



## VOLUNTEERING PROGRAMME, TRAINING, CULTURE AND EXPERIENCES ON THE CAMINO

### *UNIVERSITY WALKING COMMUNITY 2026*

Organised by:



**compostela**  
GROUP OF UNIVERSITIES  
GRUPO DE UNIVERSIDADES



**Asociación de Municipios  
del Camino de Santiago**

In collaboration with:

 **GOBIERNO  
DE ARAGON**



 JACA PIRINEOS



**Universidad  
Zaragoza**



**GUARDIA CIVIL**



Asociación de Amigos  
del  
Camino de Santiago  
JACA



## 1. OBJECT

The University Walking Community programme aims to make it easier for the university community to take part in volunteer activities along the Camino de Santiago, combining **social action and culture, academic training, and adventure in the heart of nature**. Its purpose is to promote the values of cooperation, solidarity, diversity, tolerance, and unity, working alongside local institutions and supporting pilgrims along one of Europe's most important historical routes.

The 2026 edition of the University Walking Community seeks to mobilize the **young community of the Compostela Group of Universities (CGU)** to carry out municipal and university volunteer work, academic training, and cultural activities linked to the Camino de Santiago in Spain.

The activity is organised by the Compostela Group of Universities and the Association of Municipalities of the Camino de Santiago (AMCS), with the special collaboration of the Government of Aragón, the City Council of Jaca, the University of Zaragoza, the Spanish Federation of Associations of Friends of the Camino de Santiago, Correos, the Civil Guard, and the Association of Friends of the Camino de Santiago of Jaca "Jaca Jacobea".

## 2. TARGET GROUP. PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS

The call for applications for the University Walking Community 2026 programme is aimed at **young people from the Compostela Group of Universities (including individuals with certified functional diversity who are able to take part in the scheduled activities), and who meet the following requirements:**

- Be between 18 and 30 years old.
- **Belong to a member or associate institution of the CGU** through contractual, academic, or research ties.
- Have a **minimum level of Spanish and English** that enables basic communication during the programme's activities.
- Show **interest in volunteering**, cooperation, and international cultural exchange.
- Demonstrate an **open attitude** towards living and working in a multicultural environment.

Additionally, due to the nature of the programme, participants are encouraged to have **good basic**

physical fitness and enjoy outdoor activities, with the ability to walk several kilometres per day, as the programme includes stages of the Camino de Santiago, mountain excursions, and nature-based activities.

### 3. DATES AND PLACES OF IMPLEMENTATION

The volunteer activities of the University Walking Community 2026 programme will be carried out continuously over 15 days, from 16 to 30 August 2026, both dates included.

The volunteer actions will take place in the surroundings of the Camino de Santiago in Spain, with the historic city of Jaca—located in the heart of the Aragonese Pyrenees—as the programme’s base.

Participants must arrive in Jaca (Huesca) on 16 August 2026 with enough time to attend the first “icebreaker” meeting at 8:00 p.m. Departure will take place on the morning of 30 August.

### 4. CONTENT OF THE ACTIVITY

The activity program will include:

- a) **Volunteer tasks**, which will consist of supporting local agents and Camino-related organisations in areas such as pilgrim assistance and information services, support in Camino hostels, activities with local associations and entities, organisation of cultural and educational events, signage and maintenance work along the Camino, environmental and sociocultural activities, and other similar training, cultural and collaborative university and social learning activities.
- b) **Cultural activities** aimed at discovering the territory and fostering international coexistence, such as completing stages of the Camino de Santiago, cultural visits to Jaca and its historical heritage, university activities, intercultural meetings among participants, sports and nature activities, group dynamics and international evening events, as well as mountain excursions in the Aragonese Pyrenees, allowing participants to discover landscapes such as high-mountain ibones (glacial lakes), Pyrenean forests, glacial valleys, and historical monuments along the Camino.
- c) **Training activities**, including an introductory volunteer training course, workshops on the

history, heritage, and society of the Camino de Santiago, as well as on the environment, culture, and sustainable tourism. In addition, the University of Zaragoza will offer a Spanish course for international volunteers, accredited by the Instituto Cervantes.

At the beginning of the activity, selected participants will:

- a) Receive a **volunteer training course**.
- b) **Be assigned a coordinator responsible for organizing the conditions of their stay, task allocation, and monitoring** of volunteer and training activities.
- c) **Be assigned a support person to assist them** in carrying out their tasks properly.
- d) Be informed about the **volunteer activity programme and the complementary activities** established (e.g., cultural, recreational, and university activities).

## 5. PLACEMENTS AND COVERAGE

The current call has **15 places open to volunteering**.

The Compostela Group of Universities and the Association of Municipalities of the Camino de Santiago **will cover** the following aspects for each selected participant:

- **Accommodation** during the volunteer period (planned in a university residence, with outdoor pool facilities and common areas).
- **Meals** during the volunteer period. On the arrival and departure days, one meal will be provided.
- **Local transportation** to the locations where the programme activities take place.
- **Materials and resources** deemed necessary for carrying out the volunteer work.
- **Participation in the cultural activities**, both indoor and outdoor, included in the programme.
- **Civil liability and accident insurance** during the programme.

