



UNIVERSITAT DE
BARCELONA

Report on the academic year 2016-2017

University of Barcelona

Report on the academic year 2016-2017

University of Barcelona



UNIVERSITAT DE
BARCELONA

Editorial board:
General Secretary's Office
University of Barcelona

Rector:
Joan Elias

Acting President of the Board of Trustees:
Joan Corominas Guerin

© University of Barcelona

Written by:
Rector's Technical Office

Edited by:
Edicions de la Universitat de Barcelona

Translated by:
Languages Services, University of Barcelona

Interviews: Communication Unit, Audiovisual Service
Portraits: Xènia Fuentes

ISBN: 978-84-9168-089-5

Digital deposit: <http://hdl.handle.net/2445/121627>

Administration:
Edicions de la Universitat de Barcelona
Adolf Florensa, s/n
08028 Barcelona

Contents

Foreword	7
1. A university spanning the centuries and serving the community	9
Strategic vision of the University of Barcelona	
Summary of basic figures	
Territorial distribution of the UB: the campuses and the centres	
2. A university engaged with society	23
Services for the university community	
Institutional and cultural activities	
Student services	
3. A university at the forefront of education	39
Academic course offering	
Additional academic opportunities	
Support services for teaching, improvement and educational innovation	
4. A university at the forefront of research	53
Promotion, funding and internationalization of research	
Research and scientific output	
Technology and knowledge transfer and innovation	
Doctorates	
Dissemination of scientific culture	
5. An international university	73
International institutional activity	
Mobility of students, teaching and research staff and administrative and service staff	





As Rector of the University of Barcelona, it is my pleasure to present this latest edition of the Report on the Academic Year, a window on our institution's most noteworthy activities over the course of 2016-2017.

The role of today's universities encompasses more than teaching, research and knowledge transfer; we have become social agents with a tremendous capacity for impact, and the University of Barcelona is happy to assume the responsibility that this entails.

As such, the Report is also a means of reporting back on the achievement of the objectives that are entrusted to us as a public institution responsible for creating and disseminating knowledge, training future professionals and promoting the adoption of a critical spirit across the whole of society.

These objectives are pursued in close harmony with our immediate surroundings, through a commitment to social responsibility and the espousal of core values such as equality and solidarity, as well as respect for an institutional framework in which the University of Barcelona enjoys considerable and well-merited prestige.

I invite you, then, to read and explore this Report, which will take you through the details of the academic year that we have recently brought to a close.

Joan Elias

Rector of the University of Barcelona



UNIVERSITAT DE BARCELONA



“The University allowed me to bring together my vocation and my professional objectives. I wouldn’t be where I am now if it hadn’t been for my time at the UB.”

Jaume Duch, spokesperson
and Director-General for Communication
of the European Parliament



A UNIVERSITY SPANNING THE CENTURIES AND SERVING THE COMMUNITY

Strategic vision
of the University of Barcelona

Summary of basic figures

Territorial distribution of the UB:
the campuses and the centres

1





Strategic vision of the University of Barcelona



In the **elections for Rector** of the University of Barcelona, which took place in December 2016, Dr Joan Elias, full professor of mathematics, was elected to the position with 53.07% of the weighted votes in the second round. His electoral programme, through which the strategic vision for the University was outlined, was structured around four core areas – values, people, teaching and learning, and research and social service – underpinned by a commitment to ethical engagement, which inspires all of the University’s actions.

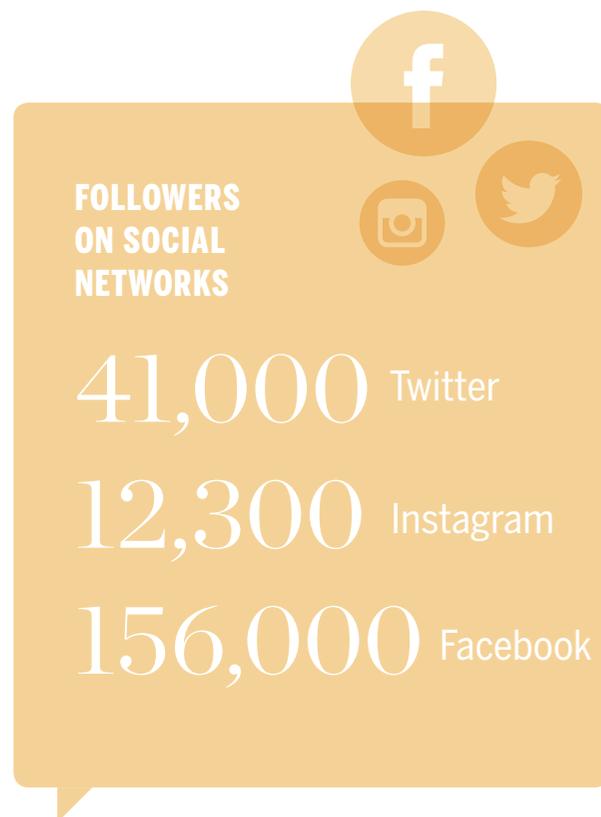


During the academic year 2016-2017, work have been completed in the first stage of expansion of the Faculty of Law: a total area of 16,000 sq m has been built and is currently being equipped; at the Torribera Food and Nutrition Campus, the provisional Sent Soví lecture room has been opened; and at the Can Jaumandreu site of the Humanities and Social Sciences Park, new services are now accessible thanks to the extension of the hall that leads to the old workshops.

To maximise the public presence of the University and enhance its international visibility, the UB has continued to roll out its **new brand image**, created in 2015: the brands of the University’s research institutes and a variety of internal services have been updated; sub-brands have been adapted to the new institutional brand manual; and the impact of these changes has been closely monitored via internal and external media channels.

The **UB Store** in the main vestibule of the Historic Building has helped to promote the UB brand

Sciences Courtyard of the Historic Building



through a variety of **marketing** products, available to the University community and the general public. In addition to stores in UB faculties and schools, new points of sale have been opened at sites outside the University, and new products have been added to the catalogue.

