
Single-Semester Study Abroad Program Information Package Fall 2016 and Spring 2017 Semesters

Important Dates (all dates are subject to change):

- February 22, 2016
BU Law application deadline
- Mid-March 2016
Selections made
- June 2016
Fall 2016 participants should secure their visa to study in Spain
- May 1, 2016
ICADE application deadline for fall 2016 semester
- October – November 2016
Spring 2017 participants should secure their visa to study in Spain
- Late August, 2016
Fall 2016 orientation
- September 2016 – mid-December 2016
Approximate fall 2016 semester dates
- Mid-December 2016 – Early January, 2017
Approximate fall 2016 exam period (BU Law students should arrange to take their exams before the holiday break)
- October, 2016
ICADE application deadline for spring 2017 semester
- Early January, 2017
Spring 2017 orientation (subject to change)
- January– May, 2017
Spring semester, including exam period

BU Law students who study entirely in Spanish are required to take a minimum of four classes, the typical semester course load of an ICADE student.

BU Law students who take all their classes in English through ICADE's MIEBL program must take a minimum of 30 ECTS credits (one half of ICADE's MIEBL program), all of which must be approved by BU Law's Assistant Dean for Graduate & International Programs.

ICADE's grading scale is from 0-10. Anything below a 5 is considered a failing grade.

None of the grades for the ICADE semester will count toward your BU Law GPA or towards academic honors and awards (such as the scholarly awards, graduation prizes or degree rankings, such as *cum laude*, *magna cum laude* and *summa cum laude*).

Graduate and International
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**The dates above reflect the academic calendar for Spanish language courses. Participants interested in enrolling in English language courses offered through the MIEBL program will follow a slightly different schedule, with fall semester courses beginning in mid-August and spring semester courses ending in April. Please see full-year ICADE information package for a more detailed academic calendar.*

We are pleased you are interested in Boston University School of Law's overseas exchange program with Universidad Pontificia Comillas in Madrid, Spain. This package gives a general description of the program as well as details about some of its more important aspects. Carefully review this information before deciding whether to apply.

I. Some Preliminary – and Important – Points

At the outset, we would like to stress several aspects of the program which may be relevant to your decision to apply.

- A. **Timing:** This is a one-semester program that will be offered during the fall 2016 and spring 2017 semesters. Students who plan to enroll in only English language courses offered through the MIEBL program may only participate in the fall semester.
- B. **Credits:** The program is designed to grant participating students 12 semester credits toward their J.D. degree.
- C. **Academic Focus:** The Spanish language program focuses on international, foreign (EU and Spanish) and comparative law. The English language program focuses exclusively on international and European business law. Therefore, the list of courses from which students choose is limited to these subjects.
- D. **Eligible Students:** The program is open to second- and third-year students who have spent at least one full-year at BU Law. First-year students cannot participate.
- E. **Language:** The overwhelming majority of courses at ICADE are taught in Spanish, the school's language of instruction. Students who lack fluency in Spanish, however, may still participate in the single-semester program by taking a semester of English-taught LL.M. classes through ICADE's Masters in International and European Business Law Program (MIEBL). (For more information on the MIEBL program, see the ICADE full-year J.D./LL.M. information package. Also, visit http://www.upcomillas.es/eng/estudios/estu_mast_iebl_cont.aspx.) We will inform participants if appropriate English-taught law classes become available outside the context of ICADE's MIEBL.
- F. **Number of Participants:** Four students at most can study at ICADE in 2016-2017, whether through the single semester option or the full-year J.D./LL.M. option. We may select fewer than four, but under no circumstances can we select more.

