

Study in Catalonia



CATALONIA

Situated in the northeast of the Iberian Peninsula, Catalonia covers an area of approximately 32,000 km² and has a population of over seven million inhabitants.

Politically, Catalonia has the status of an autonomous community within Spain, with its capital being Barcelona, and has its own governing institution, the *Generalitat de Catalunya* (Government of Catalonia). It also has its own language, Catalan, which has official status along with Spanish. As they are both official languages, they may be used for all public and private activities. In general, the people of Catalonia are bilingual.

In the shade of the Pyrenees and bathed by the Mediterranean Sea, Catalonia has been marked by the passing of numerous cultures, with a historical heritage recognised by the UNESCO (such as Parc Güell, Palau de la Música Catalana, the Sagrada Família, the monastery of Poblet, the Romanesque churches of La Vall de Boí and the archaeological sites of Tarraco, present-day Tarragona) and a geography in which one can travel from the sea to high peaks in little less than an hour. The life and customs of the Catalans are influenced by the region's varied landscape, culture and art, all bathed in Mediterranean sunlight.



THE UNIVERSITY AND RESEARCH TRADITION



The Catalan university system today has 12 universities: seven public, four private and one on-line, with more than 225,000 students, and a wide offering of university courses complemented by range of university services, such as libraries, teaching laboratories, language services, sports facilities and a welcome service, as well as a job bank.

The origins of the Catalan university system go back to the year 1300 AD, when the *Estudi General* (School of General Studies) in Lleida was founded, with statutes based on those of the University of Bologna. A century later, in 1401, the School of Medicine was founded in Barcelona. Between 1539 and 1620, schools of general study or universities were founded in Barcelona, Girona, Tarragona, Tortosa, Vic and Solsona, which, together with the school in Lleida, remained open until 1714, when King Phillip V suppressed the Catalan institutions and founded a single university for the whole of Catalonia in the town of Cervera.

The University of Barcelona was re-established in 1837 as the only university for Catalonia and the Balearic Islands, until the Autonomous University of Barcelona (UAB) was founded in 1968.

The Catalan commercial and industrial bourgeoisie set up technical schools in the second half of the 18th century, which were incorporated initially into the University of Barcelona. Much later, in 1971, the technical courses

were transferred to the Technical University of Barcelona, which, in 1984, changed to its current name of the Technical University of Catalonia (UPC).

The Government of Catalonia assumed control of university affairs in 1985, and between 1990 and 1991 the Catalan Parliament created the Pompeu Fabra University (UPF), the University of Lleida (UdL), the University of Girona (UdG) and the Rovira i Virgili University (URV). In 1995 the on-line university, the Open University of Catalonia (UOC), was founded.

The Catalan Parliament has also recognised a number of private universities: Ramon Llull University (URL) in 1991; the University of Vic (UVic) and the International University of Catalonia (UIC) in 1997; and the Abat Oliba University CEU in 2003.

For the 2010-2011 academic year, the Catalan universities are offering 451 bachelor's degrees and 587 master's degrees adapted to the European Higher Education Area (EHEA), some of them taught in English.

Catalonia has a public body, the Agency for Quality Assurance in the Catalan University System (AQU Catalonia), whose aim is to guarantee the quality of higher education by meeting European quality standards, which is internationally recognised by the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA).

All these universities, along with research centres, hospitals and their institutes, public research bodies, technology centres and parks, and business R&D&I departments form the Catalan science and technology system. In general, indicators for scientific research in Catalonia place the country above the average for Spain but below the EU average.

Catalan investment in R&D continues to grow; according to the latest figures published by the National Statistics Institute (INE), in 2008 it was €3,286 million. In Catalonia, the number of personnel working in research, including both research and support personnel, has been growing constantly to reach a total of 46,520 in 2008. In 2008, there were 26,398 people working full-time in research. Furthermore, the number of consolidated research groups is now close to 500.

In accordance with the EU's goal of spending 3% of the GNP on research by the year 2010 and increasing the number of researchers to 750,000, Catalonia has established a research career consisting of four stages: pre-doctoral training, postdoctoral training, pre-consolidation and consolidation or stabilisation of researchers. Furthermore, mobility of research personnel between countries and between the academic and business worlds has been facilitated.

R&D in Catalonia is financed by various public sector bodies, mainly the autonomous government, the European Union, and state and local authorities, which provide approximately one third of the total funds invested in R&D, as well as by the private sector, which funds the other two thirds, according to the National Statistics Institute (INE). In this area, the clear trend of growing business involvement is bringing the Catalan science and technology system closer to those of other European countries.

A significant moment in this context was the signing of the Catalan Agreement on Research and Innovation (PNRI, in its Catalan

abbreviation) in 2008, a roadmap for research and innovation for the next 15 years. Through this agreement, the Catalan Government aims to make Catalonia an international leader in research and development and a country at the cutting edge of science and technology, by changing the current socioeconomic model for one based on research, innovation and education.

With respect to state actions, in 2009, the Spain's Ministry of Education and its Ministry of Science and Innovation called for applications for public grants to implement the Campuses of International Excellence programme in the Spanish university system, one of the main policies for modernising the universities in the University Strategy 2015 (EU 2015) implemented by the Spanish Ministry of Education. The application process, for €53 million in grants and €150 million in loans to the autonomous communities, aims to place Spanish universities among the best in Europe and to promote and consolidate their strengths. The objective is to create sustainable, healthy campuses, attract the best students and researchers and locate high added-value scientific and business facilities near the university campuses. In November, five projects obtained the title of Campus of International Excellence —CEI 2009—, one of which was the Autonomous University of Barcelona (UAB) and another the University of Barcelona (UB) and the Technical University of Catalonia (UPC), jointly. Furthermore, of the nine projects that received the title of Promising Project CEI, three were Catalan universities: Rovira i Virgili University (URV), Ramon Llull University (URL) and the Pompeu Fabra University (UPF).

In the framework of the EU, the European Research Council (ERC) was established in 2007 with the aim of stimulating scientific excellence and providing support for researchers. Its works within the Ideas Programme of the Seventh Framework Programme for R&D of the European Union, with a budget of €7,500 million for the period 2007-2013. The first grants were given to young researchers through Starting Grants. In September 2009, the second call for grant applications was held, financing a total of 238 projects throughout the EU and 18 in Spain. Of these, 10 were for researchers working in Catalan universities or research centres. The grants, an average of €1.4 million per project, are aimed at promoting research projects by researchers up to 40 years of age in the EU. Equally good results were obtained with the Advanced Grants.



UB UNIVERSITY OF BARCELONA

The University of Barcelona (UB) is the biggest public university in Catalonia. With a wide range of courses, it is among the 200 best universities in Europe. Urban, open and cosmopolitan, the UB has a diverse campus, spread around the city of Barcelona and its surroundings: the Humanities Campus, the Health Sciences Campus in Bellvitge, the Diagonal Knowledge Portal Campus, the August Pi i Sunyer Campus of Medicine/Clinical Medicine, the Mundet-University of Barcelona Campus and the Torribera Food Campus.

Since it was founded in 1450, the UB has been an important centre for academic and scientific work. As a key part of Catalan society, it has developed in parallel with historic changes and events. After the War of Spanish Succession in 1717, King Philip V closed the university, and it became part of the new University of Cervera, later to be restored in 1842. In 1933, the Republican Government approved the Statute of Autonomy of the University of Barcelona, which signalled the Catalanisation and modernisation of the university in its concept of educational and scientific service. The UB is today a leading centre for research and higher education. It offers the widest range of studies in Catalonia, with over 80 thousands students in its classrooms and on distance-learning courses.