Once more, the University of Barcelona holds the leading position in Spain according to the main **International rankings**, which also place it highly at the global level: QS World University Rankings, for example, places the UB 156th globally and 32nd for Anatomy and Physiology. In terms of employa-



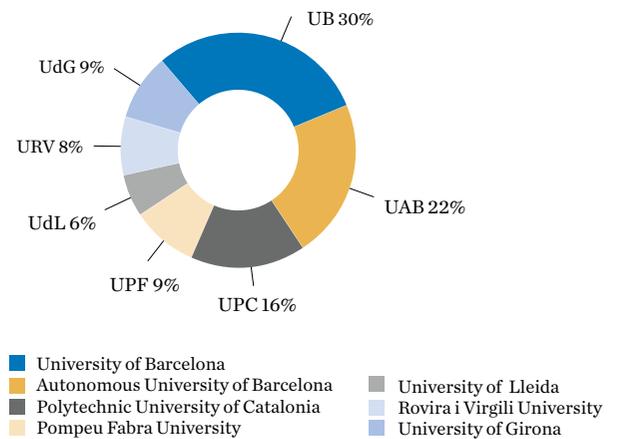
The UB's Faculty of Earth Sciences and the Spanish National Research Council (CSIC) are developing an app to identify the origin of the stone blocks in Barcelona's distinguished facades. The app proposes routes, games and experiments.

El Periódico, 12 November 2016

bility, the UB is ranked 88th in the QS WU Graduate Employability Ranking

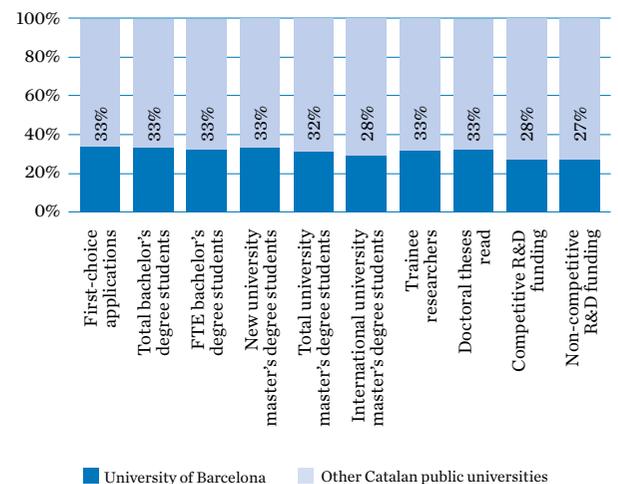
In the area of international mobility, this year the UB hosted a conference to commemorate the thirtieth anniversary of the Erasmus programme. The event was organized by the Spanish Service for the Internationalization of Education and brought together several generations of Erasmus students, from Spain and abroad, to enable them to share their experiences.

Bachelor's degree students at Catalan public campus universities (2015-2016)



The University of Barcelona holds a conference to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the Erasmus program

Relative importance of the University of Barcelona in the Catalan public university system





Can Jaumandreu

Summary of basic figures

Structure

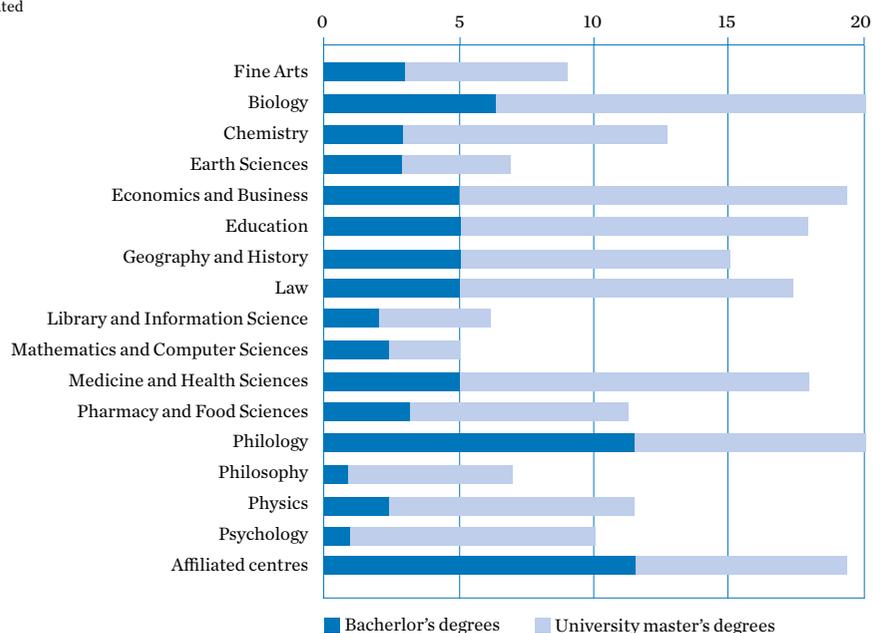
Constructed area (sq m)	662,774
Faculties	16
Affiliated centres*	8
Departments	60
Research and training sections	1
UB research institutes	15
University research institutes	2
Research institutes in which the UB participates	10
Interuniversity institutes	4
Documentation centres	3
UB Observatories	10
Participation in observatories	2

*Plus one centre currently in the process of being affiliated

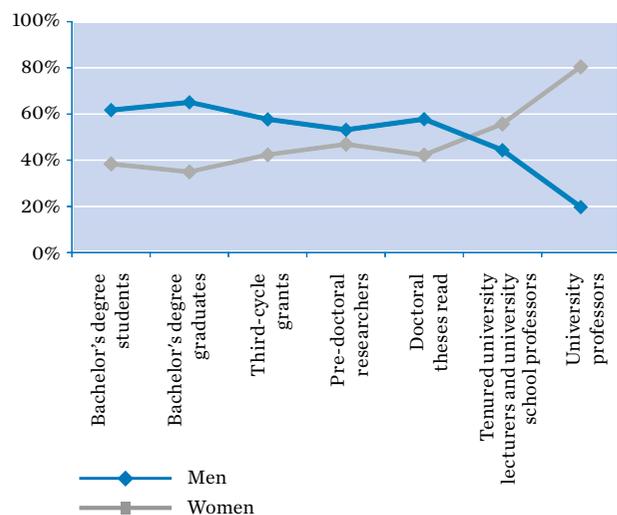
Course offerings 2016-2017

Bachelor's degree courses	73
University master's degrees	151
Doctoral programmes	48
Specific degree	1
Specialisation/postgraduate diplomas	215
Master's degree courses	273
Expert courses	137
Advanced university courses	124
University extension courses	93
Corporate lifelong learning courses and open courses (IL3)	540

Bachelor's degrees and university master's degrees



Gender mix





“I have nothing but good words for UB.
Dealing with teachers are exceptional.”

