

***TECHNICAL
UNIVERSITY OF
CARTAGENA***

**Guide for
International
Students**

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WELCOMING OF THE RECTOR

The Universidad Politécnica de Cartagena (UPCT) was established in 1998 and as such is the youngest Technical University in Spain. However, Engineering and Business studies have a long tradition in Cartagena: many of our Schools were founded in the beginning of the last century. This union between youth and tradition give us a dynamic and innovative character, but also a well tried one with a solid foundation.

From the beginning our University has been committed to international student exchange programs, having sent and received hundreds of students, especially from elsewhere in Europe. Also of note is the large number of postgraduate and PhD students coming from Spanish- and Portuguese-speaking American countries who have continued their university careers and research at the UPCT. Other examples worthy of mention include the fruitful periods of study and research here by African and Asian students.

For all those international students interested in getting to know us and completing their education with us, at whatever level, the International Office has prepared this guide as brief introduction to our world.

I am sure this Guide will be useful to all those who plan to spend time with us. It is a good introduction to the UPCT which surely will help them realise their educational and research goals. But without doubt the hospitality, welcoming character and easy going nature of the people of Cartagena and its University will be most supportive in attaining these goals and a very pleasant surprise.

To all international students, it is a pleasure for me to wish you a warm welcome in the name of the Universidad Politécnica de Cartagena.

Félix Faura Mateu
RECTOR

2. THE CITY

Geography

Cartagena lies on the south-east coast of Spain, in the region of Murcia. Situated in an area with excellent socioeconomic and development prospects within the European Union, the region of Murcia covers an area of approximately 11,300 km² and is divided into three clearly defined geographical areas: the mountains, the fertile plain and the coastline. Its climate is Mediterranean, with little rainfall, hot summers and mild winters. Temperatures range between 12°C in January and 30°C in July. It has 1,200,000 inhabitants, most of them living in Murcia, Cartagena and Lorca.

With a population of approximately 200,000 inhabitants, Cartagena is the second largest city in the region of Murcia. This city is one of the main ports on the Mediterranean Sea.

History of Cartagena

Cartagena boasts a very rich history which dates back to 227 B.C., when it was founded by the Carthaginians. However, the Carthaginian presence did not last long since the city was soon conquered by the Romans. Under the Roman domination, this city reached its zenith thanks to its thriving mining industry and its outstanding geographical location. The end of the Roman Empire marked the beginning of a period of decline, during which the city fell into the hands of different groups of people: the Visigoths, the Byzantines and the Muslims.

Upon its selection as the headquarters of the Maritime Department of the Mediterranean in the 18th century, Cartagena recovered its past importance, and a commercial and building boom ensued which attracted large numbers of people. Since then, Cartagena has gone through several periods of crisis and

prosperity to become the centre we know today, an industrial and commercial city, and seat of the regional Parliament of Murcia.

Cartagena has a valuable historical and cultural heritage that is reflected in the numerous museums, monuments and other tourist attractions throughout the city: the Archaeological Museum, the City Walls, the Roman Theatre, the Cathedral and the City Hall, to mention just a few.

Modern Cartagena also offers plenty of opportunities for recreation and entertainment: cinemas, theatre, art galleries, pubs, music festivals, etc. Cartagena, like its University, is a welcoming city open to change and innovation.

To get to know more about our region:

<http://cartagenafuturo.upct.es/home.htm>

<http://www.ayto-cartagena.es/>

<http://www.puertoculturas.com>

<http://www.murciaturistica.es>

3. THE UNIVERSITY

STATISTICS

Degrees: 22

Ph.D Programmes: 13

Undergraduate Students: 6.000

Ph.D Students: 400

Teaching Staff: 550

Administrative Staff: 350

Ratio students/professor: 13,5%

Library study areas: 700

Library books: 75.000

Journals: 5.200

Student internships in enterprises: 490

Including this University, which is the fourth-largest technical university in Spain, after the technical universities of

Madrid, Catalonia and Valencia, the region of Murcia has two state universities and one private university. The *Universidad Politécnica de Cartagena* is a public institution with its own legal and economic status, assets and academic autonomy. It combines the highest educational quality with a relaxed and enjoyable learning environment.

3.1 CENTRES AND DEGREES

The UPCT offers **Undergraduate Degree Programmes** (three-and five-year Degrees) and **Postgraduate-Ph.D Programmes**.