II. Why Study Law at ICADE?

- A. **Universidad Pontificia Comillas de Madrid – one of Spain's Leading Universities**

Universidad Pontificia Comillas is a Roman Catholic (Jesuit) university dating back to the early 20th century. It began as a seminary founded in the town of Comillas (in the province of Santander) by Pope Leo XIII in 1890. In 1904, the Universidad Pontificia was established when Pope Pius X granted "Comillas" the power to confer academic degrees in theology, philosophy and canon law. Years later, the Roman Catholic Church founded two new faculties in Madrid: an engineering school (*Instituto Catolico de Artes e Industrias* (ICAI) in 1908) and a faculty to confer degrees in law, economics and business administration (*Instituto Catolico de Administration y Direccion de Empresas* (ICADE) in 1956). In 1979, ICAI and ICADE joined the *Universidad Comillas*, which had relocated from Santander to Madrid in the 1960s.

Today, *Universidad Pontificia Comillas de Madrid* has 7,700 undergraduate and 4,300 graduate students, with 1,882 full-time and part-time teachers. In addition to the Faculty of Law at ICADE, the university has faculties in Theology and Canon Law, Human and Social Sciences, Economic Science and Business Administration (at ICADE), Engineering (ICAI), and Nursing and Physiotherapy. It is most well-known for its business, law and engineering programs. It welcomes over 1,000 foreign students each year, mostly through the European ERASMUS exchange program.

For more information on ICADE, please visit:

<http://www.upcomillas.es/eng/default.aspx?IdIdioma=ENG>

BU Law applicants should also read ICADE's official guide for international students, which contains a great deal of information about the university and resources for foreign students. Visit http://www.upcomillas.es/images/Documentos_K2/SRI/Guia_Estudiantes_Intercambio.pdf

B. The Faculty of Law, ICADE

Since ICADE's founding in 1956, the teaching of law at Comillas has been closely tied to the teaching of business and economics. Today, the Faculty of Law (*Facultad de Derecho*) at ICADE is still known for its focus on commercial law. The school confers the first degree in law (a four-year program) numerous Master of Laws programs and a Ph.D. in law. It also offers several five-year dual degree options. With a total student body of about 1,800, the law faculty confers approximately 315 degrees each year. The faculty consists of roughly 70 full-time instructors and 60 adjuncts. All full-time instructors have a Ph.D.

ICADE is a highly selective school, admitting fewer than 25 percent of its applicants. All students must pass an English proficiency exam to gain entrance. Over 60 percent of the students come from outside Madrid – attesting to the school's national reputation. Despite its Jesuit history and tradition, the school welcomes students and faculty from all religious backgrounds. The ICADE community is mixed and diverse; classroom instruction has no connection with or orientation towards the church.

The teaching style at ICADE is a combination of lecture and discussion; the classroom dynamic is certainly more interactive than the one-way lecturing that takes place at Spain's public law faculties. Class sizes are similar to BU Law's, with roughly 40-60 students per class. Classrooms are well-equipped with the latest technologies (wireless web access, etc.). The expansive library, which holds nearly 500,000 volumes, is modern and welcoming, with plenty of study space.

Because of ICADE's selective admissions policy and the school's academic reputation, ICADE's graduates are among the most heavily recruited by Spanish and international law firms. Each year, the school runs an on-campus recruiting program similar to BU Law's, with hundreds of firms coming to campus to interview graduating students for summer or permanent jobs. BU Law students may participate in these recruiting events for summer internships.

One of the most attractive features of ICADE is its student-centered approach. The school's philosophy is reminiscent of BU Law's: the faculty is accessible and the administration is supportive. All visiting exchange students meet one-on-one with the Vice Dean and the faculty member in charge of exchanges to develop a customized study plan.

C. The City of Madrid

Madrid is an ideal study abroad venue – and not just because of the tapas bars, bullfights and 2,800 hours of annual sunshine. As Spain’s capital, Madrid is at the heart of the country’s economic, political and communications systems, home to the Parliament, Senate and Royal Family. It is also Spain’s business and financial center. As Europe’s fourth largest city, with a population of roughly three million, the city is characterized by its vibrant cultural and artistic scene. Several of the world’s finest art museums, including the Prado, Reina Sofia and Thyssen-Bornemisza, line Madrid’s famed “Museum Mile” or *Triángulo de Arte* (which reputedly has more masterpieces per yard than any place on earth!). Native residents (*Madrileños*) are known for their passion to “*vivir a tope*” (“live life to the fullest”) – hence, Madrid’s reputation as the “city that never sleeps.” The nightlife offers the full range of diversions that any hard-working law student would seek. And these diversions will be close at hand: ICADE is conveniently located in the city center, in an attractive, safe neighborhood, easily accessible by public transportation.

