

Spain, a country rich in talent, a magnet for talent

The ability to understand (intelligence) and the ability to do something (aptitude) are the two meanings of the word talent. The combination of both constitutes the main asset of the Spanish economy and society, with individuals capable of comprehending the world around them and with the daring and courage to make things happen.

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40,7%

Is the rate of population with higher education, above the OECD average (39.7%)

12th

Spain's position in the ranking of scientific publication production, according to the Scimago Journal & Country Rank, is 36th.

62.15
points

Spain's score in the IMD World Talent Ranking 2023, one point above the average.

32nd

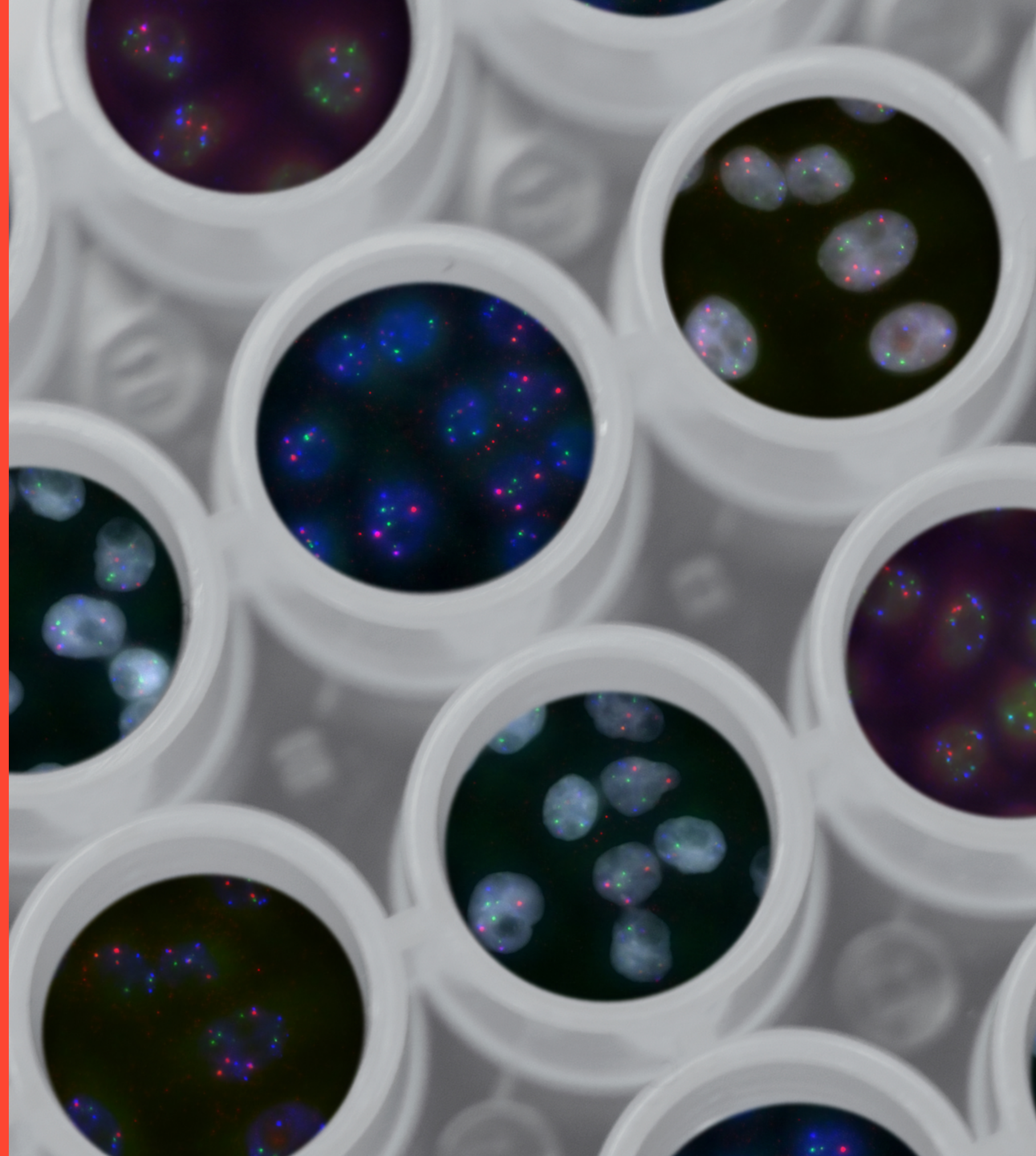
Spain's position in the overall 2023 IMD World Ranking.