The UPCT is comprised of five Schools of Engineering, one Business School and one associated Centre for Tourism Studies, and offers strong academic programmes in about 20 major fields of study.

Higher Technical School of Agricultural Engineering

Adress:

E.T.S. de Ingeniería Agronómica

Campus Alfonso XIII-30203 Cartagena

Telephone: + 34 968 325419

Fax: +34 968 325793

etsia@upct.es

www.upct.es/~etsia

Five-Year Degree:

- Agricultural Engineer

Options:

- Agrifood Industry Engineering
- Intensive Agricultural Production Engineering
- Environmental Engineering

Three-Year Degrees:

- Technical Engineer in Agrifood Industry
- Technical Engineer in Horticulture and Gardening

These degrees provide the students with specific knowledge and training in the field of agricultural engineering and allow them to participate actively in the creation, use and optimization of the food chain, focusing on two main areas: Agricultural Production and Agrifood Industry Engineering

Higher Technical School of Industrial Engineering

Address:

E.T.S. de Ingeniería Industrial

Antiguo Hospital de Marina

Campus Universitario Muralla del Mar

Doctor Fleming, s/n – Cartagena 30202

Telephone: + 34 968 325417

Fax: + 34 968 325420

etsii@upct.es

<http://www.etsii.upct.es/>

Five-Year Degrees:

- Industrial Engineer

Options:

- Electrical Systems
 - Mechanics and Manufacturing
 - Construction and Industrial Facilities
 - Chemical Industries
- Engineer in Automation and Industrial Electronics
 - Engineer in Industrial Organisation

Options:

- Production Management
- Business Resources Management

Three-Year Degrees:

- Technical Engineer in Industrial Chemistry
- Technical Mechanical Engineer
- Technical Electrical Engineer
- Technical Engineer in Industrial Electronics

All these degrees are closely linked to the production process and cover the key areas of industrial development, through aspects related to design and organisation in this field.

Higher Technical School of Telecommunications Engineering

Address:

E.T.S. de Ingeniería de Telecomunicación

Edificio Antigones

Campus Muralla del Mar

Plaza Hospital nº 1-Cartagena 30202

Telephone: + 34 968 325313

Fax: + 34 968 325338

<http://www.teleco.upct.es/informacion/direccion@etsit.upct.es>

Five-Year Degree:

- Telecommunications Engineer

Options:

- Telecommunications Networks and Systems
- Telecommunications Planning and Management

Three-Year Degree:

- Technical Engineer in Telecommunications. Specialisation in Telematics

These degrees provide students with deep knowledge and skills in the fields of information and communication technologies. Special attention is paid to telecommunications engineering and telematics, as well as to electronics and computer science. These studies are both theoretical and practical, using well-equipped laboratories. They expose students to the research, development and innovation required by a competitive economy and help them become highly qualified professionals.

Technical School of Civil Engineering

Address:

E. U. de Ingeniería Técnica Civil

Pº Alfonso XIII, 52

Campus Alfonso XIII-30203 Cartagena

Telephone: + 34 968 325424

Fax: + 34 968 325425

<http://www.upct.es/~euitc/>

direccion@euitc.upct.es

Three-Year Degrees:

- Mining Engineer
 - * Mining
 - * Mineralogy and Metallurgy
 - * Energy Resources, Fuels and Explosives
- Civil Engineer
 - * Hydrology
- Technical Architect

This School offers degrees related to the production of mineral and energetic raw materials and also to infrastructure and building construction.

Higher Technical School of Naval and Oceanographic Engineering

Address:

E.T.S. de Ingeniería Naval y Oceánica

Campus Alfonso XIII

Pº Alfonso XIII, 52-30203 Cartagena

Telephone: + 34 968 325422

Fax: + 34 968 325425

<http://www.upct.es/~etsino/>

secretaria@euitn.upct.es

Five-Year Degree:

- Naval and Oceanographic Engineer

Three-Year Degree:

- Technical Naval Engineer.
Specialisation in Marine Structures

Options:

- Fishing Vessels
- Pleasure Boats
- Oceanographic Engineering
- Computational Techniques applied to Naval Architecture

Located in Cartagena, a maritime city with a long tradition of naval architecture, this well-renowned School was founded over 20 years ago. The syllabus consists of a wide variety of scientific and technical subjects, all of them aimed at providing students with a thorough knowledge of this field and preparing them for the professional world. The School is well equipped with research facilities. It maintains strong links with many local companies and is open to close cooperation with other institutions and companies in the fields of maritime studies and technology transfer.

