

## **Relevant information regarding enrolment in second-semester elective subjects**

It has been noticed that, while enrolment in the compulsory subjects is running as expected, problems have arisen in the elective subjects and many students cannot select the elective subjects they wish.

Since last year, there is a technical problem: an elective subject cannot be offered if the number of students enrolled is low, and students cannot enrol in a subject if it is not offered.

In the past, enrolment at our University was done independently before each term: in July-September, students could only pick the compulsory subjects of the fall semester (Sept-December). In October a poll was conducted, so that we could inform students in advance about the subjects to be offered for the spring semester. Enrolment for these elective subjects took place in January.

UPM moved last year to an annual-based enrolment system, where you have to select both compulsory and elective subjects from the very beginning, when no information about the number of students is available to the teaching staff and students still do not know which subjects are offered.

The enrolling software by default excludes elective subjects that were not offered last year. Many of them are associated to functional materials, due to the fact that 2018/19 students went mostly for structural subjects. This is what you have probably observed, but this does not imply that a subject in particular will not be taught.

To sort this problem out, at least to a certain extent, we can provide the following suggestions:

- Select 30 ECTS of elective subjects among those offered by the system. Of course, try to select those you are mainly interested in, but not only them.
- During the first 2 weeks of class we will submit you a questionnaire about the elective subjects. The teaching staff will be informed about the results and a decision on which elective subjects are to be offered will be made. You will be able to modify your enrolment then. Regardless of the number of students, please notice that only a limited number of elective subjects regarding biological materials and materials for energy can be currently offered by the University.
- “Prácticas de empresa” (external work) offers the opportunity to replace several elective subjects with 12, 15 or 18 ECTS of internship in a company or lab. We will inform you as soon as possible about this option, intended mainly for the second semester, although it can start at any time during the year. This allows for a greater flexibility of the syllabus and can be useful for students interested in specialized topics.
- Finally, please be aware that you can complete your enrolment from 5<sup>th</sup> of September until 13<sup>th</sup> of September, and modify or cancel enrolment in a subject until September 30<sup>th</sup>.