Each participant will be responsible for having medical coverage (public and/or private) for

the entire trip and volunteer period.

Beneficiaries must **travel to the city of Jaca by their own means and resources** (see location map [here](#)). **Round-trip travel expenses will be borne by each participant.** To facilitate arrival and departure, the local organising team will provide participants with the necessary information and support to prepare their trip.

## 6. SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS

To apply for the positions offered in this call, applicants must submit the following mandatory documentation:

- a) **Application form**, which must be completed online. See link [here](#).
- b) **Certification proving affiliation** with a member or associate institution of the CGU in the year 2026.
- c) **Proof of Spanish and English language knowledge** through an official certificate. Applicants must certify their competence in the language of which they are not native.
- d) **A scanned copy of all pages containing information from the national identity document or passport.**

In addition, applicants may submit supporting documents, where applicable, for the following merits:

- e) Proof of **previous volunteer experience**, provided through an official certificate.
- f) Proof of **membership in associations, groups, or projects that pursue social or humanitarian goals.**

The deadline for submitting applications is **10 June 2026 (12:00 PM GMT, Spanish peninsular time).**

## 7. CRITERIA FOR SELECTION

Applications will be selected on the basis of the following criteria:

- a) **Certification of Spanish and English language** knowledge. Level A (1 point), Level B (1.5 points), and Level C (2 points).
- b) **Previous volunteer experience.** Up to two activities (1 point) and more than two (2 points).
- c) **Membership in associations, groups, or projects with social or humanitarian purposes.** One association/group/project (1 point) and two or more (2 points).

In addition to the criteria listed above, the selection process will also take into account the applicant's **motivation and objective factors** such as gender parity, the inclusion of individuals with disabilities, and geographical distribution.

## 8. PUBLICATION OF RESOLUTION

The list of selected and reserve candidates for the University Walking Community 2026 will be published in June of this year in the [programme's section](#)<sup>1</sup> on the Compostela Group of Universities website ([www.gcompostela.org](http://www.gcompostela.org)). It will also be communicated to the selected candidates via email.

## 9. AWARDING OF THE PLACE AND FORMALISATION

The selected participant must formalise the acceptance of the placement by sending the following documents to [grupo.compostela@usc.es](mailto:grupo.compostela@usc.es):

1. **A signed declaration of acceptance and commitment to complete the fifteen-day volunteer stay**, following the provided template.
2. **Proof of travel arrangements:** an invoice or receipt confirming the booking and payment of the trip to the city of Jaca.

The selected participant will have a period of **seven calendar days** from the notification to complete these steps. Otherwise, it will be understood that they renounce their right to participate in the

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<sup>1</sup> <https://web.gcompostela.org/es/university-walking-community-2026/>

programme, and their place will be free to be occupied by another candidate.

Upon arrival at the destination, the beneficiary will sign an individual volunteer agreement, which will establish the rights and duties applicable during the volunteer period, as well as any penalties arising from non-compliance.

## 10. RECOGNITION OF VOLUNTARY ACTIVITY

At the end of the volunteer period, participants who have completed their stay at the destination, demonstrated effective engagement in the programme, and carried out their volunteer activities correctly and satisfactorily in line with the objectives of the volunteer action programme will receive:

- A **participation certificate** as a volunteer in the University Walking Community 2026.
- **Recognition as ambassadors of the Camino de Santiago** within the CGU network.
- A **Spanish Language Proficiency Certificate for Foreigners**, issued by the University of Zaragoza.

## 11. ACCEPTANCE OF THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE PROGRAMME

Participation in this programme implies acceptance of all its terms. In accordance with Organic Law 3/2018 on the protection of personal data, by signing the application form, the participant consents to the processing of their personal data—related to the program’s procedures—by the Compostela Group of Universities.

For any matters not covered in this resolution, the provisions of Spanish legislation in force at the time of publication of this call shall apply.

The participant commits to completing the full mobility period. The formal volunteer activity agreements will establish the corresponding sanctions in cases of non-compliance or unjustified interruption.

To ensure the proper implementation of the volunteer programme, the Compostela Group of Universities reserves the right to interpret any doubts or gaps that may arise in the application of this call.

## 12. RESPONSIBILITY

The Compostela Group of Universities shall not be responsible for technical problems—hardware, software, or any other kind—nor for losses, electronic failures, incorrect, incomplete, inaccurate, or delayed communications caused by the user or by any equipment or programming associated with or used during the programme call, nor for any human or other error that may occur during the application process.

*Note: The rules of this call have been published in both English and Spanish. In the event of any discrepancy or misunderstanding in their interpretation, the Spanish version shall always prevail over the English version.*

In Santiago de Compostela, on 28<sup>th</sup> April 2026