Faculty of Business Studies

Address:

Facultad de Ciencias de la Empresa
 Campus Alfonso XIII
 Pº Alfonso XIII, 50 - 30203 Cartagena

Telephone: + 34 968 325576

Fax: + 34 968 325577

<http://www.upct.es/~fcce/>
decanato@fce.upct.es

Five-Year Degree:

- Masters in Business Administration and Management

Options:

- Industrial Business
- Agrifood Business
- Service Business
- Public Sector Management

Three-Year Degree:

- Bachelor of Science in Business

The Department of Business Studies is committed to providing the highest quality

education and to preparing its students for the social and managerial challenges of society and the business community.

ASSOCIATED CENTRE

University School of Tourism

Address:

Escuela Universitaria de Turismo

Edificio UNED - 4ª planta

C/ Ingeniero de la Cierva, s/n

30203 Cartagena

Murcia – SPAIN

Telephone and fax: + 34 968 528027

Three-year Degree:

- Bachelors Degree in Tourism

This private educational centre is associated with and academically supervised by the *Universidad Politécnica de Cartagena*.

Postgraduate

The courses offered by the UPCT also include Doctoral and Postgraduate Studies, under the supervision of University Departments.

The objective of these programmes is specialisation in certain fields of study and research training necessary for the preparation of a doctoral thesis. These are two-year programmes after which a DEA (Advanced Studies Degree) is awarded. A candidate then must research, write and present a thesis before obtaining a Ph.D.

Postgraduate and Doctoral Programmes:

- Architecture, Urban Planning and Environment

- Accounting and Finances in a Global Context
- Economy and Small and Middle-Sized Business Administration
- Electro-Chemistry: Science and Technology
- Renewable Energy
- Water Resources Administration
- Business Administration
- Environmental Engineering and Chemical Processing Industry Engineering
- Mathematics and Computers applied to Sciences and Engineering.
- Mining, Environment and Development
- Advanced Technology on Agrifood Technology
- Communication and Information Technology
- Industrial Technology

Further information about all the courses of the UPCT is available on the web: "[Planes de estudio: primer y segundo ciclo](http://www.upct.es/infoacademica.htm)" (<http://www.upct.es/infoacademica.htm>) and "[Escuelas y facultades](http://www.upct.es/perfil-alumno.htm)" (<http://www.upct.es/perfil-alumno.htm>).

3.2 RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

The *Universidad Politécnica de Cartagena* is dedicated to the preparation

of its students for the professional world, opening their minds to the most recent knowledge and discoveries. With over 64 active research and development groups, this University aims to be not only a place for the spreading of knowledge, but also a source of scientific and technological progress.

These groups carry out basic and applied research into a broad variety of fields, ranging from automation, fluid mechanics, aerobiology and environmental toxicology, mechanical and electrical engineering, to business economics, applied mathematics, chemical engineering, metallurgy, physics, plant production, and naval technology, to mention just a few.

The University promotes joint research and scientific exchange programmes with public and private organisations, as well as with numerous universities. In order to face the challenges of current society and the needs of the labour market, the University organises lectures and seminars in various areas of science and technology, which also help to strengthen the links between the University and the world of industry.

Research activities are supported by the *S.A.I.T.*, the Technological Research Support Service. This service was created in 1992 with the aim of facilitating and uniting the work of the different University R+D groups, in close cooperation with various other public and private entities. It is divided into two modern and well-equipped units: the Computing and Industrial Design Unit, and the Technological Instrumentation Unit. There is also a Centre for Agrifood Research with several greenhouses, laboratories and experimental farms.

3.3 STUDENT SERVICES

The *Universidad Politécnica de Cartagena* offers a wide range of services and facilities: modern lecture and study

halls, libraries, computer centres, laboratories, two residence halls, dining halls, a student advisory centre, a language centre and a large and ambitious sport and recreational programme.

The Document Service

The Document Service comprises the library and archives of the University.

The University Library has a location on each Campus: the "Alfonso XIII" Campus has the resources relating to the Schools located there and the "Muralla del Mar" Campus has the resources relating to the Telecommunications and Industrial Engineering Schools.
The entire library covers more than 3.600 m² and has 665 study carrels.

