Library offers a wide range of information resources, spaces, and services to support learning, teaching, and research activities. It is organized into 11 service points across the campuses of Vigo, Pontevedra, and Ourense.

Check the ***list of libraries, opening hours, and locations.***



Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Services

At UVigo, you will find a wide range of services and policies aimed at promoting gender equality, diversity, and inclusion.

Equality Unit

In order to fulfill its commitment to true equality between women and men, UVigo has created its ***III Gender Equality Plan***. Among its most notable measures are:

- ***Observatory of Equality***
- ***Distintivo de Igualdade Award***
- ***Free access to menstrual products***
- ***Virtual training itinerary on gender***
- ***Positive actions at UVigo***
- ***Aid for teaching and awareness-raising activities***
- ***Campaigns: 11F, 8M, and 25N***

Gender perspective in teaching and research

The Equality Unit provides ***guides for university teaching with a gender perspective*** (only available in Galician), offering proposals, examples of good practices, teaching resources, and reference tools for university teaching without gender bias in different disciplines and fields of knowledge.

Furthermore, to achieve greater excellence and quality in science, it has also developed ***guidelines on how to incorporate a gender perspective into university research centres and how to incorporate a gender perspective into research projects*** (only available in Galician).

Work-life balance and co-responsibility

In the ***Guide for the conciliation of personal, family and work life of UVigo staff*** (only available in Galician), prepared by the Equality Unit, you will find information on the rights and options available to UVigo staff to balance their personal, family, and work lives.

Lactation rooms

We have lactation rooms on all three university campuses. Lactation rooms are comfortable and private spaces, exclusively for breastfeeding or expressing milk in peace and quiet. They are places with ventilation and warm lighting and have suitable furniture and appliances that allow milk to be conserved. You can find them at:

Vigo Campus

- Filomena Dato Building (2nd floor)
- CINBIO Olimpia Valencia Building (3rd floor)
- ECIMAT (Thinking Corner, 1st floor)

Ourense Campus

- Biblioteca Rosalía de Castro [Rosalía de Castro Library] (entrance)

Pontevedra Campus

- Facultade de Belas Artes (1st floor)
- Escola de Enxeñaría Forestal (ground floor)

Countering male violence against women

UVigo actively fights against gender-based violence through a ***protocol for preventing sexual and gender-based harassment***, ***Lilac Points*** (spaces where the public is raised at events, information is provided to those who need it, and support is provided to those who report a gender-based attack), ***Virtual Lilac Points*** (a resource for collecting queries and complaints about sexual harassment or gender-based harassment), and various other ***resources***.

Learn more about the ***Equality Unit, its services, events, resources, and publications.***

Equality Unit

Edificio Ernestina Otero
As Lagoas, Marcosende
36300 Vigo
igualdade@uvigo.gal
+34 986 813 419



Diversity Unit

UVigo Diversity Unit is responsible for coordinating and including inclusion and anti-discrimination policies into all UVigo's activities and functions. Its objective is to strengthen attention to diversity and create a new inclusive support model, oriented toward a process of counselling, training, and facilitation of a series of resources that assist in educational and professional practices at the university.

Location and contact information

Diversity Unit
Edificio de Facultades
As Lagoas
32004 Ourense
infodiversidade@uvigo.gal
+34 988 387 107

Support for people with specific needs

UVigo has an Attention Unit for students with special educational needs (UNATEN) that provides academic counselling, psychological support, and life skills training.

For more information, you can contact:

Vigo Campus

Sección de Extensión Universitaria [University Extension Service]

+34 986 813 626

diversidade@uvigo.gal

Ourense Campus

Área de Servizos á Comunidade [Community Services Area]

+34 988 387 089

asc-ou@uvigo.gal

Pontevedra Campus

Área de Servizos á Comunidade [Community Services Area]

+34 986 801 949

asc-po@uvigo.gal

Program for the Integration of University Students with Specific Educational Support Needs (PIUNE)

The University of Vigo offers various programs and tools to help students with specific educational support needs fully integrate into university life. These include the Program for the Integration of University Students with Specific Educational Support Needs (known as PIUNE), which aims to support students with any type of legally recognized learning needs or disorders.

In the province of Pontevedra, the ***Galician Confederation of Disabled People (COGAMI)*** offers counselling, training, and resource services for people with disabilities and their families.

Dining Halls

UVigo has cafeterias and dining halls on all three campuses.

Vigo Campus

- Edificio de Ciencias Experimentais [Experimental Sciences Building]
- Escola de Enxeñaría de Minas e Enerxía [Mining and Energy Engineering School]
- Facultade de Ciencias Económicas e Empresariais [Faculty of Economic and Business Sciences]
- Facultade de Filoloxía e Tradución [Faculty of Philology and Translation]
- Área Comercial de Cidade Universitaria [Commercial area of Cidade Universitaria]

Ourense Campus

- Edificio Xurídico-Empresarial [Legal and Business Building]
- Edificio Politécnico [Polytechnic Building]

Pontevedra Campus

- Facultades de Comunicación e de Dirección e Xestión Pública [Faculties of Communication and Leadership and Management]
- Escola de Enxeñaría Forestal [School of Forestry Engineering]

Sports and Well-being

UVigo offers an excellent network of sports facilities and services across its campuses in Vigo, Ourense, and Pontevedra. These spaces are available to both the university community and outsiders.

More information on the following *link*.

Vigo Campus

Sports Hall

Multi-sport court, climbing wall, tennis courts, cardio-fitness room.