For more information on Madrid, the following websites may be useful:

<http://www.lonelyplanet.com/spain/madrid>

<http://www.aboutmadrid.com/>

III. The ICADE Exchange Program

A. What the Program is – and isn't

The exchange program with ICADE is designed to offer a serious study of international, Spanish, EU and comparative law in an international setting. This is definitely not the same thing as a college semester abroad. If you are looking to spend most of your time eating tapas, drinking sangria and bullfighting, this is not the program for you. This is not to say that you will have no time to enjoy life in Madrid, sightsee, travel and familiarize yourself with Spanish culture. You will. But we do want to emphasize that this program is much more academically rigorous than many overseas programs at the undergraduate level.

B. Number of Students

As noted above, we will be selecting up to four BU Law students to attend ICADE during 2016-2017 (for example, one in the fall, two in the spring and one for the entire year through the JD/LLM program).

C. Program Dates

Please note that the following dates are for Spanish language enrollment, and are subject to change:

| | |
|------------------------|--|
| Fall Orientation: | Late August, 2016 |
| Fall Semester Dates: | September - mid-December 2016 |
| Fall Exam Dates: | Mid-December 2016 – late January 2017 (though BU Law students may take their exams before the holidays.) |
| Spring Orientation: | Early January, 2017 (subject to change) |
| Spring Semester Dates: | January - May, 2017 (includes exam period) |

You will be expected to arrive in Madrid to attend orientation for the fall semester or spring semester. While fall semester exams usually take place in January, ICADE assures us that it will be able to make accommodations for students who wish to take exams early to be back in the

U.S. before the holidays and in time for BU Law's second semester, whether they take English or Spanish-taught classes. The spring semester for the regular Spanish curriculum runs into late May, so students who take some or all of their classes in Spanish should take that into consideration when applying, as it is not likely they will be back in time for graduation or bar preparation courses. Therefore, 3Ls who want to study at ICADE in Spanish should study in the fall.

To view the academic calendar for the English language MIEBL program, please see [BU Law's information package for the MIEBL program](#) or visit the [ICADE Web site](#). As stated above students who plan to enroll in only English language courses offered through the MIEBL program may only participate in the fall semester.

D. Course Offerings and Course Loads

1. Spanish-taught classes

BU Law students fluent in Spanish will have the most flexibility when selecting courses, as they may also choose to enroll in ICADE's regular classes. The school offers an expansive and impressive range of Spanish, international and comparative law topics. Almost all courses are available in single terms. Most offerings are appropriate for students who have not previously studied civil law, Spanish law or EU law. Sample offerings include:

- Administrative Law
- Bankruptcy Law
- Civil Law
- Civil Procedure
- Civil Responsibility
- Commercial Law
- Communications Law
- Comparative Contract Law and International Contracts
- Competition Law
- Conflict Resolution Systems
- Constitutional Law
- Consular Civil Law
- Contract Law
- Criminal Law
- Criminal Law of Business
- Employment and Social Security Law
- Environmental Law
- History of Spanish Code
- History of Spanish Law
- Housing Law
- Individual Labor Relation Rights
- Insurance Rights
- Intellectual Property
- International Economics
- International Protection of Human Rights
- International Commercial Law
- International Criminal Law
- Judicial Law
- Law of the Spanish Financial System: Banking and Markets
- Law of International Organizations
- Law of Church and State
- Law and Diplomacy
- Philosophy of Law
- Private International Law of the EU
- Public International Law
- Rights of Foreigners and Spanish Nationals
- Roman Law, Common Law, and Community Law
- Spanish Global Economics
- Taxation Law
- Technology Law
- Tort Law
- Urban Law

For reference, master-level corporate law classes in Spanish are available at http://www.upcomillas.es/estudios/estu_mast_dere_conte.aspx?IdIdioma=ES

Other master-level offerings which may be available are at http://www.upcomillas.es/estudios/postgrado_juridica.aspx?IdIdioma=ES.

