

Presentation and FAQ

The PhD in *Hispanic Studies: Language, Literature, History and Thought* groups the various areas of Hispanic Studies in a complementary and interdisciplinary way at the Autonomous University of Madrid (UAM). The internationally renowned quality programme trains researchers, teachers and professionals in the Peninsular and Ibero-American area: Spanish Language, Spanish and Hispanic-American Literature, Spanish Philology, Spanish and Hispanic- American Thought, Medieval Studies, Digital Edition and Humanities, etc. Its ultimate goal is to acquire excellence training in Hispanic humanities within diverse profiles (training for research, advanced academic knowledge and specific professional applications) plus the techniques required for drafting the PhD thesis. It coordinates several knowledge areas (human and material resources) and, during the training period, it is linked to the following Master's Degrees taught at the School of Philosophy and Literature at UAM.

- [Master's Degree in Spanish and Ibero-American Thought.](#)
- [Master's Degree in Spanish Language: Research and Professional Internships.](#)
- [Master's Degree in Hispanic Literatures: Art, History and Society.](#)
- [Inter-University Master's Degree in medieval Iberian history: Hispania, Al-Andalus, Sepharad](#) (Malaga University-Autonomous University of Madrid)

1. What is a Doctorate?

It is the highest academic level. The third cycle in Spain is aimed at providing advanced training to students in research techniques and culminates in the students publicly defending their original research work (the PhD thesis). It is an official university degree regulated by Spanish Royal Decree 99/2011 and is valid throughout Spain. It is established by the Spanish government and conforms to the European Higher Education Area (EHEA). Therefore, it is valid in all the countries forming part of the EHEA. Such degrees can be approved/validated in other countries that do not part of the EHEA. The PhD in Hispanic Studies: Language, Literature, History and Thought at UAM is an official degree whose syllabus has been approved by the Universities Board and by the Madrid regional government after the quality control (Verifica) conducted by ANECA (National Agency for Quality Assessment and Accreditation). In addition to the official



approval process, the Programme is periodically submitted to quality assessment procedures by the regional government and by ANECA to maintain its accreditation.

2. Can I enrol without having finished a Master's Degree?

You can enrol on the degree providing that the Master's Degree accounts for over 60 ECTS credits, and at the time you enrol you have passed at least 60 ECTS credits. In all events, you must have completed your Master's degree when formalising your PhD registration.

3. What degree must I have to enrol?

The ideal profile is a graduate with a Master's Degree in Philosophy and Literature (60 ECTS credits). Graduates from other knowledge areas can also enrol although, based on their profile, the Academic Committee can require them to carry out supplementary training (up to 30 ECTS credits), in line with the Hispanic Studies on which their thesis is based, which must be made before or at the same time as the other training activities of the Doctorate. That supplementary training can include the subjects of the official master's degrees related to the programme's syllabus and will be considered as doctorate-level training, where public rates will be charged. The time devoted to that specific training will not be calculated for the 3-year limit between the student's admission to the programme and the submission of the PhD thesis, as set out in article 3.2 of Royal Decree RD 99/2011.

4. Can I work while studying the PhD?

Yes, you can study the PhD part-time while working or carrying out other studies at the same time. In such cases, the thesis period can last up to five years, after receiving authorisation from the Programme's Academic Committee.

5. What steps can I take to form part of the Programme?

To register for the Programme, two fundamental steps must be made through the Doctoral School. Students must firstly apply for admission. If admitted to the Programme after the selection process, students must then enrol.

6. What tasks will I carry out within the Programme?

The Programme does not include formal education, like a Master's Degree, with subjects that students must take to complete the number of ECTS credits set out in the syllabus. To that end, the PhD tasks will focus on developing the doctoral project in line with that set out in each PhD student's [Research Proposal](#) and participating in a number of academic and research activities carried out within the areas and departments participating in the PhD Programme and outside them. Those activities can be proposed by the students or tutors/supervisors, with the latter's approval and authorisation in any case. Such activities can include:

- a. Attending training activities established by the PhD Programme, the Doctoral School or the areas and departments participating in the Programme.
- b. Attending national or international congresses, where the students present and defend their research in the form of a communication or poster.
- c. Staying with foreign, state or national research groups that are internationally renowned.
- d. Attending courses to upgrade their skills.
- e. Improving their foreign language skills, especially English (or the applicable language in each research area) as the universal language of scientific communication.
- f. Actively participating in drafting articles on their research or on collective works with their own contributions.
- g. Participating in outreach activities to bring their research to the general public.
- h. Participating in university education activities in their research area (in the cases envisaged).

Belonging to the Programme does not mean that PhD students have to teach, except in specific cases where they have assistance for university teacher training (FPI, FPU, etc.) and where this is agreed by the corresponding department to which they belong.