Programmes

For the 2009-2010 academic year, the UB has offered 49 bachelor's degree courses, 130 master's degree courses and 30 doctorate courses, adapted to the European Higher Education Area (EHEA). This educational offer

takes into account the comprehensive nature of the UB, and is taught at 19 centres: Fine Arts, Library Science and Documentation, Biology, Law, Economics and Business Studies, Pharmacy, Philosophy, Philology, Physics, Teacher Training, Geography and History, Geology, Nursing, Mathematics, Medicine, Dentistry, Pedagogy, Psychology and Chemistry.

Research

The UB is the main university research centre in Spain and one of the most important in Europe, both in the number of research programmes and its proven excellence in this field. It is the only university in Spain among the top 200 universities worldwide and among the top 100 in Europe, according to the *Academic Ranking of World Universities (ARWU) 2009*. Its potential means it has assumed most of the responsibility for the scientific, technical, intellectual and cultural progress of Catalonia, and its researchers are referenced in the most prestigious international scientific publications. Its volume of publications makes the UB the second most important institution

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in Spain after the CSIC, according to the *Third European Report on Science & Technology Indicators*.

The UB has 109 departments and more than 5,000 researchers, technicians and grant holders, most of them associated with consolidated groups, 10 singular groups and 13 emerging groups recognised by the Government of Catalonia. The year 2004 saw 169 new projects with state grants, 48 projects with European grants and over 500 research and collaboration agreements with companies, with an overall income of 40 million euros.

The research groups are organized into research centres and institutes and take part in national and international networks, while the UB participates in three large research foundations: the Barcelona Science Park -headquarters to the Institute for Research in Biomedicine (IRB Barcelona)-, the August Pi i Sunyer Biomedical Research Institute (IDIBAPS) and the Bellvitge Institute for Biomedical Research (IDIBELL).

Recently the Barcelona Knowledge Campus project (BKC), presented by the University of Barcelona and the Technical University of Catalonia (UPC), has been recognised as the best Campus of International Excellence by an international commission headed by the Spanish Ministry of Education. The BKC is an international leader in teaching, research, knowledge transfer, innovation and lifelong learning. It will become a focus for university life in the region and a major agent in promoting social, economic and business activity in Spain and Southern Europe, through its position as the main centre for scientific and technological development. Its activities will be based on shared capacities and the complementary nature of the two universities, the associated research and innovation bodies and the social and administrative agents linked to the project.

THE UB IN NUMBERS (2008-2009 ACADEMIC YEAR)

NUMBER OF STUDENTS
ENROLLED*
50,675

NUMBER OF ADMINISTRATIVE
AND SERVICE STAFF (PAS)
2,294

NUMBER OF TEACHING
AND RESEARCH STAFF (PDI)
4,518

NUMBER OF PROFESSORS
569

NUMBER OF CONSOLIDATED
RESEARCH GROUPS
244

NUMBER OF UNIVERSITY CENTRES
18

* Total including those enrolled in diploma, undergraduate, bachelor's and master's degree courses (integrated centres, officially recognised degrees)

SOURCE: CATALAN UNIVERSITY AND RESEARCH INFORMATION SYSTEM (UNEIX)

UAB

Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona

UAB AUTONOMOUS UNIVERSITY OF BARCELONA

The Autonomous University of Barcelona (UAB) was founded in 1968 and is today a young, dynamic academic institution with an international outlook, considered one of the best centres of education in Spain and the EU, thanks to the quality of its teaching and the excellence of its research.

Its centres are spread over three campuses. The main campus in Bellaterra, in the municipality of Cerdanyola del Vallès, is the centre for most of the faculties, departments, institutes and services, as well as being a major scientific and technological cluster. Surrounded by countryside, it has an infrastructure geared towards university life. In addition, the UAB also has the Sabadell Campus, a centre for technology and business, and the Barcelona Health Sciences Campus, located on the grounds of Hospital de Sant Pau.

The UAB offers quality, flexible teaching, adapted to society's requirements, in such diverse areas as the Humanities, Social Sciences, Health and Life Sciences, Experimental Sciences and Engineering. Furthermore, one of the UAB's defining characteristics is its firm commitment to strengthening the relationship between academic training and research.

The UAB's internationalisation strategy to open itself up to the world and extend its international networks was strengthened by the inauguration of UAB offices in Shanghai and Seoul, to facilitate student and researcher exchanges with universities in China and Korea.

Programmes

The UAB has progressively implemented bachelor's and master's degree courses fully adapted to the European Higher Education Area (EHEA). These official qualifications offer academic and professional training that prepares students for the labour market and facilitates their mobility in Europe. For the 2009-2010 academic year, the UAB offers 47 bachelor's degree courses and 120 master's degree courses adapted to the European Higher Education Area.

Research

Closely linked to its surrounding area, the UAB offers proven academic quality and has a scientific environment with 30 prestigious research centres and institutes, the ALBA synchrotron, a high-tech business infrastructure in the El Vallès Technology Park and large companies in the B-30 arc (referred to in various reports as the most dynamic in Catalonia). All this, together with its communications infrastructure, makes this excellent environment the most important centre for R&D&I in Southern Europe.

The Bellaterra Campus is also the site of the UAB Research Park, a strategic association between the UAB, the Spanish National Re-

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search Council (CSIC) and the Institute for Food and Agricultural Research and Technology (IRTA) to promote the transfer of technology and knowledge. As well as the UAB's research departments and groups, the park includes research institutes and centres, hospital institutes, business incubators, R&D business units and scientific and technical services located on the campus.

In November 2009, the UAB was one of five Spanish universities to obtain recognition as a Campus of International Excellence, as part of the University Strategy 2015 (EU 2015) project, which aims to promote the inclusion of institutions in a common strategic project with the

aim of creating an academic, scientific, entrepreneurial and innovative environment, aimed at maximising international visibility. The UAB's proposal for a Campus of International Excellence was the project 'UAB^{CEI}: Investment in Knowledge and Innovation'. This is a strategic plan that aims to revitalise the process of ever-close collaboration with the UAB's R&D&I environment with the idea of placing it among the best European universities.

This project defines two major strategic actions: firstly, the 'Barcelona Nanotechnology Cluster-Bellaterra (BNC-b)', focussing on the field of materials and nanotechnology, research centres and business located in the UAB Research Park, which is boosted by the unique ALBA Synchrotron Light Facility; and secondly, the biotechnology and biomedicine field is based in the basic research centres on the UAB campus and in university hospitals linked to the UAB. Furthermore, it is worth mentioning the unique action centred on the historic Hospital de Sant Pau complex, which has become the 'New Hospital Complex for International Cooperation and Social Innovation'.

THE UAB IN NUMBERS (2008-2009 ACADEMIC YEAR)

NUMBER OF STUDENTS ENROLLED*

31,274

NUMBER OF ADMINISTRATIVE AND SERVICE STAFF (PAS)

1,769

NUMBER OF TEACHING AND RESEARCH STAFF (PDI)

3,345

NUMBER OF PROFESSORS

400

NUMBER OF CONSOLIDATED RESEARCH GROUPS

171

NUMBER OF UNIVERSITY CENTRES

16

* Total including those enrolled in diploma, undergraduate, bachelor's and master's degree courses (integrated centres, officially recognised degrees)

SOURCE: CATALAN UNIVERSITY AND RESEARCH INFORMATION SYSTEM (UNEIX)

UPC TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY OF CATALONIA – BARCELONATECH

The Technical University of Catalonia (UPC) – BarcelonaTech is a public research and higher education institution specialising in the fields of architecture, sciences and engineering. Its centres, spread over 10 campuses in different cities in the province of Barcelona, have made the UPC a reference point for basic and applied research and for the training of professionals and researchers in its areas of knowledge.