Sports and Health Building

Multipurpose rooms, classroom, and psycho-pedagogical office.

Outdoor Fields

- Natural grass field (11-a-side football and rugby).
- Synthetic grass field (11-a-side football and 7/8 football).

University Swimming Pool

Swimming facilities, sauna, jacuzzi, weight training, squash, and supervised activities.



Ourense Campus

Sports hall with a multi-sport

Sports hall with a multi-sport court, cardio-fitness room, sports medicine and physiotherapy room, multipurpose room, and table tennis area.

Pontevedra Campus

Sports hall with a multi-sport

Sports hall with a multi-sport court, cardio-fitness room, and table tennis area.

Health consultation

Health consultation at the Escola de Enxeñaría Forestal [School of Forestry Engineering].

Additional Services

- Mountain bike rentals on the Vigo campus.
- Facility reservations for individual or group use, with multi-sport pass and season reservation options.

Leisure and recreation activities

- **Monographic and training courses:** Yoga, surfing, climbing, tennis, chess, among others.
- **Active leisure activities:** Golf, bungee jumping, scuba diving, rafting, windsurfing, catamaran sailing.
- **Cultural routes:** They combine hiking with visits to places of cultural and natural interest in Galicia and northern Portugal.









Activities in nature

- **Augaventura:** Outdoor activities such as kayaking, canyoning, hiking or bicycle routes.
- **Delecer Program:** It offers sports and adventure experiences in spring, such as excursions, mountain routes, and water sports.

Campus-led activities

- **Vigo Campus:** Core, cross training, yoga, jiu-jitsu, climbing, volleyball.
- **Ourense Campus:** Body pump, indoor cycling, yoga, functional training.
- **Pontevedra Campus:** Pilates, HIIT, badminton, basketball, volleyball.

University leagues and competitions

- Sports such as soccer, basketball, rugby, volleyball, tennis, chess, among others.
- Fair play scoring system to encourage fair play and camaraderie.

mUVer membership

The ***mUVer membership*** gives you access to the cardiofitness rooms on all three campuses, to numerous group classes, tennis courts and athletics tracks, etc. It also includes discounts on sports schools and outdoor activities such as Augaventura or Cultural Routes.

Membership options:

- Academic year
- Four-month period
- Monthly
- Summer (June, July and August)

Health Services on campus

UVigo has several health services available to members of the university community.

Medical centre

The Vigo campus has a medical centre in the Filomena Dato building. It handles examinations for university staff, coordinates all health monitoring activities, and provides free emergency care to anyone in the university community who may need it. It is open from Monday to Friday, from 8:00 a.m. to 8:30 p.m., except during reduced hours periods.

Location and contact information

Edificio Filomena Dato
As Lagoas, Marcosende
36310 Vigo
+34 986 813 451
smuvigo@cualtis.com

Emergencies

If an emergency arises, this *emergency leaflet* (only available in Spanish) contains all the information you need about what to do in the event of an accident, fire, or evacuation.

The reception offices in the buildings of the three UVigo campuses have first aid kits, and many of them also have semi-automatic defibrillators to provide first aid in the event of any emergency that may arise.

Emergency phone numbers

- Campus security service: +34 986 818 619
- Medical centre (Vigo Campus, Filomena Dato Building): +34 986 813 451
- Fire department: 080
- Ambulance: 061
- Emergency Coordination Centre: 112

Facilities with semi-automatic defibrillators

Vigo Campus

- Pavillón de deportes [Sports Pavilion]. Reception office
- Servizo de deportes [Sports Service]. Medical Centre.
- Escola de Enxeñaría Industrial [School of Industrial Engineering (city centre)]. Reception office.
- Escola de Enxeñaría Industrial [School of Industrial Engineering (Vigo campus)]. Reception office.
- Facultade de Ciencias Económicas e Empresarais [Faculty of Economics and Business Studies]. Reception office.
- Facultade de Filoloxía e Tradución [Faculty of Philology and Translation]. Reception office.
- ECIMAT. Reception office.
- Escola de Enxeñaría de Telecomunicacións [School of Telecommunications Engineering]. Central corridor.
- Edificio Ciencias Experimentais [Experimental Sciences Building]. Entrance hall.
- Filomena Dato Building. Ground floor, infirmary.

Ourense Campus

- Pavillón de deportes [Sports Pavilion]. Reception office.
- Pavillón de deportes [Sports Pavilion]. Athletics track.
- Edificio Politécnico [Polytechnic Building]. Reception office.

Pontevedra Campus

- Facultade de Ciencias de Educación e do Deporte [Faculty of Education and Sports Sciences]. Reception office.
- Facultade de Fisioterapia [Faculty of Physiotherapy]. Reception office.
- Pavillón de deportes [Sports Pavilion]. Reception office.

UVigo Culture

UVigo is about learning, culture, relationships, but also leisure and fun. We offer workshops, courses, seminars, and conferences related to theatre, cinema, literature, and art, with the aim of promoting the creation of collaborative networks and strengthening the cultural fabric. Our cultural policy is innovative and in tune with the times, seeking a diverse program that encompasses a variety of artistic expressions in a two-way direction towards the university community and society.

More information on the following *link*



Workshops and courses

The university's wide range of workshops provides a broad offering to develop skills and abilities: comprehensive training for intellectual reflection, artistic creation, and the transmission of cultural and scientific knowledge.

More information about *UVigo workshops and courses*



Music

We provide the university community with a rehearsal space so that emerging bands or soloists can develop their own musical projects.

More information about *UVigo musical projects*



Cinema

UVigo's artistic and cultural program includes various film series, screenings, courses, and workshops on topics of educational interest.

