Fall Welcome Days

Information For Parents Of New, Transfer, Ignite And Any First Semester Freshmen Students

SLU-Madrid invites parents and families of new SLU students, to accompany their sons and daughters and enjoy the beautiful campus at the beginning of September.

We would like to meet you while you leave your sons and daughters for the Welcome Days in the Sierra of Guadarrama. We will be very happy to meet you while having coffee and welcome parents/guardians to help you become more familiar with campus and to cover transition topics specifically designed for parents/families. Once the students depart, the Admissions counselors will lead you on a campus tour.

We can also meet at the reception after the Convocation that will take place the third day are the events where parents can receive the most information about SLU-Madrid and will be able to interact with our faculty, staff and students.

Guest Accommodations

SLU-Madrid guests are responsible for their own overnight accommodations. Guests are not allowed to stay with their students during the Welcome Days at Guadarrama, nor at the host families at anytime.

Saint Louis University Madrid is located in quiet urban area close to hotel accommodations just minutes away from campus, many of which offer discounted rates for Saint Louis University visitors. Please note that rates are subject to change and based on availability.

Nearby hotels
Find SLU-Madrid on Google Maps
Academic calendar

Can we park on campus?
Students and families coming by car to Campus may park using the parking meters or go to public parking lots close by. Parking is free on the street on Sundays.
Sample Parent and Family Schedule

Below is a schedule of what to expect before the students’ departure to the Welcome Sessions as well as the schedule for the Convocation for parents/families. This schedule includes accurate start times and end times for each day.

Day One
- 9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m. · Check-in at San Ignacio Hall (Calle Amapolas 3)
- 10:00 a.m. · Sunday Mass at a local Spanish parish close to the University (optional)
- 12:00 p.m. · Student departure for the Welcome Days at Guadarrama
- 12:00 p.m. · Campus Tour for parents/families

Day Three
- 11:00 a.m. Convocation followed by a reception · Padre Arrupe Hall (Avenida del Valle 34)

Tips For Parents

Prepare Questions
Think about what you want to know, not just what you should find out. Consider what you want to learn prior to leaving your student in Madrid. Also think about what information may help you throughout their time at SLU. Thinking ahead will help you determine what’s truly important to you and your student.

Listen and Take Notes
You may jot some notes while talking to people at SLU-Madrid sharing information — make note of websites where the info resides online. Once you return home, you can read through your notes. It will make remembering everything from memory easier. Use your cellphone to take pictures of important slides in presentations — sometimes a visual can help in recalling what you learned.

Get to Know Other Parents and Families
SLU-Madrid is an excellent place to mix and mingle with others who are going through the same thing that you are. Develop informal support structures and compare notes with other parents and family members.

Give Your Student Some Space
This is their first full campus experience as a SLU student so it’s important that they learn to navigate on their own. Give them space to meet people, to ask questions and take charge of their college life. Empowering them to be their own self-advocate will help build their confidence for their return in the fall.

Self-Care
September in Madrid can be quite hot, drink water, stay cool and pace yourself. Take breaks. Be cautious of petty theft schemes, including pickpocketing in major urban centers and highways across Spain. Thieves may work in teams to distract attention. They may ask whether you have dropped cash on the ground, or offer to clean liquid off of you. In one common scheme, they may wave your vehicle
over to assist with a flat tire, while an accomplice makes off with your valuables. Please be alert to such schemes and secure your personal belongings. Due to the frequency of these crimes, local authorities have placed more law enforcement officers in popular tourist areas during the summer months. For more information on common criminal schemes in Spain and ways to avoid crime, you may visit Spain’s country information at this USA government webpage at travel.state.gov.

**Actions to Take:**
- Be vigilant with your personal belongings
- Review your personal security plans
- Do not leave valuables unattended
- Call 112 if in urgent need of assistance

**Assistance:**
- The local emergency number is **112**.
- Your country’s Embassy or Consulate in Madrid
- Enroll in the USA Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP) to receive security updates.

**Create a Reflection Checklist**
Take notes of things you learn during your stay so you can discuss these items with your student once you return home. What family expectations may you have of them? Allow your student to share with you their personal goals they have for college. Listen to what they learned during the Welcome Days in Guadarrama. Discuss how they can be responsible for managing problems as they occur in college by knowing the resources and services available for them at SLU-Madrid.