It is also a university committed to its social environment and a significant international outlook. Through its active participation in international networks of excellence, it has a special relationship with prestigious scientific and educational institutions around the world. With more than 60% of its doctorate students from abroad, it has the highest number of international students of any Spanish university.

The UPC offers high quality studies to meet the training needs of traditional and emerging productive sectors. Its laboratories and classrooms are the site of intense research activity and excellent teaching. The results are widely recognised, especially in terms of technology and knowledge transfer to companies and society in general, making it the leading Spanish technical university in terms of income from research, and it is at the forefront in terms of the number of projects it heads in strategic areas of the 7th Framework Programme of the European Union.

Programmes

In the 2004-2005 academic year, it was one of the universities to join the Pilot Plan for the

adaptation of university undergraduate and master's degree courses to the EHEA. In the 2010-2011 academic year, with all new access courses adapted to the new structure, it will be offering 61 bachelor's degree courses, 58 master's degree courses (20 taught solely in English) and 47 doctorate programmes.

It is one of the European institutions offering the highest number of approved Erasmus Mundus programmes, with 10 master's degrees and 2 Erasmus Mundus doctorate programmes.

Research

Both the UPC's basic and applied research programmes place the university at the cutting-edge of innovation, research and technological development. The research conducted at the university make it a world leader in many scientific fields.

This activity is structured around more than 170 research groups, 16 specific research centres with major external links (whose main purpose is to meet the demands of external public or private bodies in specific research fields), 17 centres of the Network of Support Centres

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for Technological Innovation (Xarxa IT), set up by public and private technology providers with excellent applied R&D departments and accredited quality services, and 18 prestigious associated centres, such as the Barcelona Supercomputing Center–National Supercomputing Center (BSC-CNS) (MareNostrum), the International Centre for Numerical Methods in Engineering (CINME), the Institute for Bioengineering of Catalonia (IBEC) and the Institute of Robotics and Industrial Computer Science (IRI), among others. Research is also carried out in 24 laboratories, two services and other centres. There are five institutes dedicated to scientific and technical research in given areas of knowledge. These are the Institute of Textile Research and Industrial Cooperation of Terrassa (INTEXTER), the Institute of Industrial and Control Engineering (IOC), the Institute of Energy Technology (INTE), the University Institute of Research into Sustainability Science and Technology (ISUPC) and the Institute of Photonic Sciences (ICFO).

The Barcelona Knowledge Campus project (BKC), presented jointly with the University of Barcelona, has been recognised as the best Campus of International Excellence by an international commission headed by the Spanish Ministry of Education. The BKC will be an international reference point for teaching, research, knowledge transfer, innovation and lifelong learning, as well as a key agent in promoting social, economic and business activity in Spain and Southern Europe. Specifically, this alliance between the UPC and the UB establishes a strategic framework for collaboration, which will enable the transformation of

the region through a comprehensive social model based on innovation and sustainable development. All the scientific and academic disciplines brought together on the campus cover a wide range of courses, including Architecture, Fine Arts, Biotechnology, Pharmacy, Industrial and Civil Engineering, Computer Sciences, Telecommunications, Experimental Sciences and Legal and Social Sciences.

Recently, the UPC and the ESADE Business School have also been awarded the most important European project regarding innovation in renewable energies to date by the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) for their InnoEnergy proposal. The objective of this project, involving more than 35 European bodies (universities, research centres and enterprise), for its first four years, is to train over 1,500 students in international scientific programmes to become technology leaders with a deep-grained entrepreneurial culture, create over 60 new patents and launch over 50 start-up companies. It plans to launch 90 new products on the market in its first four years of activity. The project will continue until 2017.



THE UPC IN NUMBERS (2008-2009 ACADEMIC YEAR)

NUMBER OF STUDENTS
ENROLLED*

27,687

NUMBER OF ADMINISTRATIVE
AND SERVICE STAFF (PAS)

1,584

NUMBER OF TEACHING
AND RESEARCH STAFF (PDI)

2,585

NUMBER OF PROFESSORS

381

NUMBER OF CONSOLIDATED
RESEARCH GROUPS

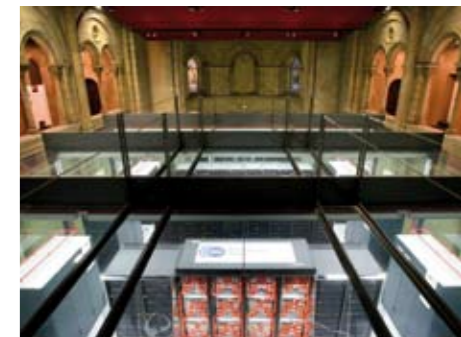
113

NUMBER OF UNIVERSITY CENTRES

17

* Total including those enrolled in diploma, undergraduate, bachelor's and master's degree courses (integrated centres, officially recognised degrees)

SOURCE: CATALAN UNIVERSITY AND RESEARCH INFORMATION SYSTEM (UNEIX)



UPF POMPEU FABRA UNIVERSITY

The Pompeu Fabra University (UPF), which celebrated its 20th anniversary in the 2009-2010 academic year, is one of the youngest universities in the country and has already become a benchmark centre for teaching and research within the Catalan university system. In the next few years, the UPF aims to consolidate this model, based on proximity to the student, quality teaching and internationally projected research, which has enabled the university to become a centre for creation and knowledge transfer, attracting talent from across Southern Europe.

The UPF structures its studies around three campuses and three areas of knowledge: Social and Human Sciences (Ciutadella Campus); Information and Communication Sciences and Technologies (Communications Campus – Poblenou); and Biomedical Sciences (Mar Campus).

The university offers these studies through seven faculties (Humanities, Health and Life Sciences, Economic and Business Sciences, Political and Social Sciences, Communications, Law, Translation and Interpretation); a Higher Technical School; eight departments (Economics and Business Studies, Law, Political and Social Sciences, Humanities, Experimental and Health Sciences, Information and Communications Technologies, Communication, Translation, Language Sciences); and four university research institutes (University Institute of Culture, Jaume Vicens Vives University Institute of History, University Institute of Applied Linguistics and the University Institute of Audiovisual Media). It also has four associated centres (the School

of International Trade (ESCI), Elisava School of Design, the University School of Business Studies of the Maresme and the Hospital del Mar University School of Nursing); two post-graduate university platforms (the Barcelona Institute of International Studies (IBEI) and the Barcelona Graduate School of Economics (Barcelona GSE)); and its own Institute of Continuing Education (IDEC), which complements its educational offer.

Programmes

From its beginnings, the UPF has understood the new European area as a significant opportunity for reforming its educational offer, and all its qualifications were adapted to the EHEA by the 2009-2010 academic year. Today, it offers 25 bachelor's degree courses, 37 official master's degree courses and 9 doctorate programmes.



Research

The UPF's willingness to strengthen and increase the international presence of its research has led to the creation of three science parks in its three areas of knowledge: Social and Human Sciences (Social and Human Sciences Research Park); Biomedical Science (Barcelona Biomedical Research Park (PRBB)); and Information and Communications Sciences and Technology (Barcelona Media Park (PBM)).