Marta Bach, third-year Human Nutrition and Dietetics student and water polo silver medallist at the London 2012 Olympic Games

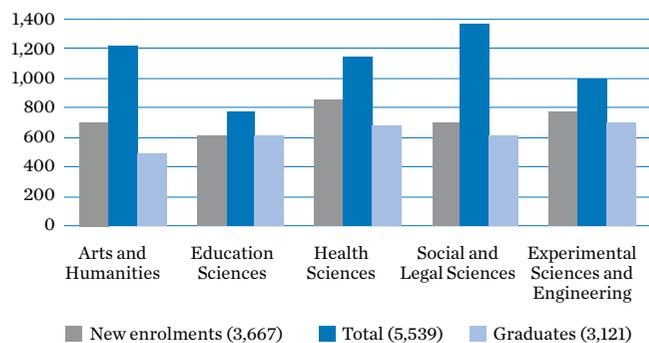
Students

	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	% women
New bachelor's degree students	10,418	10,420	10,389	61.9
Bachelor's degree students	44,420	43,568	42,997	61.7
Full-time-equivalent students in bachelor's degrees	38,363	37,796	37,235	62.3
Bachelor's degree graduates	7,448	7,215	7,317	65.0
Incoming university master's degree students	3,417	3,573	3,667	60.8
University master's degree students	4,865	5,300	5,539	61.6
Full-time-equivalent master's degree students	3,664	3,432	4,089	61.5
University master's degree graduates	2,472	2,866	3,121	62.6
Distance bachelor's and master's degrees students*	638	1,921	1,555	64.2
Students at UB-affiliated centres (bachelor's and university master's degrees)	3,713	3,901	4,390	52.7
Students in UB-specific master's degree courses and postgraduate/specialization and expert courses	8,693	8,801	9,193	70.0
University extension students	2,279	1,304	1,263	53.8
Lifelong learning students (IL3)	14,696	21,040	19,195	74.5
Students in non-curricular placements	3,084	3,519**	nd	—

*Through UNIBA (affiliated centre).

**Provisional figure.

University master's degree students



This does not include students at UB-affiliated centres.



Food and Nutrition
Torribera Campus

Bachelor's degree students, by branch of knowledge

	New	Total	Graduates
Arts and Humanities	2,213	8,249	1,256
Education Sciences	1,466	5,916	1,163
Health Sciences	2,002	9,184	1,747
Social and Legal Sciences	3,049	13,175	2,116
Experimental Sciences and Engineering	1,659	6,437	1,035
Total in centres	10,389	42,997	7,317
% women	62.9	61.6	65.0
Affiliated centres	1,238	4,053	575
% women	51.2	53.6	58.0
UB Total	11,627	47,050	7,892

Additional training

	2016-2017	% women
School of Modern Languages	4,141	62.1
Hispanic Studies	743	65.6
University of Experience	1,249	63.3
<i>Els Juliols</i> summer courses	1,720	63.1
<i>Gaudir UB</i> courses	2,867	63.7

Other students

	2016-2017	% women
Language Services (SL, Catalan courses)	1,061	67.4
Institute of Education Sciences	9,059	70.8
Courses for Senior Citizens	4,057	76.0

International rankings

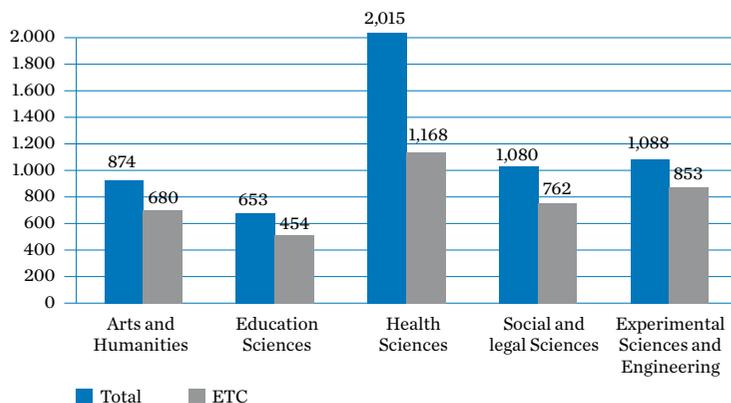
	Position in Spain	Position in Europe	Global position
Academic Ranking of World Universities (ARWU)	–	–	201-300
Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings	3	100	201-250
QS World University Rankings	1	64	156
Best Global Universities	1	24	81
Center for World University Rankings (CWUR)	1	–	103
University Ranking by Academic Performance (URAP)	1	–	46
National Taiwan University Ranking (NTU)	1	18	64
SCImago Institutions Rankings (Higher Education)	1	37	151
UI GreenMetric World University Ranking	5	–	59

Teaching and research staff (PDI)

