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Welcome to the University of Catalonia

Generalitat de Catalunya
Government of Catalonia

Catalonia

Catalonia is a leading cluster in southern Europe, a strategic hub thanks to a highly competitive knowledge economy and a privileged geographic location open to the world. There are over 5,000 international companies operating in Catalonia, 40% of them having been in the region for over 10 years. Business activity benefits from an excellent university and research system that feeds industry with well-trained professionals and innovation technology.



Sagrada Família, Barcelona. © Vicente Zambrano. Courtesy of the Barcelona City Council



Barceloneta beach, Barcelona. © Vicente Zambrano. Courtesy of the Barcelona City Council



***Castellers*, or human towers.** © Pepe Encinas

Catalonia is a land that has produced artists of such international renown as Antoni Gaudí, Joan Miró, Salvador Dalí, Antoni Tàpies, Pau Casals, Mercè Rodoreda, Josep Carreras, Ferran Adrià, Quim Monzó or Montserrat Caballé. A land with a plethora of talent, which also attracts excellence from around the world thanks to the warmth of its people, the modernity of its infrastructure and a way of life of exceptional quality, made even better by the Mediterranean environment.



Boí Valley. © Francisco Sánchez



Barcelona city landscape. © Antonio Lajusticia. Courtesy of the Barcelona City Council

Catalonia has a leading position in the world, backed by international rankings. Barcelona, its capital, is the number-one European city in terms of quality of life as a place to work, and the sixth-best European city in which to do business, where 30,000 companies are created yearly. It is also the second-ranked city in the world in organizing international meetings. Barcelona is in 11th place on the list of the top university cities and has two business schools which are listed among the most prestigious in the world.



Ebre Delta. © Richard Martin



Pyrenees. © Marc Garriga

Catalonia is a region with a millennium-old tradition and its own language, Catalan, and autonomous government, the Generalitat, within Spain and the European Union. It has a stable political system—in fact, its Parliament is the oldest in the world (1283)—which promotes economic activity based on knowledge, in which higher education and research are key elements. Catalonia is a worldwide benchmark of excellence in research in areas such as biotechnology, photonics, energy and nanotechnology. It is research in close contact with universities, the principal mission of which is to discover and advance in knowledge that benefits society and brings about economic prosperity.

Catalonia has an area of approximately 32,000 km2 and a population of over seven and a half million inhabitants. A region which bears the mark left by the footsteps of different cultures and a historical heritage recognized by UNESCO.







University of Barcelona (UB)

The **University of Barcelona** (UB) is the leading public university in Catalonia in all the international rankings, with the greatest number of students and the broadest educational offer. It is also an important research center, both in terms of the number of programs and the excellence achieved in this area. With close ties with the history of Barcelona and Catalonia, UB combines traditional values with its role as an innovative institution of excellence in teaching. It is an urban university, open and cosmopolitan, like the city of Barcelona itself.

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History

Since it was founded in 1450, the UB has been an important center for academic and scientific work. As a key part of Catalan society, it has developed in parallel with historic changes and events. The abolition of Catalan institutions following the victory of Philip V in the War of Spanish Succession led to the closure of the university, which was restored in 1842 and has remained open until the present day.

Campus

UB has different campuses distributed throughout the city of Barcelona: 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. This layout gives the university an urban feel, open and cosmopolitan like the city of Barcelona itself.

Teaching

The education offered at UB is both broad and adapted to the needs and demands of students and society in general. This places it at the cutting edge of fields as diverse as technology and art. The degree courses on offer are for official bachelor's, university master's and doctoral degrees. However, aware of the importance of lifelong learning, it also offers varied and multidisciplinary continuous training.

UB is without a doubt a university with appeal for students, not only for its quality teaching, but also because it is a modern university that promotes the use of information technologies. In addition, it promotes national and international student mobility, makes it possible to engage in internships at companies and manages integration programs for students with special needs.

Research

UB is a leader in research, both in terms of the number of research programs and the excellence achieved in this area. 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.

This international recognition has included the UB's incorporation into the prestigious League of European Research Universities (LERU), an elite network of universities from around the world founded in 2002, the common denominator being quality teaching in higher education and highly competitive international research.

Innovation

The UB Group carries out diverse projects directed at promoting the transfer of knowledge and technology from basic research in the university sphere to the productive sectors, therefore increasing the level of R&D and technological innovation in businesses and institutions. With this activity, the UB Group seeks greater participation from the public and private sector in the technological innovation process, to take advantage of the new economic environment based on knowledge.