The university implements this high-level research through 20 departments and the 4 above mentioned university research institutes. At the same time, the UPF has become increasingly involved with a number of specialist teaching, research and transfer institutions and centres, which have their own legal status and form part of the UPF Group. This group of institutions means the UPF is present in highly specialised areas of research, often in collaboration with other institutions and universities, and can offer its research and teaching staff the chance to carry out their research

in excellent conditions and facilities. Thus, in the field of research and transfer, besides the three science parks, there are the Municipal Institute for Medical Research (IMIM-Hospital del Mar); the Institute of Evolutionary Biology (IBE) (CSIC-UPF); the Center for Genomic Regulation (CRG); the Institute for Territorial Studies (IET); the Research Centre for International Economics (CREI) or the Barcelona Media Foundation (FBM).

Finally, research indicators for the university are extremely impressive, both in terms of scientific production (2,100 articles in the ISI Web of Knowledge (ISI WoK) between 2004 and 2008), and in terms of income from research and transfer projects, which represent 31% of the university's annual budget. It is also worth noting that out 28% of the total income for transfer is from agreements and contacts with companies and institutions.

THE UPF IN NUMBERS (2008-2009 ACADEMIC YEAR)

NUMBER OF STUDENTS
ENROLLED*

9,150

NUMBER OF ADMINISTRATIVE
AND SERVICE STAFF (PAS)

691

NUMBER OF TEACHING
AND RESEARCH STAFF (PDI)

1,076

NUMBER OF PROFESSORS

85

NUMBER OF CONSOLIDATED
RESEARCH GROUPS

46

NUMBER OF UNIVERSITY CENTRES

10

* Total including those enrolled in diploma, undergraduate, bachelor's and master's degree courses (integrated centres, officially recognised degrees)

SOURCE: CATALAN UNIVERSITY AND RESEARCH INFORMATION SYSTEM (UNEIX)

URL RAMON LLULL UNIVERSITY

The Ramon Llull University (URL) was founded in 1990. It is a private not-for-profit university, inspired by humanism and Christianity and whose aim is to provide a quality education focussed on the individual that helps students in discovering the specific answers to society's needs. It stands out thanks to its educational model based on fully integrated teaching and implemented through the establishment of small work groups, problem-solving and personal laboratory work, which permits a close relationship with the teachers and a direct vision of the problems associated with each field.

The URL comprises prestigious institutions with a long history in the field of higher education and research in Catalonia: The Sarrià Chemistry Institute (IQS), the Blanquerna Foundation, Engineering and Architecture La Salle, the Faculty of Philosophy of Catalonia, The ESADE Business School, the Pere Tarrés Faculty of Social Education and Social Work, the Ebro Observatory, the Vidal i Barraquer University Institute of Mental Health, the Borja Institute of Bioethics (IBB) and, as an associated centre, the ESDi School of Design. The *Círculo de Economía* Foundation and leading civic figures from Catalonia were involved in its founding. Today, this university seeks excellence in its centres and in its university community.

Programmes

In 2009, the project Aristós, presented by the URL, received mention from the Campus of International Excellence as a 'promising project'.

Fifteen of the URL's courses have obtained international accreditation and 35 degrees are included in the AUDIT programme. All its bachelor's degree, master's degree and doctorate courses are adapted to the European Higher Education Area, and it teaches 15 master's degree courses completely in English.

In 2007, it received a favourable evaluation report from the European University Association (EUA), in the framework of the Institutional Evaluation Programme (EIP).

In 2006, the URL was the first Catalan university and the second in Spain to obtain the ECTS Label and the DS Label, which accredit the satisfactory implementation of the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS) in all its official courses and the quality of its international mobility.

Foreign students make up 12% of undergraduate and 62% of master's students. It offers over 225 international work experience

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opportunities and the alumni network encompasses over 100 countries.

Research

One of URL's priorities is to conduct high-level research, focussed on technology (biosciences, engineering and information and communications technology), management (business internationalisation and innovation, entrepreneurial initiative, social responsibility of business and technological management) and social and human sciences (psychology, pedagogy, education and social work, law, philosophy, communication, the media and advertising).

At the same time, the URL promotes technology transfer, through its commitment to the R&D&I requirements of businesses and society in general. In terms of the transfer of research results, one of its most active units is that represented by the different research groups of the Network of Support Centres for Technological Innovation (Xarxa IT) of the Government of Catalonia. With the aim of strengthening its research activity, in recent years it has increased R&D funding and has prioritised efforts to obtain external public and private funds to finance this activity in each of the URL's institutions, faculties and schools.

With respect to research infrastructure, of particular note are the Sarrià Chemistry Institute's (IQS) research units in the field of chemistry and engineering, the La Salle Innovation Park (PI La Salle), which is president of the Catalan Network of Science and Technology Parks (XPCAT) and ESADECreapolis, a creativity park



associated with XPCAT, all operating under the URL knowledge transfer office to offer the best solutions to specific problems through innovation in procedures and technologies.

The objective of the PI La Salle is knowledge transfer, technology, people and companies. It is an intermediary structure within the innovation system operating in the science-technology-company-market chain through technological, logical and physical platforms. The park has become an innovative means for research groups, technology centres, innovation groups and new companies to maximise synergies and where the latest technological innovations are demonstrated.

At ESADECreapolis, companies, students and the teaching and scientific community come together with the common aim of detecting opportunities and creating and promoting organisations to define the future. It offers state-of-the-art offices to house newly established or consolidated companies, immersed in a unique environment of interaction with activities designed to strengthen innovation and improve their competitive capacity.

THE URL IN NUMBERS (2008-2009 ACADEMIC YEAR)

NUMBER OF STUDENTS
ENROLLED*

14,609

NUMBER OF ADMINISTRATIVE
AND SERVICE STAFF (PAS)

570

NUMBER OF TEACHING
AND RESEARCH STAFF (PDI)

1,215

NUMBER OF PROFESSORS

64

NUMBER OF CONSOLIDATED
RESEARCH GROUPS

18

NUMBER OF UNIVERSITY CENTRES

16

* Total including those enrolled in diploma, undergraduate, bachelor's and master's degree courses (integrated centres, officially recognised degrees)

SOURCE: CATALAN UNIVERSITY AND RESEARCH INFORMATION SYSTEM (UNEIX)





Universitat de Lleida

UdL UNIVERSITY OF LLEIDA

On 12 December 1991, the Catalan Parliament approved the law founding the University of Lleida (UdL). The current university model is spread over various campuses in the city. Each building is part of an inter-related system that forms an integrated organic functional unit in an urban and suburban setting. Each campus aims to provide a university environment that is pleasant for work, study, research and debate.

The origins of the University of Lleida (UdL) go back to the old *Estudi General* (School of General Studies), founded on 1 September 1300, by foundational privilege granted by King James II at the request of the municipal estates. The medieval university enabled the city to develop through new cultural and economic opportunities: increased commerce and manufacturing, especially in trades related to parchment, paper and books. The university turned the city into a centre for exchange and dissemination of ideas and scientific progress.

The *Estudi General* disappeared with the founding of a new university in Cervera that unified and closed the other centres in the Principality of Catalonia. In 1841, after the creation of the *Escola Normal de Mestres* (Teachers College), in a period of growth and interest in education, it was a further 50 years before university studies was re-established in Lleida, albeit dependent on the universities of the city of Barcelona.

Programmes

The adaptation of the UdL to the new framework of higher education has been one of the key objectives since the Bologna Process was initiated, with the aim to provide training of the highest quality, in which the students' skills and abilities are developed for efficient and effective entry into the labour market within the new framework. For the 2009-2010 academic year, the UdL has offered 22 bachelor's degree courses and 31 master's degree courses.