More information *about cinema at UVigo*



Arts

UVigo encourages artistic work and the dissemination of knowledge and culture. We have two rooms for exhibiting and disseminating artistic thought and creation.

More information *about arts at UVigo*



Cultural awards

UVigo awards prizes for artistic creation in the disciplines of painting, photography, music production, and audiovisual creation, in the categories of narrative short film, documentary, advertising video, animation, and experimental video.

More information about *UVigo cultural awards*



Theatre and dance

UVigo has facilities such as the university city theatre and established initiatives such as the Vigo and Ourense Theatre Classroom, which are responsible for scheduling theatre training throughout the academic year and organizing the MITEU (International University Theatre Festival) on both campuses. On the Ourense campus, the university has a contemporary dance studio that offers training in this discipline to anyone interested.

More information about *theatre and dance at UVigo*

LIVING

in Galicia

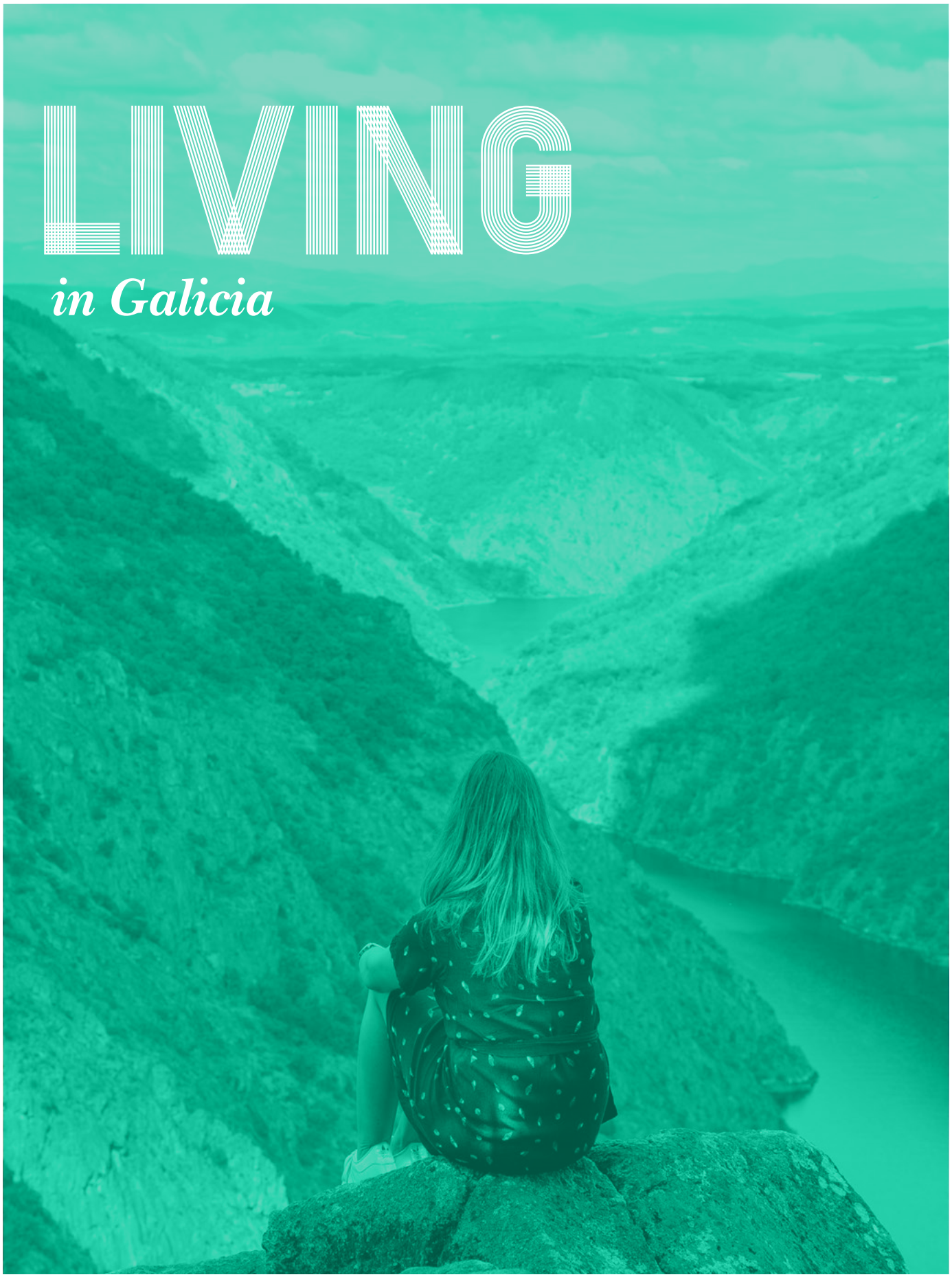


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Population, geography and climate

Galicia, located in the northwest of the Iberian Peninsula, is a Spanish autonomous community with a population of around 2.7 million inhabitants. Most reside in urban areas such as Vigo, A Coruña, Santiago de Compostela, and Ourense, although there is also a significant presence in rural areas.

Galicia is characterized by its varied geography, with a coastline of more than 1500 km indented by estuaries, extensive mountainous areas and inland valleys. This diversity of landscape influences both lifestyles and economic and research activities, especially in the marine, forestry and agricultural sectors.

