NOA

06

MADRID GUIDE · 06

Student life

Studying in Spain has its own rules. Knowing them from the start saves you surprises at exam time.



Built with you.
noamadrid.com

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.

How the system works

- **Continuous assessment:** in many subjects, attendance, assignments and participation count, not just the final exam. Read each subject's **course guide (guía docente)** on day one.
- **Exam sittings (convocatorias):** there's usually an ordinary sitting and an extraordinary one if you fail. Check the dates with your university.
- **Attendance:** some subjects require a minimum percentage.
- **Grades:** marks go from 0 to 10; 5 is a pass.

Your resources

- **Tutorials:** teachers have office hours. Use them; it's not seen as a bad sign.
- **Libraries:** many extend their opening hours during exams.
- **Student card:** gives you access to facilities and discounts at museums, cinemas and some shops. Always ask if there's a student price.
- **University services:** academic guidance, psychological support, sport and a jobs/internships office.

From students

- If academic Spanish is a challenge, tell your teacher at the start of the year, not in exam week.
- Class WhatsApp groups are where all the information goes round: ask to be added.

If you're family

The system may be different from home: more work during the year and, in some subjects, less weight on the final exam. If they're on an exchange programme, the academic coordinator at their home university is the right person for questions about credit recognition.

Checklist

- [ ] Course guides read
- [ ] Exam dates in the calendar
- [ ] Student card requested
- [ ] Added to class groups

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**