The UdL offers a wide range of quality training courses in the Arts and Humanities, Biotechnology and Food Technology, Human and Animal Health Sciences, Social Sciences, especially in the fields of Law, Economics and Employment, as well as Tourism, Education and Social Work.

Research

The University of Lleida has built an enterprising university model, where both basic and applied research play a key role in developing its corporate strategy, oriented to the needs of social agents and the transfer of the knowl-

University of Lleida

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edge produced with the aim of contributing to the growth and development of its environment.

The UdL has created the UdL Research Ring to promote the visibility of research and the transfer of knowledge produced by its teaching and research staff and to improve the support mechanisms for research activity. It aims to provide greater visibility for what is being done, to strengthen new R&D&I activities and to look for new partners for more and higher-quality research.

The Ring will consist of existing structures associated with the UdL, such as the Agri-food Science and Technology Park of Lleida, the Biomedical Research Institute of Lleida (IRBLleida), the UdL-IRTA Centre and the Forest Technology Centre of Catalonia (CTFC), as well as five newly established research centres: the Computing Research Centre of the Western Lands (CCP), for basic and applied research in the field of difficult problem-solving in computers; the Centre for European Legal and Mediation Studies (CEJEM), devoted to

the study of conflict resolution methods within the European legal framework; the Institute for Research into Identities and Society (IRIS), which aims to promote and strengthen scientific processes that integrate or destabilise societies over time, and the mechanisms and systems for building identity and common collective reference points; the Centre for Research in Animal Production (CIPA), aimed at strengthening research in this field of particular importance in the region of Lleida; and the Centre for Research in Technologies for Sustainability (CRETESOS), which provides new knowledge in the field of energy saving and the application of new automations to industrial machinery, making it more efficient and precise.

The UdL has a total of 86 research groups. The University of Lleida also provides scientific and technical services, a comprehensive support tool for research. They are available to the UdL's own research groups, those of other universities, public and private institutions and companies that wish to benefit from the human and technological potential available.



THE UdL IN NUMBERS (2008-2009 ACADEMIC YEAR)

NUMBER OF STUDENTS
ENROLLED*

7,388

NUMBER OF ADMINISTRATIVE
AND SERVICE STAFF (PAS)

473

NUMBER OF TEACHING
AND RESEARCH STAFF (PDI)

848

NUMBER OF PROFESSORS

100

NUMBER OF CONSOLIDATED
RESEARCH GROUPS

31

NUMBER OF UNIVERSITY CENTRES

7

* Total including those enrolled in diploma, undergraduate, bachelor's and master's degree courses (integrated centres, officially recognised degrees)

SOURCE: CATALAN UNIVERSITY AND RESEARCH INFORMATION SYSTEM (UNEIX)

The University of Girona (UdG) is a public institution that strives for excellence in teaching and research and which participates in the progress and development of society through the creation, transmission and dissemination of science, technology, humanities, social sciences and the arts.

The UdG is one of the main economic and cultural driving forces in its environment, inspired by universality and openness in all its traditions, advances and cultures.

Heir to the *Estudi General* (School of General Studies), founded in 1446 by King Alfonso the Magnanimous, it was given the privilege of awarding qualifications in Grammar, Rhetoric, Philosophy and Theology, Law and Medicine, although classes were not officially taught until 1572. With the loss of Catalonia's political identity, the university was closed in 1717. Throughout the 19th century, the city council promoted the Free University of Girona, which offered courses in Law and Pharmacy up until 1874.

The *Escola Normal de Mestres* (Teachers College) and a number of other initiatives in the 1960s saw university studies reinstated. The University College of Girona and the Technical School were founded, followed by the reestablishment of the *Estudi General*, which offered courses in Humanities, Business Studies, Sciences and Social Sciences. Finally, in 1991, the Catalan Parliament passed legislation to establish the new University of Girona, with contributions from the various university

cultures that were to make Girona a leader in multidisciplinary studies.

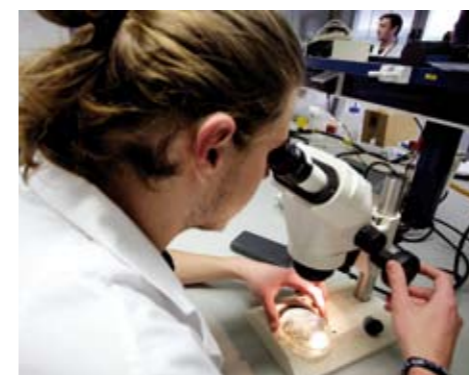
Programmes

The progressive implementation of the EHEA has proved to be a process of reflection and renovation for the UdG's academic organisation and teaching. Today, the UdG teaches 30 bachelor's degree courses (27 in integrated centres and 3 in associated centres) and 33 master's degree courses adapted to the EHEA, of which 16 are inter-university and 2 are Erasmus Mundus. With respect to the doctorate programme, the university offers five courses, of which four have been accredited as quality courses.

Local stakeholders have actively participated in defining the new qualifications, so that they offer adequate education that enables students to successfully learn the professional skills required by the labour market.

Research

Research, knowledge transfer and innovation activities at the University of Girona are carried out in over 100 research groups, linked to 22 departments and 11 research institutes. The professorial chairs also play an impor-



tant role in promoting study and research, along with other structures such as observatories and laboratories. Around 100 research groups specialise in different areas of knowledge: scientific, technological, health-related, humanistic and related to the social sciences. Out of this group, 40 were recognised by the Government of Catalonia in their call for grant applications in 2009.

The UdG also offers the Technical Research Services and a library in different locations and units. Through its Office of Research and Technology and Knowledge Transfer, the UdG manages its grants and the dissemination and application of research in society.

The Science and Technology Park is the place where most of this collaboration and technology transfer takes place. The park contributes to attracting, creating and developing support structures for innovation and highly innovative companies, and spin-offs and start-ups based on technology and knowledge and

those related to R&D (particularly those of the University of Girona), promoting the transfer of the knowledge they generate. It also promotes interaction and relations between these agents and their environment and encourages connection with the larger environment.

Within the framework of strategic policies, the UdG is involved in various research centres in the Government of Catalonia's CERCA Programme, among them the Catalan Institute for Water Research (ICRA), the Catalan Institute for Cultural Heritage Research (ICRPC) and the Girona Biomedical Research Institute (IdiBGi).

The University of Girona promotes researchers through its own grant scheme, which complements those of the Government of Catalonia and the Spanish Government. The research organisation is also responsible for obtaining excellent research and internationalisation.

The UdG Research Arc is home to the university's own research and that of participating centres, in collaboration with the Science and Technology Park, the Academy of the Humanities and Social Sciences, social agents and companies.

THE UdG IN NUMBERS (2008-2009 ACADEMIC YEAR)

NUMBER OF STUDENTS
ENROLLED*

10,190

NUMBER OF ADMINISTRATIVE
AND SERVICE STAFF (PAS)

570

NUMBER OF TEACHING
AND RESEARCH STAFF (PDI)

1,152

NUMBER OF PROFESSORS

65

NUMBER OF CONSOLIDATED
RESEARCH GROUPS

35

NUMBER OF UNIVERSITY CENTRES

10

* Total including those enrolled in diploma, undergraduate, bachelor's and master's degree courses (integrated centres, officially recognised degrees)

SOURCE: CATALAN UNIVERSITY AND RESEARCH INFORMATION SYSTEM (UNEIX)



URV

ROVIRA I VIRGILI UNIVERSITY

The Rovira i Virgili University (URV) was founded in 1991 by the Catalan Parliament out of various existing university centres, thus recovering the 16th-century University of Tarragona. Since its founding, it has had a clearly defined goal: to place knowledge at the service of society, thus contributing to the social and economic development of its environment, a context that has been transformed over time.