The climate is mostly oceanic, with mild winters and temperate summers. Rainfall is frequent and abundant throughout much of the year, especially on the west coast, contributing to lush vegetation and a natural environment conducive to environmental and biological studies. In recent years, summers have been getting hotter and drier due to climate change, with higher-than-usual temperatures and more frequent heat waves, especially inland.



Political System and Currency

Galicia is an autonomous community within the Spanish state, with a political system based on parliamentary democracy. It has its own autonomous government, the *Xunta de Galicia*, which has powers in key areas such as education, health, culture, and the environment, allowing policies to be adapted to regional characteristics and needs. The regional parliament, the Galician Assembly (Cámara de Galicia), is elected by universal suffrage and represents the will of the Galician people.



At the state level, Galicia is integrated into the political structure of Spain and participates in national and European institutions. The official currency used in Galicia is the euro (€), common to most countries in the European Union, facilitating economic and financial transactions both locally and internationally.

Official Languages

Galicia is a bilingual autonomous community where both Spanish and Galician are spoken. Galician is a co-official language with a strong presence in administration, education, the media, and everyday life. The vast majority of the population is bilingual, so visitors who speak Spanish will have no difficulty communicating.



The use of Galician is culturally valued and is often seen as a gesture of respect by foreigners. In university and scientific contexts, English is also present, especially in international environments.

However, it is important to have a basic knowledge of Spanish or Galician for everyday life and dealing with the administration or public services.

Healthcare System



The healthcare system in Galicia is part of Spain's National Health System and is managed by the Galician Health Service (***SERGAS***) (only available in Spanish and Galician). This service provides high-quality public healthcare, with access to health centres, hospitals, emergency rooms, and specialized services.

European research staff can use the European Health Insurance Card (only for medical emergencies and other specific cases), while non-EU citizens must have valid health insurance or apply for access to public healthcare depending on their situation (more information on health insurance and access to the Spanish healthcare system can be found in the sections ***Health Insurance*** and ***Access to Medical Care*** of this guide).

Many healthcare professionals understand or speak English, although in rural areas it may be useful to have support in Spanish or Galician. In general, Galicia has a good healthcare network, both in cities and in less populated areas.

Cost of living

The cost of living in Galicia is generally lower than in other regions of Spain and Western Europe, making it an attractive destination for researchers.

Housing prices, both for rent and purchase, are relatively affordable. For example, the monthly rent for a one-bedroom apartment in a medium-sized city is around €600, while in rural areas it can be lower.

Public transportation is efficient and inexpensive: a single city bus ticket costs around €1.50, and there are discounted transportation cards available for students, senior citizens, and residents registered in the municipality (see the section City Registration for more information on how to register in the municipality).

Basic utilities (electricity, water, heating, internet) for a medium-sized apartment typically range from €100 to €150 per month, depending on the time of year. As for food, a basic weekly shop for one person can cost around €30–50, and a meal in a local restaurant costs between €20 and €30. Overall, Galicia offers a high quality of life at a moderate cost, allowing for a comfortable living experience.

Local culture

Galician culture is rich, diverse, and deeply rooted in its history and traditions. Galicia has its own language, Galician, which is co-official with Spanish and widely used in everyday life, education, and the media. Cultural identity is also expressed through traditional music (with instruments such as the bagpipes), folklore, popular festivals, and a strong connection to popular beliefs and the rural world. Cultural offerings include museums, theatres, film and music festivals, as well as numerous local festivals throughout the year, many of which have been declared of tourist interest. Galicia is also renowned for its hospitality and peaceful lifestyle.

Xunta de Galicia - Cultura de Galicia
(only available in Spanish and Galician)

Cultural Agenda – Vigo
(only available in Spanish and Galician)

Cultural Agenda - Pontevedra

Cultural Agenda - Ourense

Gastronomy

Galician cuisine is one of the cultural pillars of the region and stands out for the quality of its local products, especially those from the sea and the countryside. Seafood such as octopus, clams, mussels, and scallops are part of many traditional dishes, as are fresh fish such as hake and cod. Meats, cured meats, and local products such as *Tetilla* cheese and *Padrón* peppers are also highly prized. Galician bread and wines with designation of origin—such as *Albariño*, *Ribeiro*, and *Godello*—complement a high-quality gastronomic offering. Galician cuisine combines tradition and authenticity and is very present in everyday life and popular celebrations.





Local, regional, and national holidays

Galicia has a rich and diverse holiday calendar, combining local, regional, and national celebrations. Many festivals have a strong cultural, religious, or gastronomic component and offer an excellent opportunity to learn about Galician traditions and social life. Among the most emblematic are the *Festa do Apóstolo* in Santiago de Compostela (July 25), the *Entroido* (carnival), celebrated with great intensity in towns such as Verín and Xinzo de Limia, and numerous pilgrimages in honour of local saints. Gastronomic festivals are also very popular, such as the *Festa do Marisco* in O Grove and the Pulpo Festival in O Carballiño. In addition to these regional celebrations, Galicia shares the main Spanish national holidays, such as Holy Week, Labor Day (May 1), and Christmas.

Religion

Galicia is a region with a predominantly Catholic Christian tradition, which continues to play an important role in cultural and social life, reflected in numerous religious festivals and traditions. However, Galician society is becoming increasingly diverse and pluralistic in terms of beliefs. For the Muslim community, there are several cultural and Islamic centres in cities such as Vigo, Ourense and Pontevedra that offer spaces for prayer and religious activities. The Jewish community, although small and without official temples in the region, maintains its religious practice through associations that organize meetings and cultural events. In addition, other religions such as Buddhism and other alternative spiritualities have groups and centres in Galicia that promote meditation and spiritual activities. In general, Galicia offers a respectful and open environment that facilitates coexistence and religious practice among different communities.

