

Selectividad still exists! Entry to Undergraduate Degrees in Spain

Malaca Instituto continues to champion the best access route for most non-EU students wanting to enter undergraduate Degrees in Spain.

Over a year ago the Spanish government announced it would get rid of Selectividad (the entry exam for Spanish Undergraduate Degrees). This information was immediately passed to the national and international press and the specialist study abroad press. **Unfortunately what was not clearly stated was that this would not happen until 2017!**

Malaca Instituto continues to offer Selectividad (more correctly called PAU – Prueba de Acceso a la Universidad) **for overseas students and it remains the most credible and valid entry route for these students.** The UNED (the Spanish national distance university) is tasked by the Spanish Government with administering the Selectividad for Overseas students and the associated paperwork needed to convert these students' high school marks into Spanish equivalents and issue them with their "Credencial" certificate.

The UNED have confirmed to us that they will definitely be offering PAU/Selectividad in 2016 as usual. In this transition phase, the exam is not compulsory and there are other possible ways to enter some Undergraduate Degrees in Spain. **However, the UNED, tell us that in 2015 the majority of Spain's public Universities used Selectividad as their entry criteria and fully expect them to do the same again in 2016.**

Basically the situation appears to be that if students want to be sure of a place on the course of their choice, **the only sure way to do so is by passing Selectividad with the marks required.** Non-EU, overseas students without PAU/Selectividad are being used to fill up any remaining places in October and frequently won't know if they have a place until a couple of days before the start of term.

At Malaca Instituto we prefer to promote a tried and tested access route which will enable successful students to have their University place guaranteed by the end of July, in the first phase of enrolments when all courses are available. It is important that potential students are fully informed of the situation so that there are no surprises later.

Perhaps a few words are required here to explain why students should consider studying for a degree in Spain:

- Spanish is the world's 2nd language of business communication – fluency is a winning CV item
- Spanish Universities (some amongst the oldest in Europe) are relatively inexpensive and can be hugely more economical than many popular alternatives in English-speaking countries.

So, if you have non-EU students who have successfully completed high school, already have at least a good A2 level of Spanish and want to enter an Undergraduate Degree course in Spain, the next steps are:

- Contact Malaca Instituto without delay
- Ask the student to complete the level test and educational questionnaire
- Assuming the student has a chance we will send a detailed study plan, saying when they must start studying Intensive Spanish with us to achieve the B2 to start the Selectividad course in January.
- Once the programme is agreed, the visa application process must be started immediately
- The student starts studying Intensive Spanish with us as soon as possible or as stated on the study plan.

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