At the same time, the UB Group actively participates in the research, development and innovation policy of the European Union, which constitutes the new European Research Area. Along these lines, it carries out actions that promote the creation of technology-based businesses and the creation of high-level technology platforms, among others.

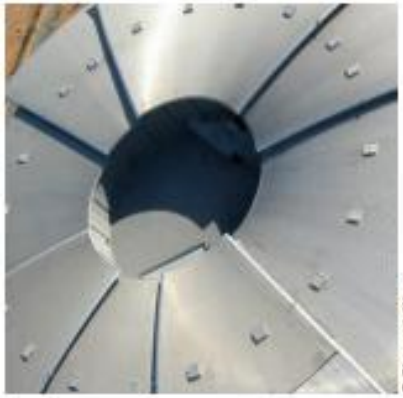
Internationalization

Teaching and research at the UB has a definite international dimension, as well as the services it offers to the university community, aware that the academic and scientific world is intrinsically international. In this sense, UB's international activity touches upon different axes, such as the mobility of the academic community (alumni, faculty and administration and service staff), training in an international context and the setting up of internationally scientific partnerships.

It also participates in solidarity and international development cooperation projects and is present in the most important international networks, both on a European and international scale.

University community

All aspects that make up university life, even those that are not purely academic, are a priority for UB. For this reason, it strives to ensure that all members of the university community have access to information and support services. UB promotes services and activities that allow students make the most of the university activities in which they engage. Therefore, it facilitates access to libraries, announces and manages grants and scholarships available to students, and so on. It also provides the necessary support resources to the teaching and research staff.



© Sinesio Alba





Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (UAB)

The **Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona** (UAB) is today a leading university offering quality teaching that is diversified, multidisciplinary and flexible. It is also recognized internationally for the quality and innovative nature of its research. Its main campus is set in natural surroundings of great beauty, with fully equipped infrastructures created exclusively for university life, which revolves around academic, cultural and social activities: a veritable city of knowledge. UAB is among the world's 200 best universities and among the top 100 in Europe, according to the QS World University Rankings.

UAB
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History

UAB was founded in 1968, born of the desire to establish four principles: freedom to contract teaching staff, open admission to students , unrestricted syllabus design and total administration of the institution's finances.

Campus

The main UAB campus is located in Bellaterra, 10 miles north of Barcelona, and is the centre for most of its faculties, departments, institutes and services, as well as being a major science and technology cluster. UAB's Sabadell campus focuses on engineering and business studies, while its Barcelona campus specialises in health sciences. The univeristy also has various teaching hospital units dedicated to teaching and research in the health sciences.

Teaching

UAB offers quality teaching that is flexible and adapted to society's demands, in all branches of knowledge: Arts and Humanities, Bioscience, Science, Health Science, Social and Legal Sciences and Engineering. Furthermore, one of UAB's defining characteristics is its firm commitment to strengthening the relationship between academic training and research.

UAB's official qualifications offer academic and professional training that prepares students for the labor market and facilitates their mobility in Europe. The wide and diverse range of activities carried out by UAB allows its courses to have a markedly multidisciplinary approach. The teaching imparted is characterized by a high degree of practical experience, and there are numerous collaboration agreements with companies and institutions so that students may gain work experience during their studies.

Research

The results of UAB research are internationally recognized. The placement of cutting-edge research centers on the campus itself guarantees interaction and transfer of knowledge, and therefore the latest in teaching. There is a main hub located on the Bellaterra Campus as well as series of research centers and institutes and university hospitals that are interlinked. Near the campus, southern Europe's most important scientific facility can be found: the ALBA Synchrotron Light Facility.

UAB is drawing up a policy on the creation of clusters that integrate the generation of university knowledge, exploitation of the research results and their transfer to society. It has a nanotechnology and nanoscience cluster; a biomedicine, bioscience and biodiversity cluster; an aeronautical management cluster; and an education and training cluster.

Innovation

UAB is firmly dedicated to the strategic creation of knowledge communities formed by research groups from the university and technology centers in the sector as well as companies and other agents of local and regional development with common interests. It engages in multidisciplinary research through the UAB Research Park, which aids the university in leading the most ambitious projects and in improving the visibility and transfer of research results.

The UAB Research Park makes available to businesses, researchers and entrepreneurs a wide range of services directed at the interaction of research and industry in order to transfer the knowledge and technology generated at the university to society.