A large quantity of electronic information also is offered through the Digital Library in specialized databases (48) in electronic periodicals in complete text version (more than 5,000) and in monographs, final projects and theses, each in electronic form and related in subject matter to the University's scientific and technological teaching and research.

Library resources both paper and electronic exceed 75.000 volumes and 5.200 periodicals.

The hours of the library are ample (from 8:30 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.) Monday through Friday, with extended hours during exam periods.

All the library is completely computerised and its catalogue is accessible from any computer terminal.

Web Site: <http://www.bib.upct.es/>

Computer Facilities

The University has three computer learning centres, where most of the laboratory classes and preparation of final degree projects take place.

Access is available, except when the rooms are booked for laboratory classes. The computer learning centres are all equipped with printing services, plotters and scanners.

The University also offers students two free-access rooms called *ALAs* with access to the Internet and e-mail, one *WALA* room (wireless free-access room) and an Internet *WIFI* access net. All students receive a free e-mail account when they register.

Laboratory Facilities

Special importance is given to practical teaching at the UPCT, which requires well-equipped laboratories. There are about 30 laboratories distributed throughout the various university centres. These laboratories relate to a wide range of chemical, physical and engineering sciences and their application to today's industrial processes.

Student Advisory Service

This service provides the students with assistance and general information on all University matters (grants, study abroad, other universities, lectures, programmes, syllabuses, etc.), coordinates the work placement of students in different firms and organisations, in cooperation with the various Schools and Departments, and informs them about job opportunities. Students can also obtain free psychological counselling.

Language Centre

The University Language Centre offers various courses in several modern European languages: English, French, German, Italian, Portuguese, Chinese and Spanish as a foreign language.

<http://www.upct.es/~srvidiom/>

Cultural, Sport and Recreational Facilities and Activities

Special importance has been given to cultural life in recent years. The *Universidad Politécnica de Cartagena* organises and promotes a wide range cultural activities that complement the excellent professional qualifications of our graduates. Activities such as lectures, concerts, sculpture and painting exhibitions, visits to museums, cinema, archaeology, university monthly newspaper "*Apuntes*", summer courses, etc. Students are encouraged to take full advantage of these opportunities while they are in Cartagena and to meet new people through the different university clubs and associations, such as the *Tuna* (Glee Club), the Foreign Student Assistance Association, the Radio Society, etc.

Sport is another cornerstone of our university life. The University offers both on-campus and off-campus sport facilities where students and lecturers can become skilled in a variety of popular and specialised activities such as swimming, hockey, football (soccer), hiking, basketball, table tennis, canoeing, deep-sea diving, sailing, aerobics, riding, ballroom dancing, flamenco dancing, judo and Tai-Chi, to mention just a few.

Students also have the opportunity to join several clubs: the Rugby Club, the Club of Industrial Engineers, the Club of Agricultural Engineers, etc. The University organises many competitions with other universities throughout the year.

Our cultural heritage, mild climate and closeness to the Mediterranean Sea make these activities particularly interesting and enjoyable.

<http://www.upct.es/~spd/index.htm>

ACADEMIC CALENDAR

1st Semester

Classes: beginning of September

Christmas Holidays: two weeks

Exams: February

2nd Semester

Classes: generally begin in March

Easter Break: two weeks

Exams: June (for those students who have failed their exams in June, repeat exams take place in September)

3.4 INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

International students may study here as an exchange student, but without receiving any academic degree from the UPCT, in either of the following two ways:

1. An **international programme** for a fixed period and only for part of your course of study (Erasmus, etc.) or
2. A **specific agreement** between your educational institution and our University.

It also is possible to matriculate in our University as an **independent student** if you meet one of the following requirements:

a) You have completed secondary school level studies in a foreign.

It is then necessary to do two things:

1 - Have your academic qualifications officially validated by the Spanish Ministry of Education, Culture and Sport.

For further information:

<http://wwwn.mec.es/mecd/titulos/>

2 - Pass the University entrance exam (PAU)

This exam is called the "Selectividad", and is given under the auspices of the National Distance Learning University (UNED)

There are pre-established registration periods based on the country from which you are coming and in which the exam is to be taken.