TOP
25%

Spain, in the TOP 25% of the OECD in future prospects for workers with academic qualifications, entrepreneurs, and university students.

01.

Scientific talent



Scientific Excellence

The Spanish government gives recognition to centers and research units that stand out internationally for the relevance and impact of their scientific research results.

36

Centers awarded the seal of scientific excellence Severo Ochoa, launched in 2011.

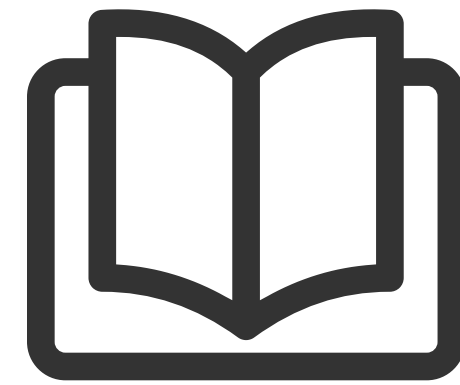
26

Research units with the seal of scientific excellence María de Maeztu, established in 2014.

11.963

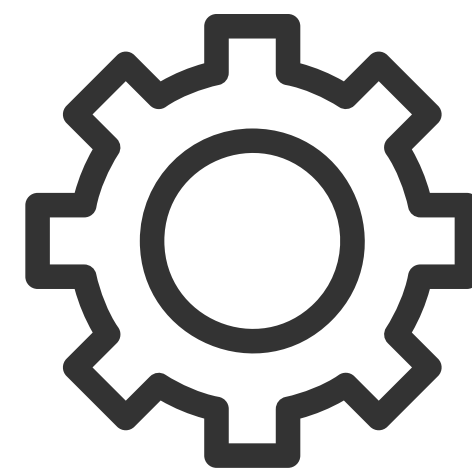
Researchers comprise these centers and scientific research units.

Spain, among the leaders



13

Spain's position in the Economic Complexity Index of Research, ahead of countries such as Denmark, Finland, New Zealand, Ireland, or Austria



9

Spain's position in the Economic Complexity Index of Technology, ahead of Switzerland, Canada, Australia, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, or Denmark

Scientific talent

Numerous Spanish researchers and scientists have worldwide relevance in their respective fields.



Begoña Vila

Astrophysicist awarded with NASA's Exceptional Public Achievement Medal.



Francisco Mojica

Microbiologist recognized for contributions that enabled the development of CRISPR-Cas technology.



Joan Massagué

Internationally recognized for research in the fight against cancer and its international outreach. Leads entities such as the Sloan Kettering Institute.



María Blasco

Expert in biochemistry and molecular biology, directing the National Center for Oncological Research.



Juan Ignacio Cirac

Physicist recognized for his research in quantum computing and optics, leading the theoretical division of the Max Planck Institute of Quantum Optics in Garching.



Juan Luis Arsuaga

Prestigious international paleontologist, directing excavations in Sierra de Atapuerca (Burgos).



Valentín Fuster

World-renowned figure in cardiology, distinguished by the American Heart Association..

02.

Managerial talent



Talent in Spanish business.

Spanish entrepreneurs and executives have led the expansion of some national companies worldwide.



Amancio Ortega

Founder of Inditex, the world's largest company in fashion retail distribution.



Ana Botín

Chairwoman of Santander Bank and member of the board of The Coca-Cola Company and MIT.



José María Álvarez-Pallete

President of Telefónica and architect of the transformation of its business model.



Pablo Isla

Acclaimed as one of the world's top CEOs during his time at Inditex. He currently chairs the board of IE University.



Rafael del Pino

Chief Executive Officer of the infrastructure group Ferrovial, with a presence in fifteen countries.



Isak Andic

Founder and President of Mango, one of the European fashion brands with presence in more countries.



José Manuel Entrecanales

President and CEO of Acciona, leading figure in the commitment to sustainability.



Antonio Garrigues

The most renowned Spanish jurist and president of the World Association of Lawyers.



Francisco Martínez Cosentino

President of Cosentino Group and a leading figure in architecture and design.

Talent within international companies.

Spanish executives leading major companies worldwide across various sectors.



Antonio Ramos
CEO of British group Asos.



Belén Garijo
Chairwoman and CEO of the German pharmaceutical group Merck.



José Viñals
President of the British bank Standard Chartered.



Bárbara Martín
Chief Executive Officer of the French sporting goods giant Decathlon.