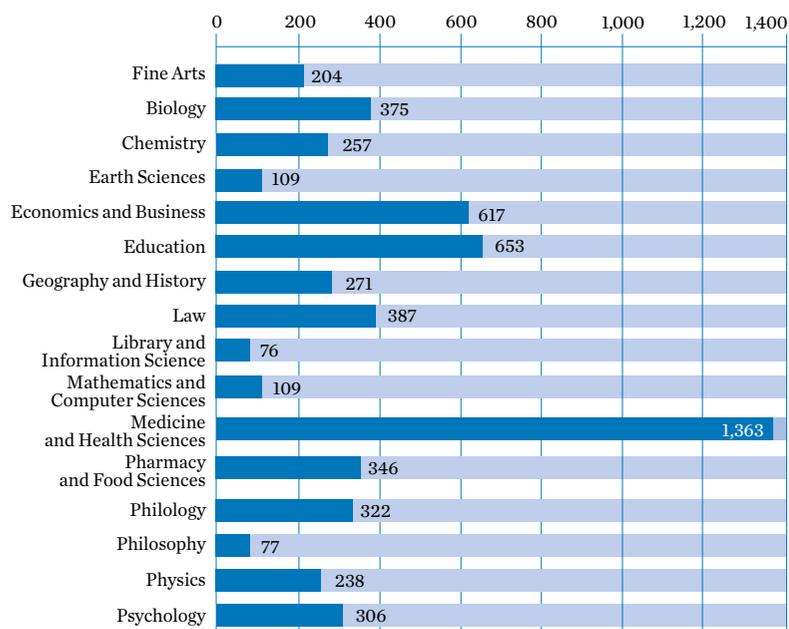
2017		% women
Total PDI	5,715	45.1
Full professors	479	19.6
University school full professors	17	64.7
Senior lecturers	1,138	43.9
University school senior lecturers	138	52.2
Contracted LOU lecturers	2	00.0
Senior lecturers	472	47.3
Assistant lecturers	134	50.8
Collaborating lecturers	3	66.7
Collaborating lecturers on an open ended contract	87	65.5
Adjunct lecturers	2,235	51.3
Adjunct medical lecturers	638	45.9
Other researchers	189	53.4
Emeritus lecturers on the early retirement plan	109	45.0
Other	74	28.4
Full-time-equivalent PDI	3,923.1	45.8
PDI with permanent affiliation*	2,333	41.0

* This includes lecturers (full professors and tenured lecturers), tenure-track lecturers, university-contracted temporary lecturers and contracted LOU professors.

Total PDI and full-time-equivalent PDI, by branch of knowledge



PDI by faculty/school



2015 2016 2017

Teaching and research staff (PDI)

Total PDI	5,311	5,532	5,715
Full-time-equivalent PDI	3,829	3,863	3,923
PDI with permanent affiliation	2,396	2,348	2,333

Administrative and service staff (PAS)

Total PAS	2,283	2,264	2,255
Publicly contracted PAS	987	954	920
University-contracted PAS	1,296	1,310	1,335
PAS/PDI ratio	0.43	0.41	0.40
Full-time-equivalent PAS/PDI ratio	0.60	0.59	0.58

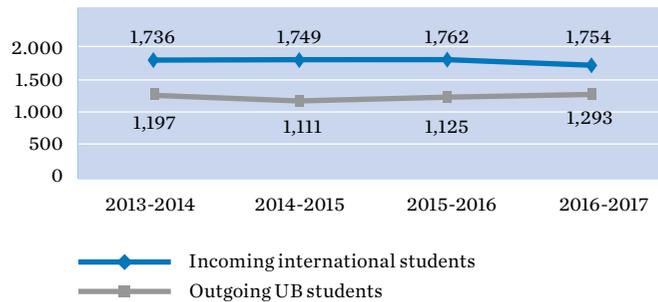
Teaching improvement and innovation

	2016-2017
Consolidated teaching innovation groups	78
Teaching innovation groups	16
Funded teaching innovation projects	33
% PDI participating in ICE training courses	73.1
Participants in MOOCs	44,722

Internationalization

	2016-2017
Agreements with foreign universities and other institutions	3,376
International students	11,278
International teaching staff	250

Mobility in the framework of exchange programmes



Administrative and service staff (PAS))

	2017	% women
Total PAS	2,255	63.8
Publicly contracted PAS	920	81.5
Group A	56	71.4
Group B	174	81.0
Group C	370	79.2
Group D	316	86.8
Group E	3	33.3
University-contracted PAS	1,317	52.0
Group I	336	52.4
Group II	227	44.1
Group III	546	51.5
Group IV	208	61.5
Temp. employees	18	22.2

Services and activities

	2016
CRAI	
Libraries	17
Monograph collections	1,678,271
Journals and periodicals	77,602
Total loans	686,092
Reading desks	6,070
UB Sports users (subscribers and competitors)	4,384

Cultural activities

	2016
Visitors to guided tours of the Historic Building	4,625
Concerts at the Music Cycle	17
Temporary exhibitions at Virtual Museum	11



Store of the University of Barcelona in the hall of the Historic Building

Research and Technology Transfer

	2014	2015	2016
Income generated through competitive and non-competitive research funding (thousands of euros)	87,209	88,988	107,326
Research projects	25,312	31,471	47,384
Complementary actions	305	369	—
Grants and financial aid	19,835	13,740	7,681
Infrastructure	185	—	657
Research agreements	538	248	445
FBG contracts	10,043	8,697	12,532
Services provided by Science and Technology Centres to other institutions	2,901	3,236	3,250
Income generated by UB researchers at institutions ¹	28,090	31,227	35,377

¹ Includes income from the activity of UB researchers in competitive and non-competitive research projects at the August Pi i Sunyer Biomedical Research Institute (IDIBAPS), the Bellvitge Biomedical Research Institute (IDIBELL), the Institute for Bioengineering of Catalonia (IBEC), the Catalonia Institute for Energy Research (IREC), the Institute for Research in Biomedicine (IRB), the Centre for Ecological Research and Forestry Applications (CREAF), the Institute of Space Studies of Catalonia (IEEC), the Barcelona Institute for Global Health (ISGlobal) and the Centre for

Research activity	2016	Technology and knowledge transfer	2015
Active research projects	997	FBG contracts	726
Horizon 2020 projects	43	New technology-based spin-offs	4
Research-integrated professors	2.276	Priority patent applications	17
Contracted research doctors	216	Priority patent requests	12
Predoctoral research staff	584	International patent extensions (PCT)	17
Research-support PAS	653	National patent applications	38
Consolidated research groups (as recognized by the Government of Catalonia)	303	Invention communications	53
Emerging research groups	22		

