



San Miguel Centre
Calle Lope de Vega 45,
San Miguel de Salinas
03193, Alicante –

Telephone: 966 723 733 (24 Hr Emergency Line)

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INFORMATION SHEET No 19

DONATION OF BODY TO SCIENCE

**To participate in this scheme all documents
must be submitted and approved before your death**

In Spain, only the Donor can offer his or her body for teaching purposes. Organ donations and body donations by relatives are not possible.

This is an emotive subject, requiring much thought on the part of the donor, as completed documentation in this regard will be regarded as a final intention, and irrevocable.

All close family members of the Donor, close friends, etc., should be made fully aware of the Donor's wishes and what will happen following the Donor's death. The body must be passed to the teaching establishment within 36 hours to allow the preparation process to proceed.

This of course means that there will be no "remains" to cremate or bury, and therefore the normal funeral procedure is changed.

There is no reason why some form of memorial service cannot be held to give thanks for the life of the Donor.

Bodies may be donated to science. Anyone wishing to do this should use the following procedure.

1. The Donor should request a donor application form from:

Universitas Miguel Hernández

DPTO. Histología y Anatomía

Campus de San Juan

Ctra. De Valencia s/n

03550 San Juan de Alicante Secretary's office Tel. 965 919 427, open between 8am to 3pm

Application forms are also available from HELP Vega Baja Offices

2. The application/consent form is self-duplicating. This should be completed, witnessed by a friend or neighbour, returned to the University with a photocopy of the Donor's National Residence Permit, or Passport, or Certificate of Residency. You should make a copy before sending.
3. The form will be annotated "authorised" and returned to the Donor, with a letter of thanks and a contact telephone number.
4. If the Donor is hospitalised, the Tanatorio will arrange for the original death certificate to be sent to the Judge (Juzgado Registro, Ave Santa Justa 6, Orihuela). The Judge will sign the death certificate, this authorises the body to be removed from the hospital.



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5. If the donor dies outside hospital, the procedure is for the body to be removed to the Tanatorio or direct to University.
6. On the death of the Donor, a relative or friend (preferably one of the witnesses who is aware of the form and its whereabouts), should:
 - a) Contact a funeral director who has an agreement with the University so that the body can be transferred to the Faculty of Medicine, THERE IS A FEE OF 1000€ FOR THE TRANSPORT .
 - b) Arrange for a Doctor to call and issue a death certificate. Any doctor can provide the certificate providing there are no suspicious circumstances.
 - c) Any amount of stamped authorised copies can be obtained once the Doctor has signed the original.

The representative of the deceased making these arrangements should have available:

- a) Residencia or NIE and Passport of the deceased.
- b) Authorised Form of Consent from the University.

At this time, for obvious reasons, the remains become a “number”, and pass through a preparation process before being accepted in the teaching area.

There will come a time when the remains will no longer be of benefit for teaching purposes. They will then resume their proper identity, be taken reverently to a local crematorium, cremated, and the ashes strewn on hallowed ground.

You will need to keep your authorised Form of Consent in a safe place so that any person who is dealing with your estate can easily find it

PLEASE NOTE

There are some circumstances when a body cannot be accepted. The reasons for non-acceptance are generally as follows:

1. If the death occurs outside the province of the university (i.e. Alicante).
2. In the case of accident or any other cause of death which makes a post-mortem examination necessary.
3. When death occurs after invasive surgery or amputation.
4. If the cause of death is due to an infectious or contagious disease (Viral Hepatitis B or C, AIDS, Cretzfeld-Jakob).
5. In cases where the Donor is Morbidly Obese.
6. In cases where the Professor of Anatomy judges that a correct conservation cannot be undertaken.

In such cases it remains the responsibility of friends and family to provide for a burial or cremation at their expense.