Only a few classes have pre-requisites. All students are encouraged to seek advice from the Program Director and Coordinator if they have questions about their preparedness of any particular topic(s).

2. English-taught classes

BU Law students who wish to study entirely in English may enroll in law courses through ICADE's LL.M. in European and International Business Law Program (MIEBL), which is taught exclusively in English. For a full list of courses offered through the MIEBL program, please visit http://www.upcomillas.es/estudios/estu_mast_iebl_cont.aspx or reference the full-year information package for ICADE on the BU Law website. Class descriptions are available [here](#).

ICADE is contemplating offering a limited number of other English-language law classes in 2016-2017, outside the context of its MIEBL program. To the extent that these classes become available and are appropriate for J.D. students, we will inform you.

3. Course Loads (subject to change)

- a. BU Law students who study entirely in Spanish are required to take a minimum of four classes, the typical semester course load of an ICADE student.
- b. BU Law students who take all their classes in English through ICADE's MIEBL program must take a minimum of 30 ECTS credits (one half of the LL.M. program), all of which must be approved by BU Law's Assistant Dean for Graduate & International Programs..

E. Exams

The primary form of evaluation at ICADE is written examination, though smaller classes may require papers or oral examinations instead.

IV. How to Apply

If you decide to apply, you must do the following::

1. Complete an application available online at www.bu.edu/law/jd/studyabroad, and submit all additional materials.
2. Complete an interview with Assistant Dean John Riccardi and Assistant Director Shannon Supitkowsky, scheduled through the Graduate and International Programs Office.
3. If you intend to take classes in Spanish, complete a Spanish language interview with a BU faculty member and/or an LL.M. student from Spain. You may do this after the interview with Dean Riccardi and Shannon Supitkowsky.

In screening applicants, we will look for such things as a strong academic record, a favorable faculty recommendation, serious interest in international and comparative law, and experience with different cultures and overseas travel.

The application deadline is February 22, 2016.

* For first-year students applying to participate in their second year, we will be unable to make a final decision until after we have received your second semester grades in mid-summer.

V. ICADE Exchange Student Application

BU Law students selected to participate in the ICADE single semester exchange program will be provided with additional application materials to complete – the OGIP will assist participants with this process.

VI. Student Evaluation and Grades

Your exams will be graded in the first instance by ICADE faculty in accordance with the ICADE grading system. ICADE's grading scale is from 0-10, with 10 being the highest ("Matricula de Honor"; only given to a select few, very highly performing students); 9-10 being very good ("Sobresaliente"; awarded to the top ten percent of students); 7-8 being with merit ("Notable"; given to students who demonstrate a thorough knowledge of the course content); 5-6 is passing ("Aprobado"; indicates a satisfactory knowledge of the course topics and a passing grade on the final exam); and anything below is considered a failing grade. Because grading standards between BU Law and ICADE differ, a direct translation to BU Law's letter grading system is extremely difficult. Therefore, participating BU Law students will, upon successfully completing a course, receive a designation of "credit" for the course on their transcripts. This designation will include an asterisk or footnote indicating that the actual grade is available upon request, and that it will be accompanied by an explanation of ICADE's different grading system.

ACCEPTANCE OF ANY CREDIT OR GRADE FOR ANY COURSE TAKEN IN THE PROGRAM IS SUBJECT TO DETERMINATION BY BOSTON UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW. We expect, however, that all credits earned at ICADE will count towards Boston University School of Law credits.