Social and cultural changes have opened the doors to a new framework and have made Europe an essential area for interaction for our students and the future workforce. The URV trains citizens under the concepts of European harmonisation, a key aspect to opening doors to a borderless labour market. Thus, data has confirmed URV as a leading university in Catalonia and the European area for quality teaching, a commitment to continuous training and excellence in research, development and innovation.

Programmes

With the European Higher Education Area in mind and applying the spirit of the Bologna Declaration, the URV has started introducing new courses, with the aim of providing training of the highest quality, geared towards acquiring knowledge and skills that guarantee successful entry into professional life. To this end, modern studies have been designed, introducing new teaching and learning methodologies, in which the student is the centre of academic activity.

The URV has considered strategically important all aspects related to the improvement of teaching. This commitment to obtaining excellence in the teaching-learning process has taken shape in the so-called Strategic Teaching Plan, whose goals are to implement a learning-oriented, student-centred teaching model, increase the efficiency and efficacy of the URV in training graduates and in incorporating the URV into the European harmonisation process.

All this is achieved through offering nearly 50 courses, currently with 12,000 students, and nearly 50 master's degree courses, in all areas of knowledge. More than half the official master's degrees are inter-university courses, while others involve collaboration with various research institutes and still others are the result of projects with European universities.

Research

The university works to strengthen all its members' research activities, placing special emphasis on the quality and size of its scientific production. To achieve this, the URV has developed an evaluation and resource assign-

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ment policy that identifies research groups as its basis.

The activities of these groups may be developed in the framework of the departments, the university research institutes or other centres. The main function of the research institutes and centres is to organise, develop and evaluate the basic and applied research or artistic programmes in their corresponding areas.

Research Institutes

- ICAC – Catalan Institute of Classical Archaeology
- ICIQ – Institute of Chemical Research of Catalonia
- IPHES – Catalan Institute for Human Palaeoecology and Social Evolution
- IISPV – Pere Virgili Health Research Institute
- IREC – Catalonia Institute for Energy Research

Research Centres

- CRAMC – Research Centre for Behavioural Assessment and Monitoring
- EMaS – Research Centre into Materials Engineering and Micro/Nanosystems
- CEDAT – Tarragona Centre for Environmental Law Studies
- C3 – Centre on Climate Change

Technology and Innovation Centres

- CiTeE – Centre for Technological Innovation in Electronic Engineering
- CiTQ – Centre for Innovation in Chemical Technology
- DINAMIC – Centre for Innovation in Applied Biotechnology and Chemical Engineering
- AMIC – Environmental and Industrial

Applications of Catalysis

- TecaT – Innovation Center in Catalyst Development for Sustainable Processes
- METEOR – Membrane Technology and Process Engineering Centre
- TecnATox – Centre for Environmental, Food and Toxicological Technology
- CTNS – Technology Centre for Nutrition and Health
- CTQC – Chemistry Technology Centre of Catalonia

Coordination between these knowledge centres is the basis of the Catalunya Sud Campus of International Excellence (CEICS) project, headed by the Rovira i Virgili University, whose aim is to contribute to knowledge-based social, economic and cultural development through strategic grouping of the university, research institutes, science parks and technology centres, together with the production and healthcare sectors. The CEICS project now has the participation of 41 institutions and bodies and the support of 30 companies. Its goal is to attract researchers and develop activities in an international environment. The CEICS has been evaluated as a 'promising project' in the first Campus of International Excellence award ceremony of the Spanish Ministry of Education, held at the end of 2009.

THE URV IN NUMBERS (2008-2009 ACADEMIC YEAR)

NUMBER OF STUDENTS
ENROLLED*

12,015

NUMBER OF ADMINISTRATIVE
AND SERVICE STAFF (PAS)

688

NUMBER OF TEACHING
AND RESEARCH STAFF (PDI)

1,503

NUMBER OF PROFESSORS

76

NUMBER OF CONSOLIDATED
RESEARCH GROUPS

42

NUMBER OF UNIVERSITY CENTRES

12

* Total including those enrolled in diploma, undergraduate, bachelor's and master's degree courses (integrated centres, officially recognised degrees)

SOURCE: CATALAN UNIVERSITY AND RESEARCH INFORMATION SYSTEM (UNEIX)



UOC

OPEN UNIVERSITY OF CATALONIA

The internationally renowned Open University of Catalonia (UOC) is an on-line university born out of the knowledge society. The UOC offers student-centred learning with the advantages of personalised studies, flexibility, accessibility and collaboration. The UOC is a leader and innovating agent in ICT-based learning, and a point of reference due to the quality of its research and academic work.

The UOC is sensitive to the diversity of its environment and committed to the capacity of education and culture to bring about social change. It has a strong international presence, forming alliances with universities and research institutions in different countries and is committed to promoting business and enterprise through local projects and international partners.

The UOC's mission is to provide people with lasting learning and educational opportunities, helping them satisfy their learning needs and providing them with full access to knowledge, beyond and above the habitual planning and space restrictions.

The UOC incorporates teaching staff who offer quality university education and promote innovative education that permits personalised learning, technological leadership to facilitate interaction and team work, academic research into the information society and e-learning and the dissemination of knowledge.

Programmes

For the 2009-2010 academic year, the UOC offers a total of 14 bachelor's degree courses

and 6 official master's degree courses adapted to the requirements of the European Higher Education Area (EHEA). The offer has four new degrees adapted to the EHEA, in addition to existing adapted bachelor's degree courses (Law, Humanities and Psychology) and university master's degrees (Education, ICT, Work Health and Safety, Free Software and the Information and Knowledge Society), which the UOC introduced the previous year. The new degree courses are Social Education, Communications, Information and Documentation, the Catalan Language and Literature, and Tourism.

Research IN3

The Internet Interdisciplinary Institute (IN3) is a UOC research institute specialising in research into the network society and the knowledge economy, as well as the study of network technologies and specific areas of software. The IN3 offers a doctorate programme on the information and knowledge society. Every year the institute brings guest lecturers, research fellows and visiting scholars.

Under the lecturer Manuel Castells, this centre provides administrative support for all academic and scientific research carried out at the university and also encourages and provides leadership in the institution's priority research areas, striving to become a centre of excellence through the management, monitoring and promotion of projects.

The UOC works with and receives funding from institutions and companies to develop its research programmes. Of particular note are programme contracts with the Government of Catalonia and the Spanish Ministry of Science and Technology, funding from the European Union and the research professorships financed by companies such as IBM, La Caixa savings bank and Telefónica, among others.

eLC

The eLearn Center (eLC) is a centre for research, innovation and training in e-learning, with special emphasis on higher education and lifelong learning. The main aims of the eLC are: to provide a significant contribution to research and innovation in the use of technologies for learning and training; to promote good teaching practices based on the use of ICT, thus improving teaching and learning processes; and to strengthen training in e-learning through higher education courses (postgraduate, master's degree and doctorate courses), following the eLC lines of work and meeting existing needs.