7. How long do the doctoral studies last?

The PhD can be full-time or, after authorisation from the Academic Committee, part-time. The full-time PhD lasts for three years, extendable for a further two years, excluding temporary leave from that calculation. The



full-time PhD is mandatory for those who have a contract to carry out their thesis full-time (FPI, FPU, etc.). The part-time PhD lasts for a maximum of five years, extendable for a further three years, excluding temporary leave from that calculation. Students must apply for the part-time PhD when applying for admission to the PhD Programme. Students will know the deadline for submitting their thesis at any time by registering on Sigma.

8. Who will be in charge of supervising and directing the PhD thesis?

The tutor must be a PhD professor related to the PhD programme and permanently linked to any of the institutions participating in the programme. The tutor supervises the interaction between the PhD student and the Academic Committee and is in charge, for example, of uploading the annual reports to the Sigma academic management system. The tutor may or may not be the supervisor although, if the supervisor forms part of one of the departments or areas participating in the Programme, the supervisor will also carry out the functions of the tutor. For information about the teachers participating in the Programme, see the website section on Research lines and professors associated with each line (under construction). The supervisors can be any Spanish or foreign PhD holders with accredited research experience, regardless of the university, centre or institution where they provide their services. Up to two supervisors can be designated.

9. What is the "International Mention" or the "International PhD Mention"?

It is a distinction which grants added value to the degree. To obtain the International PhD Mention, the PhD student must: 1) spend at least three months in a higher education institution or prestigious research centre outside Spain, either taking courses or carrying out research; 2) draft and defend part of their PhD thesis, at least the abstract and conclusions, in one of the habitual languages used in the scientific communication in their field of expertise other than the official languages of Spain. This rule does not apply if the candidate's foreign study or research takes place in a Spanish-speaking country. In any case, the abstract and conclusions must also be presented in Spanish; 3) the thesis must be reviewed by a minimum of two expert doctors from non-Spanish higher education institutions or research centres; 4) the examining board which evaluates the thesis must include at least one expert from a non-Spanish higher education institution or research centre with a doctoral degree, who must be someone other than the person responsible for overseeing the candidate's stay, although that person may also be part of the examining board; 5) the thesis must be



defended at Universidad Autónoma de Madrid. For joint PhD programmes, the thesis may be defended at any of the participating universities or as stipulated in the terms of the cotutelle agreements.

Before their international stay, PhD students must submit an application (with their full name, the institution's name and their period of stay) to the PhD programme's Academic Committee, in addition to the institution's letter inviting them to the stay. Once the stay has been completed, PhD students must request the person responsible for overseeing their stay for a certificate, which must be uploaded through Sigma to the Student's Activities Document.

10. What is the annual cost of the Programme?

The enrolment prices to be paid for the academic supervision are established by the Madrid regional government for each academic year. In accordance with the prices for Academic Services established for the academic year 2018/2019, the main amounts are the annual tuition fee (€390 for full-time students and €234 for part-time students) and the exam or thesis defence fee (€143.15). In addition, there are also the Administrative Services fees, which include the initial registration fee (€27.54), the annual secretariat expense fee (€6.11) and the degree issuance fee (€229.86). The supervision fee exemptions set out in the prevailing regulations will be applied, if appropriate. More information on this matter is available in the [Fees and Waivers](#) section on the Doctoral School website or by writing to doctorado.gestion@uam.es.

11. I have not yet applied for admission or been admitted to the programme but I want to apply for a pre-doctoral grant to carry out the PhD studies. What can I do?

Students can request the Programme coordinator carlos.ayala@uam.es for the corresponding pre-admission certificate (with a copy to the Academic Committee's secretary, david.nogales@uam.es), stating their identity document number. That pre-authorisation does not mean that the Academic Committee excludes or prejudices the assessment and selection process for the Programme's admission; it is only used for the purpose of applying for the grants to carry out the PhD studies and there is no commitment from the Programme in the candidate selection process.



12. I have carried out PhD studies, without completing them, in a prior PhD programme at UAM or another university and want to take them up again within the framework of a PhD programme at UAM regulated by Royal Decree 99/2011. Is this possible?

Yes, this is possible. The Doctoral School has set out different procedures, shown in the [Recognition of tutorial courses](#) section on the Doctoral School website, for:

- PhD students who have been in a UAM PhD Programme covered by former regulations for at least three years.
- PhD students who have been in a UAM PhD Programme covered by former regulations for only two years.
- PhD students who have just joined a PhD Programme with previous research activity.
- PhD students with tutorial courses with a positive assessment in previous studies.

13. If I have any queries, who can I contact?

If you have any queries and your tutor/supervisor cannot resolve them, you can write to two areas. If you have any administrative queries (file status, enrolment, fee payment, etc.), please contact the Doctoral School by writing to doctorado.gestion@uam.es. If you have academic queries (supervision assessment reports, tutoring and supervision queries, scheduled activities, etc.), please contact the Academic Committee by writing to info.doctorado.ee-hispanicos@uam.es or the coordinator, Carlos de Ayala Martínez, by writing to carlos.ayala@uam.es, with a copy to the Academic Committee's secretary, David Nogales Rincón (david.nogales@uam.es).