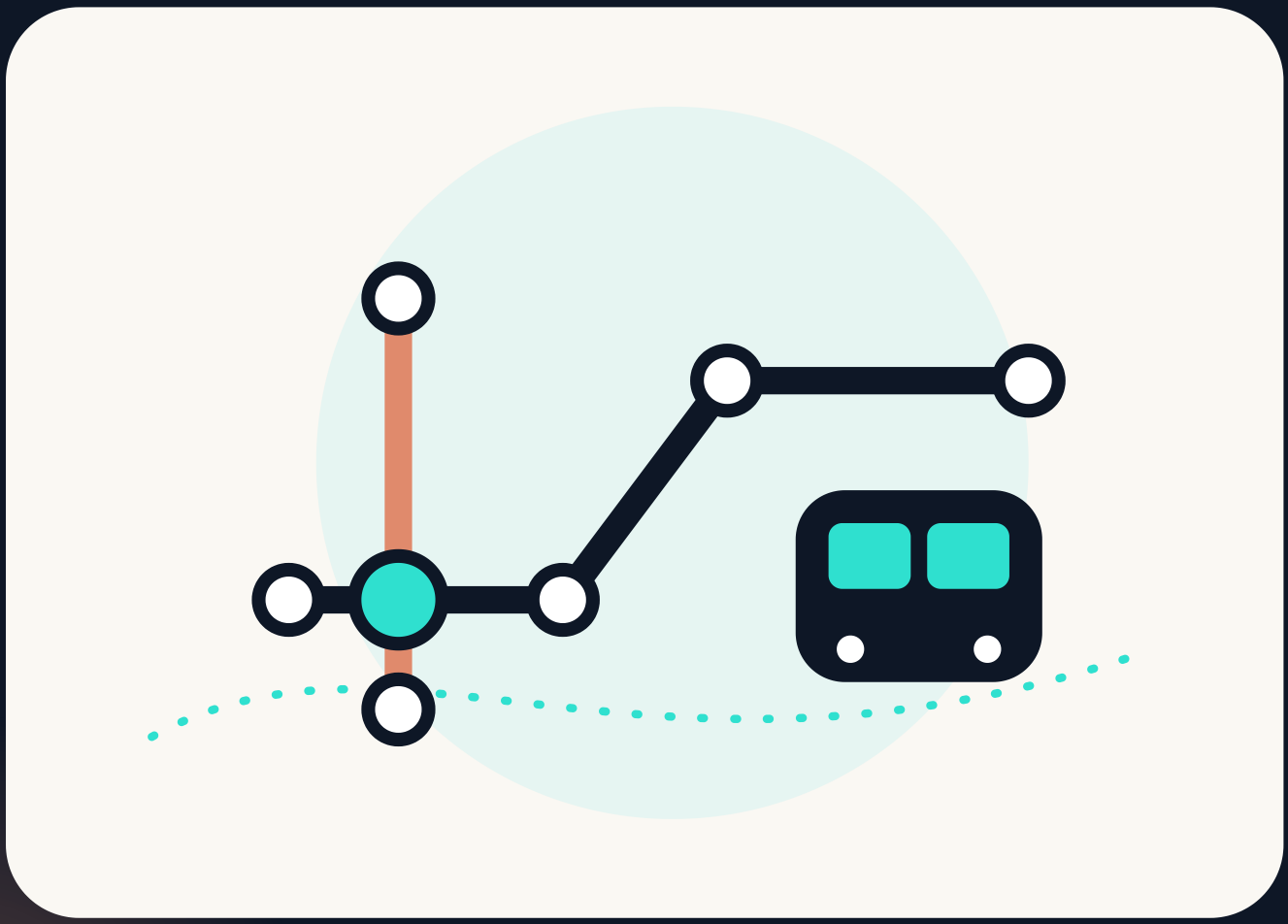
NOA

03

MADRID GUIDE · 03

Getting around the city

Madrid has one of the most complete public transport networks in Europe. Used well, it's cheap and fast.



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Last reviewed: 25/11/2026

How to read the labels: Official information from a public administration. Checked by NOA checked in several sources, not official. Students' experience advice from the community.

From the airport (Barajas)

- **Metro, line 8 (pink):** connects all terminals with Nuevos Ministerios. There's an **airport supplement of €3** on top of the normal ticket Official.
- **Airport Express Bus (line 203):** runs 24 hours and goes to the centre (Cibeles and, during the day, Atocha). A single fare of about **€5**, which you can pay on board Official.
- **Commuter train (Cercanías) C1:** only from T4.
- If you arrive in the middle of the night, the Express Bus is usually the most practical option.

The Abono Joven: the big advantage if you're under 26

- It costs **€10 a month** and covers **all zones** in the Madrid region (metro, city and intercity buses, commuter trains and light rail) Official. The discounts have been extended for the whole of 2026.
- **Important since 15 June 2026:** to get a new personal Public Transport Card (the one you need for the pass) you must show you're **registered (empadronado/a)** in the Madrid region or in a municipality covered by agreements Official.
- So **register your address as soon as you can** (see "Everyday practical information"). Meanwhile, you can travel with the Multi card (rechargeable, not personal) or by paying with your bank card on the Metro.
- *Update note:* the Madrid regional government announced agreements with other regions for students who aren't registered. Check the Regional Transport Consortium (CRTM) website before you arrive in case the conditions change.

Other options

- **10-trip ticket** (Metro, EMT buses and light rail): €7.30 Official.
- **Night buses ("búhos")** when the metro is closed (about 1:30–6:00).
- **BiciMAD**, the public bike service, and plenty of city to explore on foot.
- **Useful apps:** the official Metro de Madrid app, EMT Madrid, and Google Maps/Citymapper for routes.

From students

- Save the Sol, Gran Vía and Callao stations for when you're not in a hurry: they're the busiest. Wear your backpack on your front at rush hour.
- The 30-day pass starts counting from the first time you use it, not from when you top it up.

If you're family

Madrid is an easy and safe city to get around by public transport, including at night in the usual areas. Transport costs are low with the Abono Joven; encourage them to register their address early so they don't miss out.

Checklist

- [ ] Airport route decided before flying
- [ ] Address registration appointment booked
- [ ] Personal transport card requested
- [ ] Transport apps installed

Official sources

- Regional Transport Consortium (crtm.es)
- Metro de Madrid (metromadrid.es)
- EMT Madrid (emtmadrid.es)
- esMadrid (esmadrid.com)

This guide is for guidance only and is updated often. For legal procedures, always check the official source or your university. NOA does not replace legal or medical advice.
Last reviewed: 25/11/2026 · Is something missing from this guide? Tell us your question or your experience. **noamadrid.com**