Evolution of research activity	2014	2015	2016
Trainee researchers	5,431	4,774	4,890
Projects in industrial doctoral programmes	9	15	16
Doctoral theses read	752	1,131	1,158
Scientific publications (ISI)	5,180	5,186	5,381
Patent applications	54	93	67



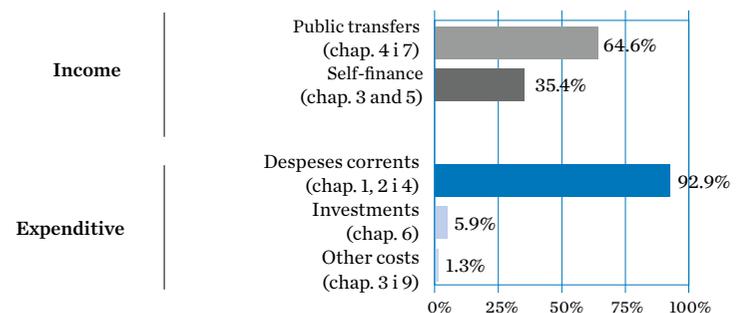
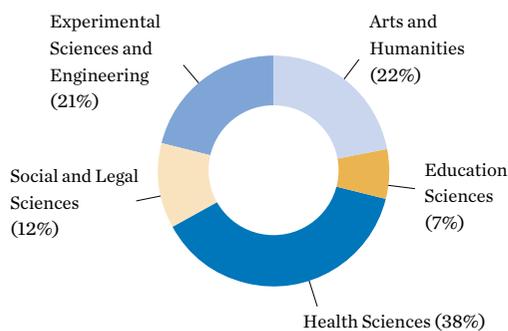
Budget 2017 (in thousands of euros)

Income	371,676
Chap. 3 Fees and other income	125,559
Chap. 4 Current transfers	225,935
Chap. 5 Additions to capital	5,929
Chap. 7 Capital transfers	4,253

Expenditure	371,676
Chap. 1 Staff costs	270,503
Chap. 2 Acquisition goods/services	66,454
Chap. 3 Financial costs	2,863
Chap. 4 Current transfers	8,171
Chap. 6 Real estate investments	21,796
Chap. 9 Financial liabilities	1,889

Evolution	2015	2016	2017
Budget	367,065	371,692	371,676

Trainee researchers by knowledge area



Territorial distribution of the UB: the campuses and the centres

Torre de la Creu

Sant Joan de Déu University School of Nursing

Diagonal Knowledge Gateway Campus

- Faculty of Biology
- Faculty of Chemistry
- Faculty of Earth Sciences
- Faculty of Economics and Business
- Faculty of Fine Arts
- Faculty of Law
- Faculty of Pharmacy and Food Science
- Faculty of Physics
- Penyafort-Montserrat Hall of Residence
- Barcelona Science Park
- Science and Technology Centres
- Sports UB

Sant Jordi Hall of Residence

Faculty of Library and Information Science

Medicine Campus Clínic August Pi i Sunyer

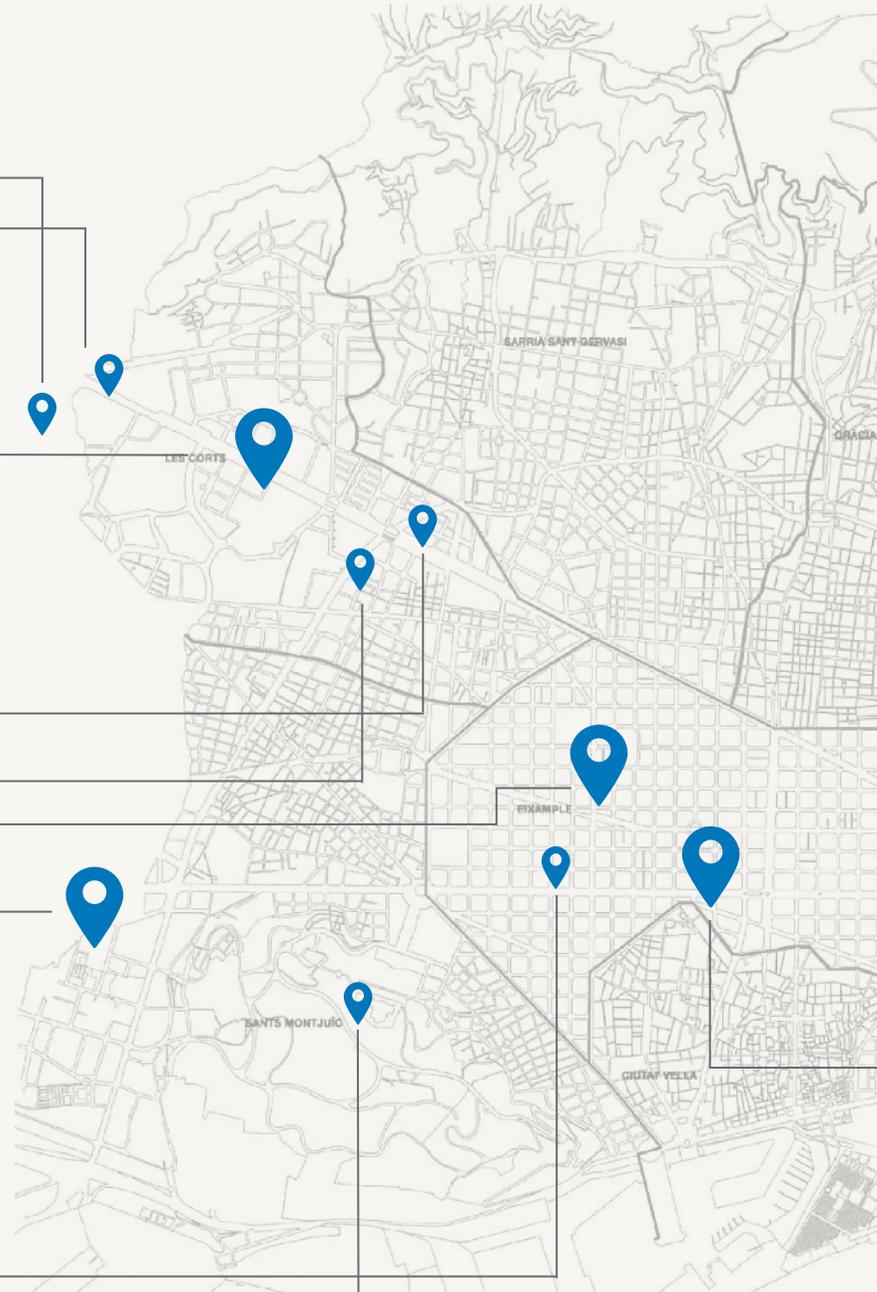
- Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences
- Hospital Clínic of Barcelona
- Ramon Llull Hall of Residence