Luis Gallego
Chief Executive Officer of International Airlines Group (IAG), British parent company of Iberia.



Juvencio Maeztu
Deputy CEO and Chief Financial Officer of Ingka Group-IKEA.



Ramón Laguarta
CEO of the American giant PepsiCo.



Eva Serrano
Worldwide President of Calvin Klein brand.



Javier Ferran
President of Diageo, the global leader in the alcoholic beverage sector.



Federico J. González Tejera
CEO of Radisson Hotel Group.



Joaquín Duato
CEO of the American group Johnson & Johnson.



Enrique Lores
CEO and President of the American group Hewlett-Packard.



Ferrán Soriano
Presidente y CEO de City Football Group, owner of Manchester City.

And talent within the institutions.

Spaniards leading international organizations and institutions.

Josep Borrell

High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy.

Nadia Calviño

President of the European Investment Bank (EIB).

María Neira

Director of the Department of Public Health and Environment at the World Health Organization (WHO).

Ana José Varela

Chief Financial Officer of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

Luis de Guindos

Vice-President of the European Central Bank.

Juan Antonio Samaranch

First Vice President of the International Olympic Committee (IOC).

Miguel Ángel Moratinos

High Representative of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations.

José Manuel Campa

President of the European Banking Authority.

03.

Talent in sports



Spain in the Olympic medal table



24

**Olympics
games**

In which Spain
has taken part.



49

Gold

Especially in
sailing, cycling,
and canoeing.



73

Silver

With canoeing,
tennis, and sailing
at the forefront.



52

Bronze

Featuring relevant
disciplines such as
athletics, cycling,
and handball.

Iconic athletes

In golf, motorsports, or tennis, Spain features some of the most decorated athletes in history



Andrés Iniesta

World Cup champion with the national team and winner of all possible titles with FC Barcelona.



Pau Gasol

World champion in basketball with the national team and longstanding standout in the NBA.



Rafael Nadal

Tennis player with 22 Grand Slam victories, making him one of the best in history.



Teresa Perales

Winner of 27 medals in the Summer Paralympic Games between 2000 and 2020.



Jon Rahm

Golfer with 19 victories, 11 on the PGA Tour and eight on the European Tour.



Fernando Alonso

Two-time Formula 1 World Championship winner, along with other motor racing competitions.



Edurne Pasabán

The first female mountaineer to climb all 14 eight-thousanders, achieved over just twenty expeditions.



Carolina Marín

Winner of three golds in the Badminton World Championships and one at the Olympic Games.

04.

Artistic and cultural talent



Talent in art and culture

Spain is the birthplace of great artists throughout history, but also of contemporary figures known worldwide.



Patricia Urquiola

One of the most prominent architects and designers globally.



Pedro Almodóvar

Film director with two Academy Awards, among many other accolades.



Isabel Coixet

Internationally acclaimed Spanish filmmaker, winner of several awards.



Sara Baras

One of the Spanish artists with the greatest international projection.



Ainhoa Arteta

A voice that has conquered the most prestigious stages in the world.



Antonio Banderas

Actor with an extensive career in Spain and the United States.



Tamara Rojo

One of the best classical dancers in the world. Today, artistic director of the San Francisco Ballet.

05.

Talent Lab



Spanish universities in the rankings



Shanghai Ranking
Spain is the third EU country with the most universities among the world's best.



Forbes Ranking
The magazine identifies sixty Spanish universities in the global TOP.

Hub for future talents

Spain leads the European ranking as a top destination for students participating in the Erasmus+ project.



Spain is one of the most relevant countries in the Erasmus program:

- »»» Historically, it has been one of the countries that has received the highest number of students.
- »»» It also stands out as the top country sending students to pursue learning experiences in other countries.

1st european destination

Spain leads the European ranking as a top destination for students participating in the Erasmus+ project

3rd sending country

Also, one of the countries that has sent the most students to other countries.

The preferred university

The University of Granada, most popular among international Erasmus students.

Distinguished learning centers

Among the best in the world in areas such as business management or marketing.

IE University
Students from more than 140 countries and 30 global offices.

IESE
Pioneering business management school in Europe.

Esade
Business school with the second-largest alumni association in Europe.

ESIC
Pioneer in marketing studies in Spain.

EOI
One of the oldest business schools in Europe.

Basque Culinary Center
A unique entity in the field of gastronomy.

IQS
Center comprised of the IQS School of Engineering and IQS School of Management faculties.



Leading
Brands of Spain
Forum