Social customs

Social customs in Galicia are characterized by warmth, hospitality and a generally relaxed pace of life. It is customary to greet people with a handshake or two kisses on the cheek in informal settings, although people may be more reserved at first, especially in rural areas. Social relationships are cultivated slowly, and trust is earned over time. The *sobremesa* (staying chatting after a meal) is an important part of social life, especially at family gatherings or with friends. Meals are usually eaten later than in other European countries: lunch between 2:00 p.m. and 3:30 p.m., and dinner from 9:00 p.m. onwards. Punctuality is valued in professional contexts, although it can be somewhat more flexible in informal settings. It is also common to use the formal usted form of address as a sign of respect, especially with older people or in formal situations. It is recommended to respect rest hours, generally between 3:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m., and at night, from 10:00 p.m. to 8:00 a.m. the following day. During these hours, you should avoid making loud noises such as loud music, using noisy appliances, carrying out building work or holding meetings in common areas that may disturb neighbors.

In the case of residential buildings, homeowners' associations may have additional rules governing behavior in common areas such as courtyards, stairways or rooftops.

Getting around Galicia and accessibility

Galicia has a varied and well-connected transport network that facilitates travel both within cities and between different parts of the region. The main cities have urban bus and taxi services, as well as carpooling systems in some areas. For interurban journeys, there are bus and train connections linking the main cities, although some rural areas may have less frequent services. Santiago de Compostela Airport is the main international entry point, with domestic and European flights, and there are also airports in Vigo and A Coruña. The road network is in good condition, making it easy to use private vehicles or rental cars. In terms of accessibility, many public, cultural, and transportation infrastructures are adapted for people with reduced mobility, although there may be limitations in rural areas.

In general, traveling around Galicia is comfortable and safe.



Renfe



Transporte público de Galicia
Monbus
Autocares Rías Baixas



Urban transport by city

Vigo: *Vitrasa*
Ourense: *Transporte urbano de Ourense*
Pontevedra: *Transporte urbano de Pontevedra*



Vigo - Peinador Airport (VGO)
Av. del Aeropuerto, 36200 Vigo

Santiago de Compostela-Rosalía de Castro Airport (STGO)
Lavacolla S/N, 15820 Santiago de Compostela

A Coruña-Alvedro Airport (LCG)
Av. Hermida, 15174 Rutis, A Coruña



Radio Taxi Vigo: +34 986 47 00 00
Radio Taxi Ourense: + 34 988 21 00 10
Radio Taxi Pontevedra: +34 986 86 86 86



Cruceros Rías Baixas
Mar de Ons
Naviera de las Rías Gallegas
Naviera Nabia

Places of interest

Galicia offers a wide variety of places of interest that combine historical heritage, natural beauty, and cultural richness. Its coastline, with estuaries and white sand beaches, is ideal for both outdoor activities and environmental studies. Notable protected natural areas include the Atlantic Islands National Park, which includes the idyllic Cíes Islands off the coast of Vigo, the region's largest city, also known for its lively port and urban atmosphere. Inland, the Ribeira Sacra captivates visitors with its terraced vineyards and centuries-old monasteries, adding ecological and cultural value.



The region's historical heritage is evident in numerous villages with traditional architecture and pilgrimage routes such as the Camino de Santiago, which ends in Santiago de Compostela, whose cathedral and old town have been declared World Heritage Sites. In the north, A Coruña is home to the ancient Tower of Hercules, the only functioning Roman lighthouse in the world. Further east, Ourense is notable for its hot springs and elegant Roman Bridge, while Pontevedra offers a pedestrianized historic centre, charming squares, and architecture that combines tradition and modernity. Taken together, Galicia invites visitors to enjoy a unique experience where nature, history, and culture intertwine harmoniously.

More information on *Tourism in Galicia*

Safety

Galicia is considered one of the safest regions in Spain, with low crime rates. The cities and towns have a peaceful and welcoming atmosphere. Local law enforcement agencies, such as the National Police, the Civil Guard, and the Municipal Police ensure public order and provide support to residents and visitors. In addition, the high quality of life and sense of community contribute to creating a safe environment. As in any place, it is recommended to take basic precautions, but in general, Galicia is a safe place.

Local regulations

Alcohol consumption
In Galicia, it is prohibited to consume alcohol in public spaces such as parks and squares, with penalties varying depending on the municipality, so it is recommended to avoid drinking on the street or in unauthorized spaces.

Smoking
In Galicia, smoking is prohibited in enclosed public spaces and in many busy outdoor spaces, such as playgrounds and some beaches, to protect everyone's health.

Pets
In Galicia, dogs must be kept on a leash in public spaces, and their owners must pick up their excrement, with fines for those who do not comply. In addition, many beaches prohibit pets between June and September.

Traffic
In Galicia, seat belts are mandatory for all vehicle occupants. There are frequent speed and alcohol checks. Traffic regulations, including speed limits and signs, must be strictly observed. The maximum permitted blood alcohol level for drivers is 0.0 mg/l in exhaled air for new drivers and 0.25 mg/l for all others, so it is recommended not to consume any alcohol if you are going to drive.

Postal Service

Galicia has an efficient postal service network, mainly managed by ***Correos***, the state-owned postal service, which offers regular delivery in urban and rural areas. Correos offices are present in all cities, allowing you to send and receive letters and domestic and international parcels, as well as carry out tasks such as paying bills or sending administrative documents. There are also private courier services (such as SEUR, MRW, DHL and UPS) that operate throughout the region and offer express or specialized deliveries. In rural or sparsely populated areas, delivery frequency may be lower, but stable service is maintained. To receive mail, it is advisable to have a clear address and, in the case of homes without a letterbox, you can use the post office box service at the nearest post office.

