Higher Education in Spain

October 2015
INDEX

Higher Education in Spain

• Global structure of Higher Education in Spain
• Structure of university degrees
• Evolution
• Students
• Foreign students
• Performance
• Human resources
• Income and productivity
• Prestige
• Contribution to R&D system
• Challenges
• Universities

**Spanish Universities**
(recognised by Ministry of Education, Culture and Sports)
Total: 75 (members of Crue**) + 9 (not associated with Crue**) = 85

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>50 Public Universities</th>
<th>35 Private and Catholic Universities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Directly dependent of Ministry</td>
<td>Catholic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Directly dependent of Regional Government</td>
<td>Private</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>48</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open University</td>
<td>Universities with campus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special University (*)</td>
<td>Open Universities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Universities with campus</td>
<td>Universities with campus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>47</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special University (*)</td>
<td>Member of Crue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All of them members of Crue Universidades Españolas

**2014-15: 1.500.000 students → 140.000 graduates**

(*) Special Universities: Universidad Internacional de Andalucía and Universidad Internacional Menéndez Pelayo are oriented to postgraduate programs adapted to the EHEA.

(**) Crue Universidades Españolas – Association of Spanish universities ([www.crue.org](http://www.crue.org))

- **Degree**: 240 ECTS (4 years)
- **Master**: 60-120 ECTS (1-2 years)
- **PhD Thesis**: 60 ECTS (1 year)
- **Doctorate (PhD)**: 3-4 years

ECTS - European Credit Transfer System
Higher Education in Spain. Key stages of its evolution (I).

- Spain has been one of the countries, within the OECD, that has experienced more educational changes in the last fifty years.
- The Spanish population has reached higher education in the last 50 years, has almost tripled, from 13% to 37%.

- The ratio of public universities per million inhabitants in Spain is 1.1 while EU-28 average is 1.4.
- 34% of Spaniards between 25 and 34 years have obtained a degree in higher education, while EU-28 is 29%.

- The complete adaptation in 2010 to the new EHEA has entailed:
  - A new degree structure.
  - A new teaching and learning model.
  - A new evaluation model beyond examinations and classical tests.
  - Greater compatibility and comparability with other education systems, promoting the mobility of students, teachers and researchers.
Higher Education in Spain. Key stages of its evolution (II).

• **A long tradition and history**
  - 1218 Universidad de Salamanca (eight centuries)

• **Participation, democracy y modernization**
  - First democratic elections to choose Principal were celebrated in the 80’s
  - LRU 1983, the first major university reform

• **Growth and scientific progress**
  - 1987: beginning of the Erasmus program
  - The number of university students is six times bigger than 30 years ago.
  - Scientific production has tripled in the past 15 years.

• **Contribution to progress and social cohesion**
  - The best social elevator: many of the parents of the students have not reached university degrees.
Higher Education in Spain. Access to University.

- The Spanish University System size is within normal parameters of the developing countries and the rate of access to higher education studies in Spain is similar than the averages for the EU-21 and the OECD countries.

Source: Own preparation based on figures from Educación at a glance. OCDE 2014.
Higher Education in Spain. Students

- **2,500 degrees** (78% at public universities and 22% at private and catholic universities)
- **3,300 masters** (82% at public universities and 18% at private and catholic universities)

1,272,234 on-site students
- 1,158,836 undergraduates (91%)
- 113,398 graduates (9%)

Source: Datos básicos del Sistema Universitario Español 2014-15 – Ministry of Education, Culture and Sports
Higher Education in Spain. Foreign students in Spanish Universities.

- **38,300** Spanish Erasmus students were enrolled mainly in universities in **Italy, Germany, France and UK** (2013-14)
- **39,300** foreign Erasmus students were enrolled in Spanish universities mainly from **Italy, Portugal and Belgium**. (2013-14)

*Source: Ministry of Education, Culture and Sports - 2014-15*

- Since the introduction of the new degrees, adapted to the European Higher Education Area (EHEA), academic performance has improved steadily and continuously, accumulating a 21% improvement in public universities.

- This improvement has occurred in all areas of knowledge.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Academic performance rate by area of expertise</th>
<th>On-site public universities</th>
<th>2008/09</th>
<th>2013/14</th>
<th>% Variation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arts and humanities</td>
<td></td>
<td>67,2</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>17,6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social and Juridical Sciences</td>
<td></td>
<td>65,1</td>
<td>80,1</td>
<td>23,0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sciences</td>
<td></td>
<td>63,3</td>
<td>73,9</td>
<td>16,8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Sciences</td>
<td></td>
<td>76,3</td>
<td>86,5</td>
<td>13,4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engineering and Architecture</td>
<td></td>
<td>56,2</td>
<td>66,8</td>
<td>18,9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td></td>
<td>63,8</td>
<td>77,7</td>
<td>21,8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Own preparation based on figures from La universidad española en cifras. Year 2013, Course 2013-2014. CRUE 2015
Higher Education in Spain. Human resources.

### Teaching and Research Staff: 115,000

### Administrative and service staff: 60,000

**Impact on the environment:**

- **Technical role:** Experts to guide the student learning (67% of teachers are PhD)

- **Social role:** Socializing and ethical agent in the university environment

- **Motivating role:** Arouse the students' interest in learning and foster personal and professional development

*Source: Datos básicos del Sistema Universitario Español 2014-15 – Ministry of Education, Culture and Sports*
Higher Education in Spain. Income and productivity.

Per capita income is a key point of the Spanish Higher Education system environment since it generates positive externalities on other variables as:

- Productivity
- Salaries
- Technological intensity of the productive sectors
- Access and use of ITC

Impact and socio-economic contribution of Spanish University System

- The Spanish University System returned to the Spanish society 2.5 euros for every euro destined to public funding.
- Almost a quarter of the growth (23.3%) in the last two decades of the Spanish economy is directly and indirectly attributable to the contributions of its universities.

Source: Contribución económica del SUE 2012 – Ministry of Education, Culture and Sports and IVIE
Higher Education in Spain. Prestige.

12 Spanish universities among the top 500 Ranking ARWU (ARWU scores more than 1200 universities every year and the best 500 are published on the web)

7 Spanish universities among the top 100 in the world with less than 50 years

40 of the 50 Spanish public universities (80%) and 1 of 33 private universities in top 1000 world universities

Spain is the favorite destination of Erasmus students
Higher Education in Spain. Spanish University as a catalyst for R&D system.

The Higher Education System plays a crucial role in the overall Spanish effort in R&D:

- **28%** investment in R&D in Spain is performed by the HEI (24% on average in EU-28)
- **68%** of the Spanish scientific production with international impact takes place in the Spanish universities (Spain ranks 5th in the European ranking and 10th in the world ranking)
- Nearly half of Spanish researchers are working at the University.
Higher Education in Spain. Challenges.

- DIVERSIFICATION
- EMPLOYABILITY
- SOCIAL ROLE
- MOBILITY
- UNIVERSITY-BUSINESS RELATIONSHIP
- SCIENTIFIC CULTURE
Higher Education in Spain. Universities.
Thank you very much for your attention!