

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE ISEP PROGRAMME AT THE UNIVERSITY OF VIGO

- PROFILE:

The University of Vigo is a young and modern institution, created in 1990 by separation from the University of Santiago de Compostela. It is a public institution, committed to the principles of equity, solidarity, democracy and freedom. Galician is its official language, Spanish being broadly used as well. Almost all information about the University of Vigo is written in Galician, including syllabuses and course descriptions. Spanish is the language chosen by most teachers, although some of them use Galician as well. Academic and research freedom and the principles of ideological pluralism and participation lay the foundation of their actions.

The University of Vigo depends basically on public funding, even though its own resources, generated by research projects and the transfer of their results to companies, have increased their contribution to the general budget.

The University of Vigo offers a great variety of degrees and diplomas to a rapidly increasing number of students; more than 27,000 in the academic year 2004-05. The emphasis is primarily on science, technology, social science and law, but there is also a Faculty of Languages and Translation & Interpreting.

The University of Vigo is a growing institution comprised of four campuses: Vigo-Torrecedeira, Vigo-As Lagoas Marcosende (location of the Rectorate, International Relations Office, student advisory services, sports areas, main library, publishing office, computing, research & development facilities), Pontevedra campus (approx. 25 km from Vigo) and Ourense campus (100 km from Vigo). The ISEP exchange will be restricted to the two Vigo campuses for incoming participants.

The University of Vigo offers studies and programmes at every university level:

- Diploma: First cycle

(3 years at University Colleges. Equivalent to 180 ECTS credits)

- Technical Engineer: First cycle

(3 years at University Colleges of Technical Engineering. Equivalent to 180 ECTS credits).

- Bachelor: First and second cycle

(4/5 years at Faculties. Equivalent to 240-300 ECTS credits)

- Higher Technical Engineer: First and second cycle

(5/6 years at Higher Technical Schools. Equivalent to 300-360 ECTS credits).

- PhD, Graduate studies: Third cycle

(Graduate studies: 1 year graduate courses+ research project+ doctoral thesis).

- LOCALE:

Vigo is located in Pontevedra, Galicia, in the northwest corner of Spain and only 25 km far away from Portugal. Known as Spain's largest fishing port and famous for its sheltered harbours, Vigo draws a living primarily from its shipbuilding and fisheries industries as well as its Citroën car factory. Today Vigo is still one of the most important fishing fleet bases in the world.

Rich in culture and tradition, Vigo offers an excellent setting for learning about the cultures of Spain and Galicia. As one of Spain's officially recognized autonomous regions, Galicia has two official languages: Castellano (Spanish) and Galego (Galician). Galego is a language of Latin origin and similar to Portuguese. Galicia's population is bilingual and students will find they can get by just fine using Spanish. Nearby attractions include beautiful beaches and an unspoiled coastline as well as the city of Santiago de Compostela, Christendom's third most important site of pilgrimage in the Middle Ages.

- DIVISIONS:

Faculties or Colleges in: Technical Engineering, Business, Nursing and Social Work, Science (Marine Science, Biology, Chemistry), Telecommunication Engineering, Industrial and Mining Engineering, Economics and Business Administration, Law, Business Law, Philology (languages with major degrees in English, Spanish, and Galician. Complementary subjects: French, German and Portuguese), Translation/Interpreting.

The following divisions are unavailable to students, as they are located at campuses outside of Vigo: Fine Arts, Sport and Physical Education Science, Social Science (Advertising and Public Relations, Public Administration and Management), Technical Forest Engineering, Physiotherapy, Science (Physics, Food Science and Technology, Agriculture and Food Industries), Humanities (History), Education Sciences (Pedagogy, Psychology), Teacher Training and Computing Science.

For further information about courses and degrees, please visit the following web page: <http://www.uvigo.es/estudios/index.es.htm>

- ACADEMIC NOTES:

The University of Vigo is particularly strong in Telecommunication Engineering, Marine Science, Biology, Business Administration, Law, Translation/Interpreting, and Spanish. Access to graduate Ph.D. programs will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Degrees are closed to ISEP participants.

- LANGUAGE NOTES:

The language used in the administration is Galician (Galego), which is one of the official languages of the autonomous region of Galicia as recognized in the Spanish Constitution. The University devotes special interest to the development and study of the Galician language in close cooperation with the other Galician universities. Most of the information produced by and about the University, including curricula, subject programs and transcripts, is written in Galician. Nevertheless, most of the teaching is done in Spanish. The ISEP coordinator will assist students in identifying courses taught in Spanish prior to enrolment.

Applicants for Vigo must be proficient or nearly proficient in Spanish. Additionally, candidates should be highly motivated and self-sufficient. Junior-level standing is preferred. A non-intensive Spanish language and culture course for foreign students included in ISEP benefits is offered throughout the year at a low price (from October to December, and from March to May, 3 hours per week, a total of 60 hours) if the minimum enrolment quota is met.

- ROOM AND BOARD:

Shared apartments (in double occupancy). Meals at the University restaurants and a stipend to cover weekend meals.
Exchange dates: Late September to June, September-February or mid-February to June.

The campus Lagoas-Marcosende is located 15 km away from the city centre. All students use the public transport to go to the Campus.