Recycling and Waste Management

In Galicia, recycling and proper waste management are environmental priorities, regulated by both regional and municipal regulations. In most municipalities, waste must be separated into different containers: yellow for plastic containers and cans, blue for paper and cardboard, green for glass, brown for organic matter, and grey or dark green for non-recyclable waste. In addition, there are recycling centres (fixed or mobile) where special waste such as electrical appliances, furniture, batteries, used clothing, and electronic products can be deposited. It is prohibited to leave rubbish outside the bins or to deposit it at unauthorized times, and these offences may result in fines. It is also common for waste to be separated at offices, universities, and shared accommodations.

ANNEXES

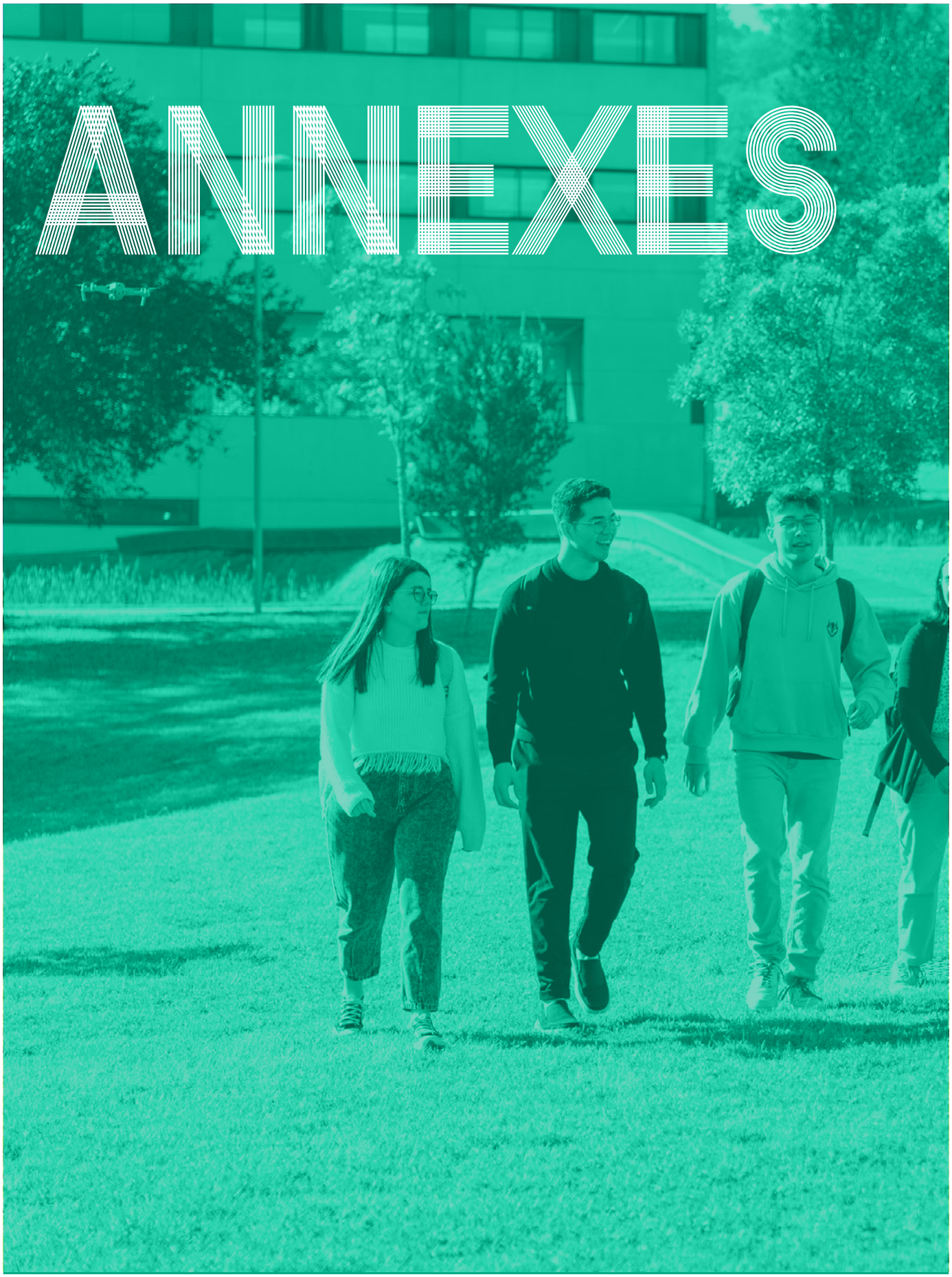


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Checklists

Before Arrival

Universidade Vigo

- [ ] Check the ***EURAXESS Spain website***.
- [ ] Prepare your important documents (passport, proof of family relationships if you are coming with your family, etc.).
- [ ] Apply for your residence permit and visa, if applicable, well in advance.
- [ ] Take out medical, travel and repatriation insurance (also for your family, if applicable).
- [ ] Apply for a European Health Insurance Card if you are a European citizen.
- [ ] Apply for the recognition/equivalence of your degrees.
- [ ] Start looking for accommodation.
- [ ] If you are coming with your children, check out the options for nurseries or schools.
- [ ] Check the validity and requirements for using your driving license in Spain.
- [ ] Prepare procedures for moving pets (if applicable).
- [ ] Plan your trip (prepare your route, how to get there, etc.).