One final point about grading. None of the grades for the ICADE semester will count toward your BU Law GPA or towards School of Law honors and awards (such as the scholarly awards, graduation prizes or degree rankings, such as cum laude, magna cum laude and summa cum laude).

VII. ICADE's Program Director and Staff

At ICADE, the Faculty of Law has an International and Institutional Relations Office which is dedicated to assisting exchange student with course selection, registration & other matters. The contact information for this office is:

Universidad Pontificia Comillas
Servicio de Relaciones Internacionales
Decanato de la Facultad de Derecho
C/ Alberto Aguilera, 23
28015 Madrid
España
Telephone: 0034 91 542 28 00
Fax: 0034 91 559 65 69

The primary academic and administrative contact for all BU Law students is Ms. Mónica González Rodríguez. She is in charge of international relations and exchange program coordination, responsible for incoming exchange students. She can be reached at internacional.der@der.upcomillas.es.

Students who enroll in English language courses offered through the MIEBL Program may also seek academic advice from Adam Dubin, MA, JD. He can be reached at adubin@cid.upcomillas.es.

Another ICADE staff member who will assist BU Law exchange students is Carmen González Cupeiro, the Mobility Coordinator for incoming and outgoing students. She is very knowledgeable in regards to visas and other pre-departure matters. She can be reached via email, at cgonzalez@sri.upcomillas.es.

VIII. Academic and Library Facilities

The academic facilities at ICADE include both old and new buildings. The campus is fully wired for access to the latest technologies available. This includes 2,122 personal computers for student use, 728 of which are in computer classrooms and wireless access points in three campuses: Cantoblanco, Rey Francisco and Alberto Aguilera. The main library ("Biblioteca") at ICADE contains over 500,000 volumes and 2,100 journals. The law faculty is located on the Alberto Aguilera campus, which, noted above, is fully wireless.

IX. Provisions for Students with Disabilities

The ICADE facilities are not necessarily all accessible to students with disabilities. If you are interested in the program and will need some special assistance due to a disability, please speak with the Assistant Dean for Graduate and International Programs, John Riccardi. He will then contact ICADE to obtain information about the availability of needed services.

X. Student Housing and Living Arrangements

ICADE does not have its own student housing facilities, but it tries to help students find housing through the "Information, Housing & Welcome Office." ICADE strongly recommends that students seek housing in advance of their arrival, by contacting the above office and completing the application form "Solicitud de información sobre alojamientos." Students should contact the office for the appropriate materials:

Information, Housing & Welcome Office
Alberto Aguilera, 21
28015 Madrid
Phone: +34 1 91-540-6120
Fax: +34 1 91-559-65-69
Email: aloja@oia.upco.es or info_oia@oia.upcomillas.es
Website: www.upcomillas.es/servicios/serv_oia.aspx

If students decide to rent apartments individually, it is the direct responsibility of the student to visit the apartments and sign contracts with the landlord. ICADE can provide suggestions but does not take responsibility for looking at apartments for students. Students can also complete the housing application along with their general application to the program:
http://www.upcomillas.es/servicios/sri/serv_sri_inte_comi.aspx#5

XI. Anticipated Tuition, Fees and Living Costs

Tuition is the same as the tuition at Boston University School of Law. Participating BU Law students will pay Boston University the normal tuition for a semester at BU Law. Housing in Madrid is generally the same as in Boston. ICADE informs us that rents will generally range from €425-€575 per month for student residences, and €725-€1,000 per month for independent apartments. Additional living costs, including transportation, food and personal expenses will come to about €850 per month. Eating out, entertainment and transportation are approximately the same as in Boston, if not slightly more expensive. Students should therefore budget at least €1550 per month for rent and living expenses, taking into account the fact that they are abroad and will therefore potentially spend more money than during a typical semester at BU Law. Furthermore, if you plan to travel during your semester abroad, you should budget substantially more than €1550 per month.