Bellvitge Health Sciences Campus

- Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences
- University Hospital of Bellvitge

School of Public Relations (ESRP)

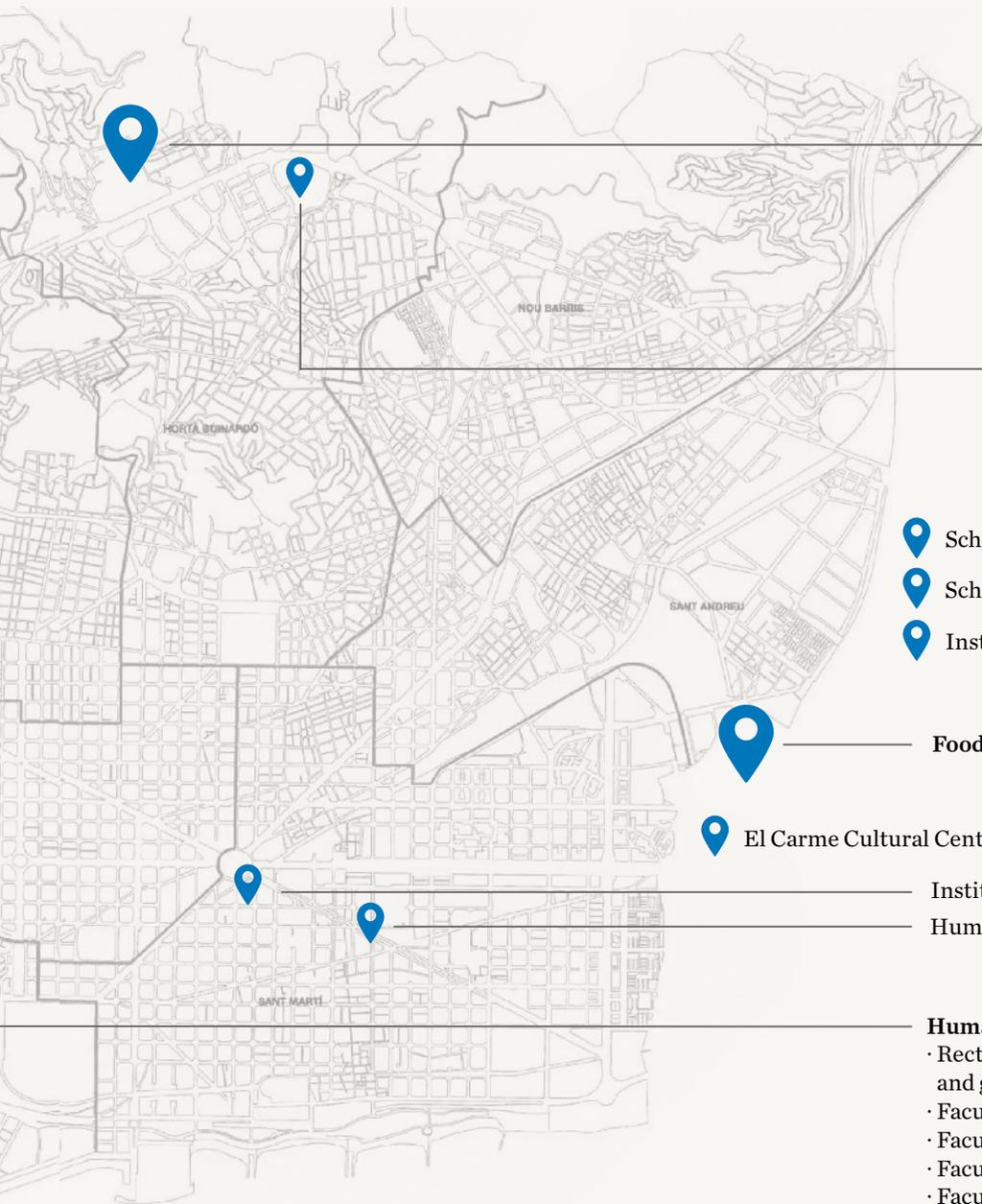
National Institute of Physical Education of Catalonia (INEFC)



A university spanning the centuries and serving the community



UNIVERSITAT DE
BARCELONA



Mundet Campus

- Faculty of Education
- Faculty of Psychology
- Institute of Education Sciences (ICE)

University School of Hotel Management
and Tourism CETT

- School of Cinema and Audiovisual Studies of Catalonia (ESCAC)
- School of Trade and Distribution (ESCODI)
- Institute of Public Safety of Catalonia (ISPC)

Food and Nutrition Torribera Campus

El Carme Cultural Centre

Institute for Lifelong Learning IL3
Humanities and Social Sciences Park

Humanities Campus

- Rector's Office, General Manager's Office
and general services
- Faculty of Geography and History
- Faculty of Philology
- Faculty of Philosophy
- Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science
- School of Modern Languages (EIM)
- Institute of Hispanic Studies
- School of New Interactive Technologies (ENTI)



«I love studying. I want to finish my studies in order to help people here, and one day I'd like to go back to my country and help my own people.»

