Founding Dates and Places of Some European Universities
(12th to 15th Century CE)

(Please note that many of the dates are only approximate, since the “founding” of universities, especially in the European Middle Ages, was often a gradual process rather than a single identifiable event at a specific point in time. After the end of the 13th century, the emphasis in this list is on the earliest universities in any given area. Names in parentheses indicate institutions whose full university status is uncertain. Some universities that disappeared in the period covered here were later reestablished in modern times. The country identifications of the universities listed here are based on the modern countries in which the cities in question are located.)

(A=Austria; B=Belgium; CH=Switzerland; CZ=Czech Republic; D=Germany; DK: Denmark; E=Spain; F=France; GB=Great Britain; H=Hungary; I=Italy; P=Portugal; PL=Poland; S=Sweden)

12th c.  (Salerno) (I) (Primarily medical school; statutes granted in 1231)
Late 12th c.  Bologna (I)
1188  (Reggio) (I) (Active until the end of the 13th c)
1204  Vicenza (I) (Disappeared after 1209)
1208  (Palencia) (E) (Disappeared around 1250)
Early 13th c.  Paris (F)
Early 13th c.  Oxford (GB)
Early 13th c.  Montpellier (F)
1209  Cambridge (GB)
1215  Arezzo (I) (Disappeared around 1260, reestablished in 1355, disappeared again around 1377)
Before 1218  Salamanca (E)
1222  Padua (I)
1224  Naples (I) (Established primarily as law school)
1229  Toulouse (F) (Initial focus on theology, later shifted to law)
Around 1235  Orléans (F) (Recognized as studium generale in 1306)
1245  Rome (I) (Studium of the curia)
1246  Siena (I) (Disappeared around 1252, reestablished in 1357)
1248  (Piacenza) (I) (Initial activity doubtful; active from 1398 to 1402 after transfer of university from Pavia)
Mid-13th c.  Angers (F) (Recognized as studium generale in 1337)
1254  (Seville) (E) (Disappeared around 1270)
Late 13th c.  Valladolid (E) (Recognized as studium generale in 1346)
1290  Lisbon (P) (Transferred to Coimbra from 1308 to 1338 and from 1354 to 1377)
1303  Rome (I) (Studium of the urbs; disappeared at the end of the 14th c., reestablished in 1431)
1308  Coimbra (P) (University transferred from Lisbon)
1347  Prague (CZ)
1364  Cracow (PL) (Disappeared before 1370, reestablished in 1397)
1366  Vienna (A)
1367  Pécs (H) (Disappeared after 1367)
1379  Erfurt (D)
1385  Heidelberg (D)
1388  Cologne (D)
1389  Buda (H) (Disappeared around 1400, reestablished in 1410, disappeared again around 1460)
1410  St. Andrews (GB [Scotland])
1425  Louvain (B)
1441  Catania (I [Sicily])
1446  Gerona (E[Catalonia]) (Chartered at that time, but became full-fledged university only in the 16th c.)
1450  Barcelona (E [Catalonia])
1459  Basle (CH)
1465  Pozsony (H) (Disappeared at the end of the 15th c.)
1475  Copenhagen (DK)
1477  Uppsala (S)
1483  Palma (E [Mallorca])