- [ ] Apply for your NIE (Foreigner Identification Number) if you are an EU citizen.
- [ ] Open a Spanish bank account.
- [ ] Get a Spanish SIM card.
- [ ] Obtain a digital certificate.
- [ ] Sign your contract.
- [ ] Complete occupational risk prevention training/procedures.
- [ ] Activate your university user account.
- [ ] Look for accommodation.
- [ ] Complete the immigration formalities upon arrival.
- [ ] Register at the City Hall (Empadronamiento)
- [ ] Apply for your health card, both for yourself and your dependents, if applicable.
- [ ] Find out about your tax obligations.
- [ ] Enroll in Spanish and/or Galician language courses.
- [ ] Obtain your University Smart Card (TUI).
- [ ] Download and set up the UVigo app.
- [ ] Subscribe to UVigo mailing lists.

Before Leaving

Universidade Vigo

- ☐ Check the ***Procedures for leaving Spain*** section of the Euraxess Spain website.
- ☐ Clarify with the owner of the property how and when you will hand over the keys and how the deposit will be returned.
- ☐ Close your bank account.
- ☐ Cancel your internet, mobile phone and other contracts.
- ☐ Cancel your household utilities.
- ☐ Find out about your tax return.
- ☐ Check with Social Security about your rights to retirement pension, unemployment benefit, etc.
- ☐ Notify the National Police Station of your departure.
- ☐ Notify your children's school of your departure, if applicable.
- ☐ Deregister from the City Hall (*Desempadronamiento*).
- ☐ Inform relevant services of your departure from UVigo.
- ☐ Ensure all administrative and immigration obligations are completed.
- ☐ Request any necessary certificates (employment, research period, etc.).

UVigo Administrative organization

Check the list of UVigo's offices and services at the following ***link***.

Academic Calendar

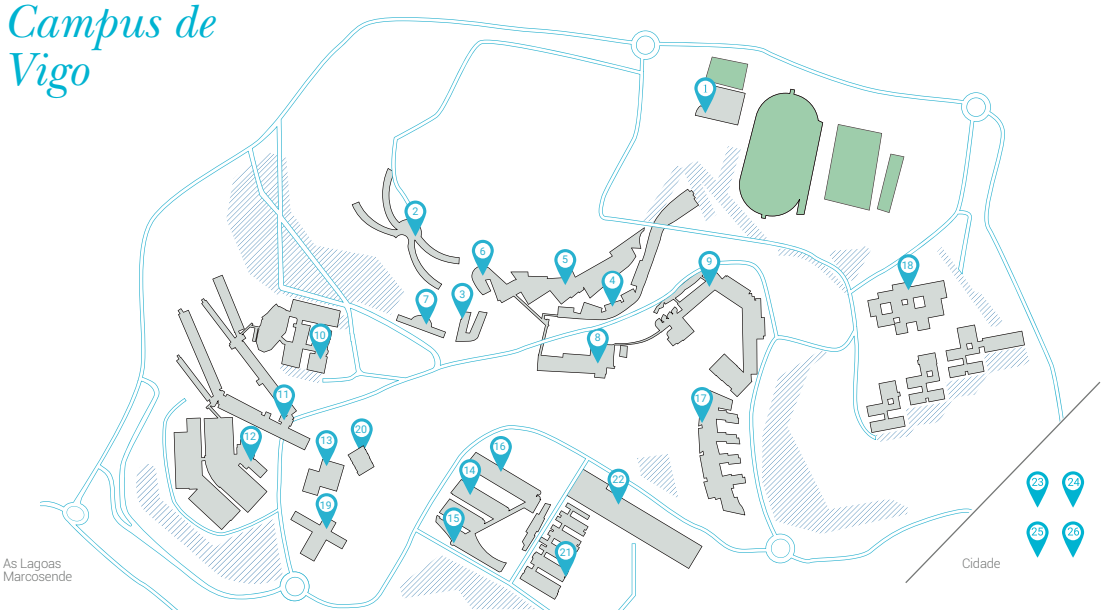
Check UVigo's academic calendar at the following ***link***.



Maps of the three campuses



Campus de Vigo



1. Complexo deportivo
2. Residencia universitaria
3. Edificio Exeria
4. Edificio Miralles/Consello Social
5. Cidade Universitaria
6. Edificio Ernestina Otero
7. Edificio Filomena Dato
8. Biblioteca central
9. Facultade de Ciencias Económicas e Empresariais
10. Escola de Enxeñaría de Telecomunicación
11. Escola de Enxeñaría de Minas e Enerxía
12. Escola de Enxeñaría Industrial
13. Edificio Fundición
14. Facultade de Ciencias do Mar
15. Facultade de Bioloxía
16. Facultade de Química
17. Facultade de Ciencias Xurídicas e do Traballo
18. Facultade de Filoloxía e Tradución
19. Cintecx
20. Anfaco
21. Edificio CACTI-CINBIO, Dra. Olimpia Valen-cia
22. Citexvi

Campus cidade

23. Facultade de Comercio
24. Escola de Enxeñaría Industrial
25. Centro de Investigación Mariña (Illa de Toralla)
26. Edificio Redeiras (O Berbés)

Centros adscritos
- Escola Universitaria de Enfermaría (Meixoeiro)
- Escola Universitaria de Enfermaría (Povisa)
- Escola Universitaria de Profesorado de EXB María Sedes Sapientiae
- Instituto de Educación Superior Intercontinental da Empresa (IESIDE)