The eLearn Center works in three basic fields of e-learning: the teaching and learning processes, organisation and educational and poli-

cy management, and technological resources to support learning. These three fields are approached through research, innovation and training. Research at the eLC focuses on providing multidimensional answers to current problems and possible improvements and developments in e-learning in higher education. In this first period, 2009-2012, the programme 'The Time Dimension of e-Learning' covers topics related to the three above mentioned fields, ranging from rhythms of learning, student attendance, automatic retroactive technologies and synchrony.

Innovation is defined as a qualitative transformation in processes, resources and services for e-learning and focuses on optimising on-line teaching and learning processes. In this context, both specific problem solving and progress towards tangible, new and creative solutions improving on existing ones are proposed.

THE UOC IN NUMBERS (2008-2009 ACADEMIC YEAR)

NUMBER OF STUDENTS ENROLLED*
43,249

NUMBER OF ADMINISTRATIVE AND SERVICE STAFF (PAS)
508

NUMBER OF TEACHING AND RESEARCH STAFF (PDI)
200

NUMBER OF PROFESSORS
3

NUMBER OF CONSOLIDATED RESEARCH GROUPS
3

NUMBER OF UNIVERSITY CENTRES
1

* Total including those enrolled in diploma, undergraduate, bachelor's and master's degree courses (integrated centres, officially recognised degrees)

SOURCE: CATALAN UNIVERSITY AND RESEARCH INFORMATION SYSTEM (UNEIX)



UVic UNIVERSITY OF VIC



The University of Vic (UVic), recognised by Law 5/1997 of 12 June, passed by the Catalan Parliament, represents a unique and innovative model within the Catalan and Spanish university systems. Although privately managed, it is a public institute, as it is governed by the Balmes University Foundation, with a majority of representatives from local administration and the Government of Catalonia.

The UVic has always placed special emphasis on academic excellence and the human quality of its education, with a student-centred educational project. In practice, these two principles mean quality teaching and proximity to the student.

The university has close to 5,000 students on official courses and 4,500 on continuous training courses, while small classes and close relationships between students and teachers make it possible to develop an educational method involving complete training and which obtains a high rate of work placement.

The International Campus brings together the University of Vic's activities aimed at the international public: mobility and teacher exchange programmes, master's degree and postgraduate programmes, research activities, continuous training courses and international cooperation projects.

Programmes

All of the courses, sixteen bachelor's degrees and eleven master's degree courses, offered by the University of Vic, are adapted to the European Higher Education Area. This new

social and educational framework reaffirms UVic's permanent commitment to language training, interpreting multilingualism not just as an initial step to social understanding and promoting intercultural dialogue, but also as an essential tool for improving the students' employment prospects.

Both the bachelor's and the master's degree courses at the UVic are in the fields of Education, Communications, Business Studies, Translation and Humanities, Engineering, Biosciences, Health and Welfare and Physical Activity.

Master's degrees may have a professional or research orientation and are either taught on campus or using semi-presential learning. They last for one or two academic years depending on the number of credits programmed.

Research

The University of Vic is committed to the socioeconomic development of its local, national and international areas of influence. In this context, its research and knowledge-transfer policies are aimed at supporting socioeconomic demands in its fields of knowledge:

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experimental sciences (bioinformatics, digital technologies, food and the environment), medical sciences (physical activity and promotion of health), human sciences (literary and gender studies) and social sciences (education, population distribution and communications).

Its research, knowledge transfer and research staff training activities are undertaken by 19 research groups which carry out research and knowledge transfer projects of the university, or as interuniversity projects or in collaboration with companies and institutions. Furthermore the Verdaguer Chair of Literary Studies and the UNESCO Women, Development and Cultures Chair work with other bodies on training activities, supporting research and acting as agents to develop dissemination and knowledge transfer in society. Also, the Centre for Interdisciplinary Women's Studies (CEID), with the involvement of different UVic departments, promotes training activities and interdisciplinary projects for international cooperation.



With respect to its research and knowledge-transfer infrastructures, the UVic has a centre for technological innovation, SART Medi Ambient -now part of TECNIO, which develops applied research and knowledge and technology-transfer projects in collaboration with businesses. Furthermore, the UVic provides laboratories and pilot plants, enabling it to sign agreements with agriculture and food and biotechnology companies. It is part of the managing body of ParcTec Vic, set up to develop the future Vic technology park, which will provide a space for collaboration between research groups, institutes and companies to produce sustainable solutions.

UVic has a technical support office for research, knowledge transfer and businesses (OTRI-OTSE), which promotes the production of knowledge and technology and its transfer to local enterprise and society.

THE UVic IN NUMBERS (2008-2009 ACADEMIC YEAR)	
NUMBER OF STUDENTS ENROLLED*	4,748
NUMBER OF ADMINISTRATIVE AND SERVICE STAFF (PAS)	135
NUMBER OF TEACHING AND RESEARCH STAFF (PDI)	551
NUMBER OF PROFESSORS	0
NUMBER OF CONSOLIDATED RESEARCH GROUPS	3
NUMBER OF UNIVERSITY CENTRES	6

* Total including those enrolled in diploma, undergraduate, bachelor's and master's degree courses (integrated centres, officially recognised degrees)

SOURCE: CATALAN UNIVERSITY AND RESEARCH INFORMATION SYSTEM (UNEIX)



UIC INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF CATALONIA

The International University of Catalonia (UIC) is a private university offering personalised university education with a professional emphasis. This individualised approach is achieved through a maximum of 80 students per course, offering classes in small groups and one teacher for every 11 students. The teachers not only guarantee the necessary academic training but also offer comprehensive counselling to students throughout their university career.

The students' education focuses on their future professional career. The aim is to maximise their skills so they can adapt easily to the new challenges of modern society. For this reason, most of the teachers come from a professional background and there are close links between the university and enterprise.

The UIC's agreements with various companies provide students with quality work experience in prestigious organisations.

At the UIC, the internationalisation of the university is considered a basic element for students. In this context, 10% of students are from abroad and there are specific English requirements for each degree and an extensive international exchange programme to ensure students are comprehensively prepared.

Programmes

The UIC's offer of 16 degrees is complemented with 100 postgraduate courses and continuous training, providing students with the opportunity for a more specialised training in different fields. Furthermore, the UIC organises a wide range of cultural, leisure and sporting activities, with the aim of developing the students as people.

Research

Research into all areas of knowledge is the UIC's priority objective. It is here that the university's motto is fully developed: *Veritas Liberabit Vos* ('The truth will set you free'), in other words, the effort to promote knowledge that brings us nearer to the essential reason behind the world brings us liberty.

This effort is shared by all teachers, who spend their time in research and teaching free people in a principled manner, capable of producing new ideas and using the main sources of knowledge: observation, experimentation and inductive and deductive reasoning. Researchers at the university wish to contribute

International University of Catalonia

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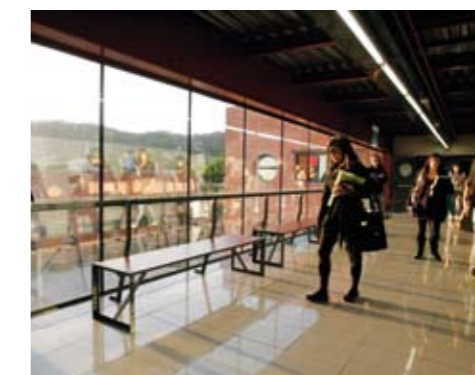
www.uic.es/contacte
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to the development of science, technology and improvement in the quality of life.

The spirit of research at the UIC is reflected in the effort to train new PhD's, in the numerous scientific publications by teachers associated with the institution and in the abundant research projects financed by public bodies and private companies carried out by this university.