XII. Program Cancellation Information

We expect the program to go forward as planned and anticipate no obstacles to implementation. However, the ABA requires that we inform you about our contemplated course of action in case of cancellation or change and in case a State Department Advisory is issued for the program area.

A. General Policy

In the highly unlikely event that the entire program has to be canceled, students selected for the program will be informed immediately by telephone and by mail, email, or in person, and notices of cancellation will be posted on the BU Law website. In addition, individual meetings will be arranged with any student who wishes one. If in the even more unlikely event that the Program is canceled after students have arrived in Madrid, Assistant Dean John Riccardi will contact all participating students by telephone, if possible, or by email.

Should particular courses be canceled or rescheduled, students selected for the program will be informed by email, telephone, or in person, and notices will be placed on the BU Law website.

B. State Department Advisories

BU Law will supply participating students with State Department Consular Information Sheets for Spain, which will include any information on "Areas of Instability." We do not anticipate that any State Department Advisory will issue for the Madrid area; nor is there any particular reason to believe that such an eventuality will materialize. However, in case an Advisory does issue, we will take the following steps:

In General – If an Advisory is issued before students are selected for the program, notice will be posted on the BU Law website and all applicants interviewed for the program will be personally informed. If such an advisory is issued after students are selected or during the program term, all participating students will be notified immediately.

Area of Instability – If the State Department declares the site to be an Area of Instability, students will be allowed to withdraw from the program. If such an event takes place while the program term is underway, the student will be permitted to choose either a refund of fees billed by Boston University, in accordance with the University's refund schedule (this would exclude room, board, and any travel costs associated with getting to the host country prior to the date the site was declared an "Area of Instability"), or completion of the semester's study at Boston University School of Law if such is feasible. **WE CANNOT GUARANTEE THE OPTION OF COMPLETING THE SEMESTER AT BOSTON UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW (AND THUS NOT LOSING A SEMESTER'S PROGRESS TOWARD THE J.D. DEGREE).** This option is dependent on resources and the availability of course and independent study opportunities at BU Law. In the event that arrangements at the School of Law are not feasible, or the student elects a refund, the student will be refunded fees as above, in accordance with the University's refund schedule.

Travel Warning – If the State Department issues a Travel Warning for Spain, the program will be canceled if the term has not yet begun, or terminated immediately if the term is already underway. If the program is canceled prior to commencement of the term, all students will be refunded in full all fees paid to Boston University (excluding any advance room, board, and travel costs associated with getting to the host country that have been paid). In addition, all students will be integrated into the regular semester at Boston University School of Law. If the program is terminated while underway, a participating student may choose either a refund of fees (except for room, board, and any travel costs associated with getting to the host country prior to the date the Travel Warning was issued), or completion of the semester's study at BU Law if such is feasible. See discussion of declaration of Area of Instability, above.

XIII. Visa Information

A student visa is required for any student who will study in Spain for three months or longer. The full student visa procedure is outlined at the Spanish Consulate's website:

<http://www.exteriores.gob.es/Consulados/BOSTON/en/ServiciosConsulares/ConsularServicesBoston/Pages/Visas.aspx>

Students must contact the consulate that has jurisdiction over their state of residence. The consulate general in Boston has jurisdiction over Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont and Maine. If you have a primary residence in Massachusetts, you can obtain your visa at the Boston consulate by following the guidelines on the above website. Students can also contact Carmen González at ICADE with any general questions at cgonzalez@sri.upcomillas.es.

It is the student's responsibility to secure his or her visa. Visa applications are accepted no sooner than 90 days prior to the program's start date and no later than 4 weeks prior.

XIV. Program Reports

Please note that all BU Law students selected to participate in a study abroad program will be required to submit to the Graduate and International Programs Office:

1. A one-page mid-semester written report, assessing their experiences in light of their academic goals
2. A two-page report at the end of their program, evaluating their experiences

Students will not receive academic credit until they submit these reports.