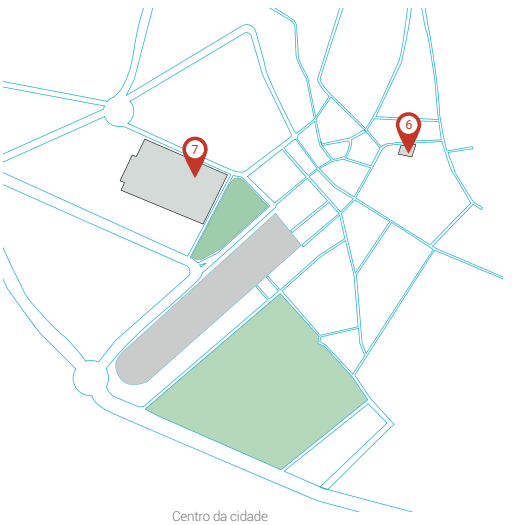
CAMPUS VIGO



Campus de Pontevedra



A Xunqueira



Centro da cidade

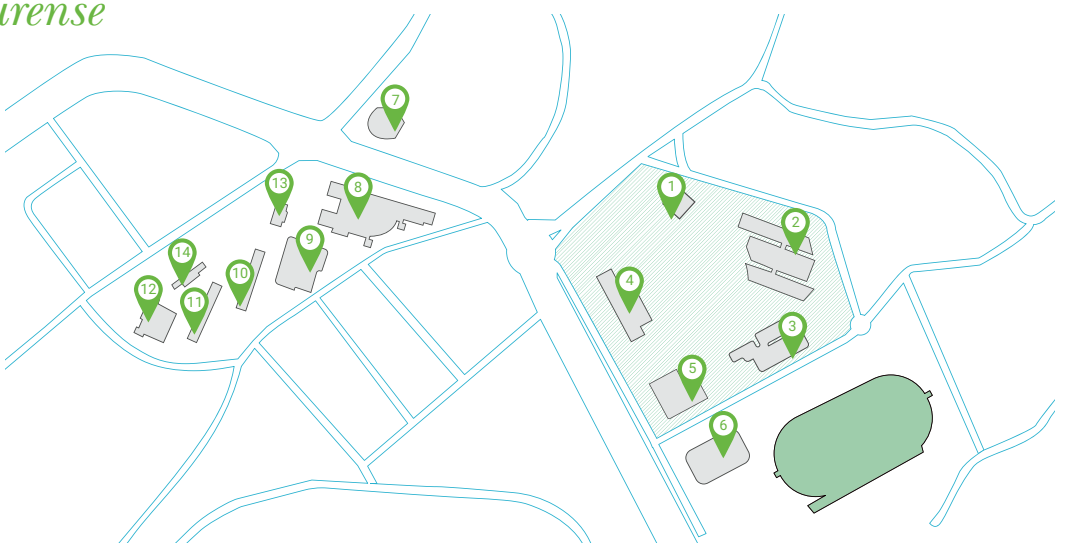
1. Facultade de Ciencias da Educación e do Deporte
2. Facultade de Fisioterapia
3. Facultade de Ciencias Sociais e da Comunicación
   Facultade de Dirección e Xestión Pública
4. Escola de Enxeñaría Forestal
5. Biblioteca central
6. Vicerreitoría do Campus de Pontevedra
7. Facultade de Belas Artes

Centros adscritos
- Escola Universitaria de Enfermaría
- Centro Universitario da Defensa (Marín)

CAMPUS PONTEVEDRA



Campus de Ourense



1. Escola infantil Concepción Saiz Otero
2. Edificio Xurídico-Empresarial:
   Facultade de Ciencias Empresariais e Turismo
   Facultade de Dereito
   Facultade de Relacións Internacionais
3. Edificio Campus da Auga
4. Biblioteca Central Rosalía de Castro
5. Piscina universitaria
6. Polideportivo universitario
   Pista de atletismo/Campo de rugby
7. Residencia universitaria As Burgas
8. Edificio Politécnico:
   Facultade de Ciencias
   Escola Superior de Enxeñaría Informática
9. Edificio de Facultades:
   Facultade de Educación e Traballo Social
   Facultade de Historia
10. Pavillón Manuel Martínez-Risco: Escola de Enxeñaría Aeronáutica e do Espazo
11. Pavillón Olga Gallego Domínguez:
    Facultade de Ciencias da Educación
    Facultade de Historia
12. Pavillón Concepción Ramón Amat:
    Facultade de Ciencias da Educación e Traballo Social
    Facultade de Historia
13. Servizos administrativos
14. Pavillón da asociación de estudantes

Centros adscritos
- Escola Universitaria de Enfermaría

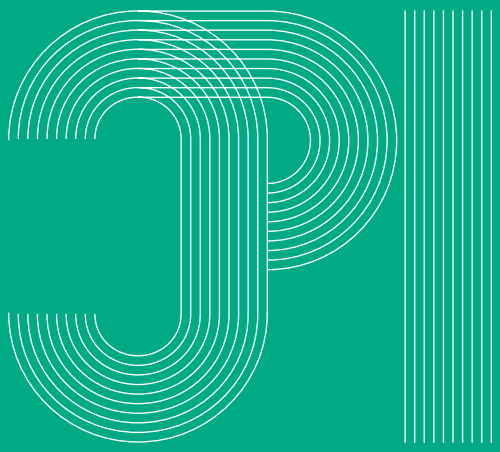
CAMPUS OURENSE

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