The business professorial chairs (the ASCER Chair of Ceramics and the Jean Monnet Chair of European Culture) were established with the aim of forging closer links between teaching and research at the university to meet the demands of industry. Its aim is to establish permanent agreements between the university and major local companies,



THE UIC IN NUMBERS (2008-2009 ACADEMIC YEAR)

NUMBER OF STUDENTS
ENROLLED*

4,466

NUMBER OF ADMINISTRATIVE
AND SERVICE STAFF (PAS)

162

NUMBER OF TEACHING
AND RESEARCH STAFF (PDI)

265

NUMBER OF PROFESSORS

5

NUMBER OF CONSOLIDATED
RESEARCH GROUPS

1

NUMBER OF UNIVERSITY CENTRES

5

* Total including those enrolled in diploma, undergraduate, bachelor's and master's degree courses (integrated centres, officially recognised degrees)

SOURCE: CATALAN UNIVERSITY AND RESEARCH INFORMATION SYSTEM (UNEIX)

UAO

ABAT OLIBA UNIVERSITY CEU

The Abat Oliba University CEU (UAO) is an institution inspired by Christian principles and based on the ideas of the Catholic Association of Propagandists and the Magisterium of the Catholic Church. As a coherent part of this identity, it has assumed the *Ex Corde Ecclesiae* constitution enacted by Pope John Paul II. The university is an academic community dedicated to research, teaching and the comprehensive education of the students.

Achieving these objectives implies, first of all, a personal relationship between the teacher and student, with particular emphasis on guided tutorials to provide academic and professional orientation for the students. The teaching groups are small, with an average of 40 students per group. The UAO designed its curricula in 2003 in line with the European Higher Education Area (EHEA) and since then it has developed its methods of teaching (lectures, seminars and workshops) and assessment (continuous assessment) before the implementation of the Bologna Plan. This circumstance in particular has facilitated the implementation of new curricula in which the university has extensive experience.

The professorial chairs and research institutes also mean students are educated in a familiar environment. Twice a year, the institutes organise teacher and teacher-student seminars that complement the students' training and facilitate the students' integration into the academic community, as well as exploring more closely the topics that are chosen, usually by students.

The practical dimension is also a characteristic of the university: quality work experience, often international, is obtained by permanent monitoring and assessment of the activity by the university's tutors and the most prestigious organisations from Catalan business. The UAO Employment Observatory's studies and the specialisation of the Employment and Work Experience Service mean work experience is well planned and adapted to the students' specific interests.

The Abat Oliba University CEU has also developed a strong international identity. Every six months, the university's classes are attended by large numbers of students from Europe, North America, and other countries, who are enrolled in the university or through agreements with foreign universities. The teaching of undergraduate courses with a high percentage of classes in English is a further key factor in this context, together with the extensive international work experience programme.

The central campus, in the Sarrià-Sant Gervasi district of the city of Barcelona, is dominated by the Aula Magna, a classic Catalan Art Nouveau building dating from 1925.

Abat Oliba University CEU

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Programmes

The UAO offers bachelor's degrees in Psychology, Law, Business Administration, Children's Education, Marketing and Sales Management, Journalism, Advertising and Public Relations, and master's degrees in Administrative Management and Humanistic and Social Studies. Doctorate courses include Humanities and Social Sciences and Thomas Aquinas Studies.

Research

Research at the Abat Oliba University CEU is based around the Humanities and Social Sciences. There are various preferential lines of research, in particular those undertaken by a number of university research bodies: the Chair of Solidarity Economics, the Chair of Family Business, the Gift&Task Chair of Bioethics and Law, the Institute of Social Capital Studies (INCAS), the Institute of Environmental Disciplines and Studies (IDEA) and the Employment Observatory. Two further observatories are under construction.

Furthermore, each department works on their own lines of research, which nourishes the teaching and research, mainly in the post-graduate and doctorate studies. The UAO's most relevant lines of research are the work in the field of solidarity economics (Chair of Solidarity Economics) and the studies on the concept of personal identity and the current situation of depersonalisation in our society (Department of Humanities). Recently, a research master's degree was introduced in Humanistic and Social Studies, which leads on to the doctorate from a multidisciplinary perspective and which covers the main lines



of research. Furthermore, a specific doctorate programme, linked to a preferential line of research in the Department of Humanities is the doctorate in Thomas Aquinas Studies.

Also significant are the lines of research at the end of the first cycle of higher education; for some years all students at the university have been required to produce a final project at the end of their bachelor's degree studies relating to one of the lines of research. Another important aspect is the close collaboration with other universities in the CEU group: the San Pablo University CEU and the Cardinal Herrera University CEU. This also helps strengthen the UAO's research activity, especially through participation in consolidated research groups. As well as the public funding received by these research groups, mention should be made of private funding, mainly from Santander savings bank, which enables emerging pre-competitive groups to be strengthened. Thus, this last year, 10 new groups in a wide range of new fields were set up and which are now working on their consolidation.

THE UAO IN NUMBERS (2008-2009 ACADEMIC YEAR)

NUMBER OF STUDENTS
ENROLLED*

1,729

NUMBER OF ADMINISTRATIVE
AND SERVICE STAFF (PAS)

55

NUMBER OF TEACHING
AND RESEARCH STAFF (PDI)

169

NUMBER OF PROFESSORS

3

NUMBER OF CONSOLIDATED
RESEARCH GROUPS

0

NUMBER OF UNIVERSITY CENTRES

2

* Total including those enrolled in diploma, undergraduate, bachelor's and master's degree courses (integrated centres, officially recognised degrees)

SOURCE: CATALAN UNIVERSITY AND RESEARCH INFORMATION SYSTEM (UNEIX)



www.gencat.cat/universitats
www.estudiaracatalunya.org

Public Universities

UNIVERSITY OF BARCELONA
www.ub.edu

AUTONOMOUS UNIVERSITY OF BARCELONA
www.uab.cat

TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY OF CATALONIA - BARCELONATECH
www.barcelonatech.upc.edu

POMPEU FABRA UNIVERSITY
www.upf.edu

UNIVERSITY OF LLEIDA
www.udl.cat

UNIVERSITY OF GIRONA
www.udg.edu

ROVIRA I VIRGILI UNIVERSITY
www.urv.cat

On-line University

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www.uoc.edu

Private Universities

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www.url.edu

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www.uvic.cat

INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF CATALONIA
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www.uao.es

TALÈNCIA
www.talencia.cat

RESEARCH IN ACTION
www.recercaenaccio.cat

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© Government of Catalonia
Ministry of Innovation, Universities and Enterprise (DIUE)
Comission for Universities and Research
Inter-university Council of Catalonia

Print runs: 5,000

Published: April 2010

Legal Deposit: B.21973-2010

Design and layout: Solucions Gràfiques i Editorials, SL

Printing: Jiménez Godoy, SA

Publication coordination: Office of the Inter-university Council of Catalonia

Catalonia photos provided by: Directorate General for Cultural Heritage (authors: Anna Busom – Casa Batlló; Bob Masters – Sant Climent de Taüll and MACBA; Norto Méndez – Torre Agbar; Albert Sierra – Palau de la Música Catalana and MACBA); Directorate General for Corporate Dissemination (author: Jordi Pareto – Cadaqués); El Delta de l'Ebre Natural Park – Ministry of the Environment and Housing (author: Mariano Cebolla – beach at the Ebro Delta); Patronat de la Muntanya de Montserrat (The Mountain of Montserrat Trust) (author: Ricardo de la Riba – Montserrat).

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