UNIVERSIDAD COMPLUTENSE DE MADRID 2023/24

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ABOUT UCM:

- One of the oldest and most prestigious public universities in Spain: it was founded in 1293 and ranks at #1 in Spain, and #58 in Europe on the QS World University Ranking
- Over 86,000 students (including postgraduate) across 26 faculties
- Hosts around 7,000 international students per year
- 2 campuses: Somosaguas & Ciudad Universitaria

STUDYING AT UCM:

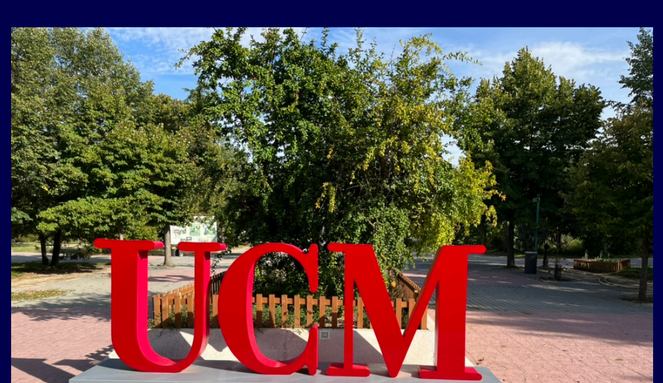
- Teaching was **completely** In Spanish - B1 level needed; my Spanish A Level sufficed
- Classes typically have up to 50 students, and you can choose morning or afternoon schedules, and lecturer
- Teaching is more theoretical than in the UK, with stricter grading and a higher fail rate
- There are 15-20 Erasmus students per semester in the faculty
- ESN UCM offers Erasmus events specifically for international students at UCM
- UCM offered a free 3-week online Spanish course in the summer before going to Madrid
- Top modules: History of Maths, Astronomy & Geodesy, Physics: Mechanics & Waves

SKILLS GAINED:

- MATLAB and Maple were taught in computer labs
- Spanish language skills improved
- Trying to adapt to a new academic system



Retiro Park



Ciudad Universitaria campus

LIFE IN MADRID:

- Transport around Madrid, and to other cities, is relatively cheap! A metro card costs only €8/month!
- Cultural aspects such as food
- Madrid has many sights which are worth seeing, such as Retiro Park, Palacio Real and Plaza Mayor
- Madrid is cheaper than UK, but more expensive than other places in Spain



La fiesta de las trashumancia, Madrid city centre



Gran Vía



Tapas in Plaza Mayor



Plaza Mayor

FINAL POINTS:

- Turing Scheme greatly helped financially this year however funding was very delayed
- UCM Mathematics faculty was poorly organised administratively and in terms of pastoral help; there was a lack of acknowledgement of international students

Studying in Madrid is a unique opportunity which offers lots of personal and academic development; however there are many challenges that may appear due to language barriers and culture shock. Overall, my time in Madrid was enriching, allowing me to connect with people from diverse backgrounds and immerse myself in a new way of life. It also gave me an insight into how mathematics can be taught in a different style and the effects of language on Mathematics. I highly recommend this experience.

REFERENCES & USEFUL SITES:

1. Facultad de Ciencias Matemáticas - Universidad Complutense de Madrid. (n.d.). Retrieved from https://matematicas.ucm.es/
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3. Erasmus Student Network Complutense Madrid (ESN UCM). (n.d.). Retrieved from https://esnucm.org/