For further information please contact:

SECCIÓN DE SELECTIVIDAD U.N.E.D.
c/ Senda del Rey, nº 11 - 28040 MADRID – SPAIN
Tel.: +34 91 398 66 12/13/16
Fax : +34 91 398 66 79
E-mail: selectiv@adm.uned.es
<http://www.uned.es/selectividad>

b) You have started studies at a foreign university and would like to continue at the UPCT.

Modules studied abroad will be validated by a Spanish university under conditions set by the *Consejo de Coordinación Universitaria*.

When a course of study has been completed with the granting of a foreign diploma, the student may elect either to apply for conversion of the diploma to a Spanish degree or for validation of a portion of the degree for the purpose of further studies.

<http://wwwn.mec.es/mecd/jsp/plantilla.jsp?id=3&area=titulos>

THE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS OFFICE

At the International Relations Office, where exchange programmes are managed, we can help you with anything you may need. If you are coming to the UPCT as a participant in an exchange programme, we will deal with all the necessary documentation and will help you take your first steps in our University and city. If you wish to study with us as an independent student, you can also contact us for guidance about what procedures to follow.

We also work with many Spanish and European programmes in order to promote our institution and foster cooperation between universities.

We have developed a "**Mentor Programme**" to improve our services to exchange students coming to study in Cartagena. If you are interested in this programme, you should fill out the "Mentor Request Form" and return it to us by e-mail, at least one month before your arrival in Cartagena.

All information for international students may be found on our website.

Address:

Pl. Cronista Isidoro Valverde
Edificio "La Milagrosa"- 30202 Cartagena
Telf.: 0034 968 325971/22
Fax: 0034 968 325972
E-mail: relint@upct.es
Web: <http://www.upct.es/servicios.htm>

We are open: Monday through Friday, from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

FOREIGN STUDENT SUPPORT ASSOCIATION

Through this association we help foreign students take their first steps in our University, providing access to administrative services and contacts with Spanish and foreign students to help them integrate into the academic and social life of the University and Cartagena.

You will find all the information regarding the above on our website: <http://www.aeee.upct.es/>

To contact other international students, or for further information on Spanish language courses and Spanish universities: <http://www.universia.es>

4. USEFUL INFORMATION

- * **How to get to Cartagena**
- * **Accommodation**
- * **Dining Halls**
- * **How to get to Cartagena**

- **Train:** www.renfe.es/
- **Coach:** www.eurolines.com
- **Air:** There are two airports near Cartagena:

MURCIA- SAN JAVIER AIRPORT:

Small airport about 20 minutes by car from Cartagena, with regular flights from Madrid and Barcelona, and also from several cities across Europe.

Telephone: +34 968 172000

Taxi is the easiest way to get from the airport to Cartagena (distance: 32 km. /price: about 30 €)

EL ALTET (ALICANTE) AIRPORT:

A bigger airport, about 1 hour and 15 minutes by car from Cartagena, with regular flights from Madrid and Barcelona, and also from several cities across Europe.

Telephone: +34 966 919 100

To check flight schedules and get information about these and other Spanish airports, visit <http://www.aena.es/>

*** Accommodations**

Students may stay at one of the two University mixed Residence Halls or rent a private room/house in Cartagena or the surrounding area. The University Residence Halls were built in 1982 and are located about 100 metres from the *Alfonso XIII* University Campus.

They are open year-round except August and have a total of 196 fully furnished single rooms. The Residence Halls also offer a wide range of services: restaurant, cafeteria, library, reading areas and recreation rooms. The approximate cost of accommodation ranges from 3.819 € to 4.281 € per year. Breakfast, lunch and evening meals (except weekend evening meals) are included in the price.

<http://www.upct.es/~ruac/>

The International Relations Office will help you find accommodations in rented flats, sharing with other students. Rooms cost approximately 150 € per month.

Finally, in addition to rent, students usually need around 300 € per month to cover other costs including food, transport, etc. Expenses for study materials (books, photocopies, notes) depend on the programme and vary greatly.

*** Dining Halls**

There are four dining halls available for general use.

There is also an extensive cafeteria service in most University buildings.

HOLIDAY BREAKS

Christmas Holidays	from the end of December to the second week of January
Easter Break	Two weeks between March and April

ACADEMIC HOLIDAYS

- Academic Year Opening Ceremony
- Saint Thomas Aquinas (27th January)

Both classes and administrative services are cancelled on these days.