Eliana Sabreen, first-year Dentistry student



A UNIVERSITY ENGAGED WITH SOCIETY

Services for the university community

Institutional and cultural activities

Student services

2



Services for the university community



The University of Barcelona pursues its commitment to society in a range of areas. In the area of **social responsibility**, for instance, the UB has now published a seventh activity report, showing its social, economic and environmental impact. As in previous reports, the UB followed the guidelines set by the Global Reporting Initiative. Some of the other initiatives that demonstrate the UB's firm commitment to social responsibility include participation in the Erasmus+ project called University Meets Social Responsibility and the preparation of an online course on social responsibility that has been taken by nearly all administrative and service staff at the UB.

Service-learning projects offer an approach to teaching and research that integrates service to the community and academic learning in a single project where students learn about the real needs in the environment in order to make improvements. Service-learning (ApS) projects seek to respond to social needs identified by social organizations, educational centres and other institutions and enable students to take action through educational activities within specific subjects (depending on each subject's content and competences) and through other academic activities, such as the bachelor's or master's degree final projects.

Since 2013, the ApS Group at the UB has been working to consolidate, publicize and spread the service-learning approach at the University of Barcelona. The working group is completely in-



The University of Barcelona has approved a protocol for transsexual and transgender students and lecturers to use the name they wish according to their specific choice of definition, which will be valid across all their activities and free of legal implications.

El Punt Avui, 1 December 2016

terdisciplinary in nature. Its members include teaching staff from several faculties and areas of knowledge. In the academic year 2016-2017, the participants included 94 members of the teaching and research staff in 10 different faculties, and 1,405 students.

In the past year, the UB has also set up an **Ethics Committee** to create codes of good practice that reflect the values and principles that need to guide the conduct of officials and members of the university community. The initial work has focused on drafting two codes, one for managers that draws on the current code for officials in the Government of Catalonia, and the other to regulate electoral processes at the University of Barcelona.

In the area of **Equality**, the UB's Governing Council has approved and rolled out a protocol on the procedure by which transsexual and transgender

A COMMITMENT
TO THE ENVIRONMENT



36%

reduction in water
consumption since 2012

members of the UB community can change their name. This new procedure addresses people's right to equality and non-discrimination, the safeguarding of their dignity and their right to moral integrity and intimacy. The protocol also enables transsexual and transgender people at the UB to use the name they want to use in accordance with their situation in all activities that do not have legal consequences.

With the aim of establishing a policy to prevent and eradicate gender-based violence, the Equality Unit has worked with all the equality committees in the UB's faculties to organize workshops and training sessions with students as part of the project called *Cuida't, cuida: Com construir relacions sexoafectives sanes?* which offers tools for sexual and affective relationships that are safe and healthy.

The **Ombuds Office** is an independent, autonomous body charged with defending the rights and freedoms of the student body, teaching and research staff (PDI), and administrative and service staff (PAS). This academic year it has dealt with 358 complaints and queries.

Also, the **Support and Mediation Office** continues to create, maintain and cultivate the culture of respect and humanization that the UB seeks to uphold, and the Governing Council has now approved student access to the service.

In the area of **occupational risk prevention and sustainability**, the main lines of action have been



UB Social Work students are taking part in a pioneering project to change popular misconceptions about the neighbourhood of La Mina, which official sources have helped to perpetuate. This reflection is framed within the service-learning methodology, which combines field work with community service.

El Periódico, 16 April 2017



the management of health and safety at work, the integration of prevention in all areas of the university community, research support for regulatory compliance with aspects of biosafety, emergency preparation and response, sustainability, and social assistance.

For the management of health and safety at work, steps have been taken to manage, minimize and eliminate the risk factors in staff workplaces across all areas of prevention: occupational safety, industrial hygiene, ergonomics, psychosocial aspects and health monitoring.

In the health area, specific workplace check-ups have been offered to staff in various centres and services on a voluntary basis and staff with special risks have been given their annual check-up. Based on the results, adaptations have been made to workplaces for reasons of health (protection for pregnant women and for workers who are particularly sensitive to certain risks).

The UB has also held training workshops and sessions aimed at staff and postgraduates and provided resources to teaching staff to ensure that risk prevention and sustainability are included in teaching plans for undergraduate students. The Induction Plan for new staff continues to focus on preventive actions that they can take.

In the area of applied psycho-sociology, the efforts include job profile diagrams in occupational health,

workplace risk assessments and the management of cases of psychosocial risks in accordance with the pertinent protocol.

With regards to emergency prevention, work has continued on the preparation of self-protection plans for buildings that did not have one and on the adaptation of existing plans to current regulations. Annual drills have been conducted for most of the existing plans and the operation of the buildings' structural and fire protection elements have been analysed.

Highlights in the area of **social assistance** include the management and coordination of the first informational day on the actions affecting people with a disability in case of emergency on UB premises. The informational sessions were held at the Faculties of Philosophy and of Geography and History, with the collaboration of Premap, ONCE, the Barcelona firefighters' civil protection and prevention division and the UB's Student Support Services.

In addition, the Biosafety Committee has taken the first steps toward a notification procedure for the authorization of facilities and activities involving the manipulation of genetically modified organisms. Needs in this area continue to be identified.

The Office of Health, Safety and Environmental Issues continues its coordination of efforts under the UB's Sustainability Plan. The work is primarily in the areas of waste management, mobility, training,

**A COMMITMENT
TO SPORT**



90

medals won
by UB competitors in
university championships



communication and raising awareness. Highlights include the reorganization of waste containers resulting in the reduction of bins for residual, undifferentiated waste and the relocation of selective collection points for recycling; the Retorna UB project, which aims to increase the recovery of beverage containers; the implementation of a specific Twitter account; the quarterly dissemination of energy and water consumption data on the UB's faculties and schools; and the publication on the UB website of updates on any actions carried out in the context of the Sustainability Plan.

Also, the Governing Council has reviewed and approved the UB's new Sustainability Policy, which had been endorsed by the UB Senate's Sustainability Committee. The Sustainability Policy addresses aspects such as sustainability as part of the UB's subjects and the minimization of the environmental impact of the UB's buildings and the activities carried out on their premises. The Sustainability Policy strives to go beyond strict compliance with current environmental regulations.