Internationalization

UAB participates in the main international mobility and exchange programs with universities from around the world and has developed its own ambitious exchange program. The internationalization program has led UAB to promote teaching in English and to establish partnerships with universities in strategic areas. For UAB, it is of paramount importance that teaching and research be given an international dimension, so that it may take part globally. With these objectives, UAB takes part in initiatives such as the Ortelius project and in Alliance 4 Universities. In addition, UAB has made a supreme and pioneering effort in relations with universities and research centers in East Asia, where it has opened offices in both Seoul and Shanghai.

In order to attract the best talent from around the globe, UAB has promoted the Study Abroad program for students of all continents. At the same time, it firmly supports pre-doctoral and postdoctoral stays through a scholarship program to help young researchers from UAB complete their training at the best universities in the world.

University community

UAB offers a group of services that covers academic (libraries, information networks, language acquisition), leisure (sports and cultural facilities) and day-to-day (shops, health centers) needs. It also manages its own job bank and is a collaborating center of the Catalan Placement Service. UAB stands out, therefore, as a campus university where the university community can balance study, research and free time.







Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya. BarcelonaTech (UPC)

Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya. BarcelonaTech (UPC) is a public research and higher education institution specializing in the fields of architecture, sciences and engineering. It is a university of reference and a driver of economic and social change, especially in connection with innovation and the transfer of the results it achieves to the productive fabric. Its teaching centers, spread over 10 campuses in different cities in the province of Barcelona, have made UPC a reference for basic and applied research and for the training of professionals and researchers in its areas of knowledge.

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History

UPC was founded in 1971, heir to the long tradition of technical schools like the Nautical School (1769) and the School of Architecture (1817) created at the end of the 17th century by the Catalan industrial and commercial middle class. Over the course of its history, UPC has become a university of reference in the fields of engineering, architecture and the sciences.

Campus

UPC is present in eight Catalan cities with centers and facilities spread throughout its campuses in Barcelona, Castelldefels, Igualada, Manresa, Mataró, Sant Cugat del Vallès, Terrassa, and Vilanova i la Geltrú. The UPC teaching centers—with a long tradition in the world of higher education—are accessible, well connected by public transport and equipped with the required facilities and services.

Teaching

UPC offers study programs of the highest quality, founded on innovation, research, interdisciplinary study and an international character, which aim to respond to the training needs of the productive sectors. Its laboratories and classrooms are the site of intense research activity, which enhances the excellence of the teaching.

Specialized and recognized in the fields of architecture, the sciences and engineering, the education offered at UPC includes both undergraduate and postgraduate degrees (master's degrees, doctorates and continuous training). The courses it offers are complemented by work experience in organizations and companies, which helps future graduates to enter the world of work. It is a dynamic teaching and learning model that motivates students and is highly valued in all aspects.

Research

Both UPC's basic and applied research programs place the university at the cutting-edge of innovation, research and technological development. The projects it carries out have made it a worldwide reference in key fields such as supercomputing and energy. In fact, its work in the latter led the university to be given the distinguished role of coordinator of the KIC InnoEnergy Iberia node.

UPC's research is carried out in laboratories and research centers that strive to increase scientific knowledge and make it valuable to society by transferring the results. The spirit of collaboration with other universities and research centers all over the world is another key element of UPC's activity, which is a member of the Cluster network, which brings together the best technological universities in Europe.

Innovation

For the UPC, collaboration and working in tandem with business has become a key factor for the social and economic development and progress of the country, and must be done innovatively, sustainably and responsibly. For this reason, UPC offers businesses its technological capability, cutting-edge facilities and the talent of the multidisciplinary research teams working with both small and medium-sized enterprise and large multinational corporations.

The result is a high level of innovation that places UPC at the forefront of university technology transfer and in a position of leadership in terms of attaining patents and number of agreements with companies.

Internationalization

UPC offers international courses of study, a great deal of them given in English or coordinated through double-degree agreements with prestigious universities from around the world. It leads international research and innovation projects. It promotes the participation of members of the university community in mobility programs and in development cooperation projects and actions. Each year, thousands of UPC students take part in programs at foreign universities where they complete their training. UPC is also a meeting point for the thousands of international students that study at its teaching centers.

As a member of networks of excellence, UPC maintains close relations with scientific and educational institutions and organizations all over the world, and it is in a position of privilege when it comes to capturing international talent.

University community

The university community at UPC has the resources necessary to strengthen people's capacity to innovate, as well as their personal talent and preparation. UPC is also a place for learning outside of the classroom and lab, and, for this reason, it gives students and staff full access to the university, facilities and resources so that they may enjoy sports and cultural activities, join diverse associations, etc. The university also offers the UPC Alumni service, to continue offering its service to graduates.