



3. THE SPANISH CREDIT AND GRADING SYSTEM: EUROPEAN CREDITS

Universidad Politécnica de Madrid curriculums are adapted to the European Higher Education Area (EHEA) and use European Credits Transfer System (ECTS) credits. ECTS credits are the standard adopted by all universities in the EHEA as a way to ensure academic recognition of courses studied abroad. They improve the quality of education and encourage student mobility among universities, as they measure higher education in Europe using common criteria.

The ECTS measures the total student workload required to pass a subject: lectures, practicals, self-study, assignments, etc. One ECTS credit is equivalent to a student workload of 25 to 30 hours.

The ECTS establishes a workload of 60 credits for a full-time student in one academic year. Therefore, a semester is equivalent to 30 credits.

The European Commission has published a user guide for the ECTS that is available at the following link:

https://ec.europa.eu/assets/eac/education/ects/users-guide/index_en.htm

Grading System

The Spanish grading system is a decimal system from 0 to 10. These grades are accompanied on the transcript by a non-numerical grade. A minimum grade of 5 is required to pass a subject. Students are required to pass a final written or oral exam in order to pass most subjects.

Students who fail an end-of-semester exam will have the chance to retake the exam in the July exam sessions.

0 – 4.9: *Suspense* (SS) – Fail

5.0 – 6.9: *Aprobado* (AP) – Pass

7.0 – 8.9: *Notable* (NT) – Very Good

9.0 – 10: *Sobresaliente* (SB) – Excellent

A distinction of *Matrícula de Honor* (with honours) may be awarded to the best students who have attained the grade of *Sobresaliente* (Excellent). Students are entitled to enrol free of charge in one subject in the following academic year for every *Matrícula de Honor* distinction that they attain.

Under the ECTS credit system, a student's outcomes are accredited by a grade. For purposes of comparison, UPM issues an academic transcript stating ECTS grades, where students are graded on a statistical basis according to the table shown below.

Grading Distribution vs. ECTS Grades

	Percentiles	ECTS Grade *	Cumulative %	Definition *
Best 10%	90% - 100%	A	10	Outstanding performance without errors
Next 25%	65% - 89.9%	B	35	Above the average standard but with minor errors
Next 30%	35% - 64.9%	C	65	Generally sound work with some errors
Next 25%	10% - 34.9%	D	90	Fair but with significant shortcomings
Last 10%	0% - 9.9%	E	100	Performance meets the minimum criteria
-	-	F	-	Fail

* According to the previously defined ECTS grading scale