UB Sports has 100,000 sq m of facilities dedicated to healthy activities and the creation of social bonds within the university community. The UB is also represented in university sporting competitions throughout Catalonia, Spain and Europe. In 2016-2017, 396 athletes competed for the UB.

Six years ago, UB Sports helped to establish Lligues Universitàries de Barcelona, an amateur university

sports league in which seven universities from Catalonia take part. In the league's sixth year, registered participants totalled 1,613 (1,348 men and 265 women).

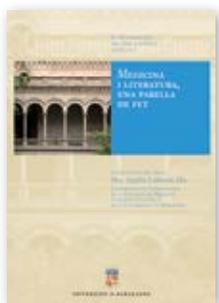
Throughout 2016, the UB continued to strengthen the website of its **Advantages Programme**, which features discounts and promotions offered to the university community by businesses and institutions. The website, which is adapted for mobile devices, contains over 125 offers segmented by group and type and it receives an average of 3,600 visits a month.





26 million visits to the UB website
(more than 71,000 per day)

Institutional and cultural activities



Within the framework of **institutional activities**, the start of the academic year 2016-2017 was celebrated with an opening address entitled *Medicina i literatura: una parella de fet* (in English, “Medicine and Literature: A De Facto Union”), which was delivered by **Dr Amàlia Lafuente**, professor in the Department of Basic Clinical Practice at the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences.

The **UB Gold Medal** was awarded to the philosopher **Emilio Lledó**, Montserrat monk and historian **Hilari Raguer** and the rector of the University of Buenos Aires, **Alberto Barbieri**.

The **Doctors’ Senate**, with 962 members, awarded its 20th annual prize to **Dr Marta Kulis** (Department of Medicine at the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences) for her doctoral thesis *Decoding the DNA methylome of normal and neoplastic B cells*.

The jury for the **Board of Trustees Awards**, in their twelfth year, gave the José Manuel Blecua Prize to Dr David Castells Quintana, and the Ramon Margalef Prize to Dr Benjamí Oller Salvia. Awards presented in conjunction with the Bosch i Gimpera Foundation (FBG) included the Antoni Caparrós Prize, which went to the Dr Marta Cascante Serratosa and her team for their project “Valorització dels residus de l’oliverar per a noves aplicacions en l’àmbit de la salut: càncer colorectal, dermatologia i cosmètica”, on assessing the use of olive waste products in new healthcare applications such as colorectal cancer, dermatology and cosmetics, and to Dr Mireia Freixa

Serra for her exhibition project “Modernism: Arts, Tallers, Indústries”, as well as the Senén Vilaró Award for the best innovative company, which went to Minoryx Therapeutics, SL.

Notable **awards and distinctions** received by members of the university community include:

AWARD OR DISTINCTION	RECIPIENTS
Doctor honoris causa from the Babeş-Bolyai University of Cluj-Napoca	Jaume Bosch
Doctor honoris causa from the Rovira i Virgili University	Ramon Gomis
Doctor honoris causa from the University of the Balearic Islands	Joan Veny
Doctor honoris causa from the University of Valencia	Eduard Vieta
Medal of Honour (Gold) from the Parliament of Catalonia	Manel Esteller
National Essay Prize	Josep Maria Esquirol
51st Serra d’Or Critics Award for Research (other sciences)	Josep Pla
XXVIII Catalonia International Prize	Manel Esteller Joan Massagué
Spanish Royal Society of Chemistry Prizes	Eliseo Ruiz Antoni Riera Joan Bosch
Permanent members of the Royal European Academy of Doctors	Mariano Monzó Montserrat Casanovas

Awards of the UB Board of Trustees and Bosch i Gimpera Foundation to research and knowledge transfer



City of Barcelona Award in the category of experimental sciences and technology	Carme Rovira
58th Carles Riba Poetry Prize	Maria Cabrera
ICREA Academy	Noemí Pereda Giancarlo Franzese Susana Narotzky
Research Excellence Prize of the Spanish Royal Society of Chemistry	Juan José Novoa
XXVIII Rey Jaime I Prize for medical research	Elías Campo
BBVA Foundation Frontiers of Knowledge Award	Pedro Alonso
The Ramon Margalef Prize for Ecology	Josep Peñuelas

A plaque was unveiled in the Ferran Soldevila Garden on the grounds of the Historic Building in memory of the victims of the tragic bus accident at Freginals (Montsià) in March 2016. Also, in December, the UB held its annual celebration to honour PAS staff members with 25 years of service.

The UB has stepped up its promotion of **guided tours** of the Historic Building, distributing new printed materials and posting new materials in social media. In total, 196 tours were conducted during the year, attended by 4,625 visitors from among the general public, official visitors and representatives of diverse institutions. In addition, combined tours of the Historic Building and the Conciliary Seminary of Barcelona are now offered: there were 10 in the past year, with a total of 238 visitors taking part.



Plaque in memory of the thirteen victims of the accident in Freginals (Montsià), set at the Ferran Soldevila Garden in the Historic Building

In terms of **cultural activities**, the **30th Music Cycle** brought a series of 17 concerts to the Historic Building's Paraninfo Hall, including two performances of the Christmas Concert featuring the University of Barcelona Choir, under the direction of Jordi-Lluís Rigol, and the University of Barcelona Orchestra, under the baton of Carles Gumí, in a rendition of Franz Joseph Haydn's mass *Missa in tempore belli*. The soloists were Marta Arbonés, soprano; Eulàlia Fantova, mezzo-soprano; and José Cabrero, tenor. Two further highlights were the continued participation of the Barcelona Youth Symphony Orchestra

GUIDED TOURS OF THE
HISTORIC BUILDING

4,625 visitors on
196 tours



Concert by Calvin Love, at Els Vespres de la UB

(JOSB) and the addition of the 20th Concert Cycle of University Choirs and Orchestras to the programme of activities.

As part of its summertime cultural offering, the UB continued to host the **Els Vespres** evenings. Six small concerts were held in the Ferran Soldevila Garden on the grounds of the Historic Building, drawing 1,600 listeners.

The **Virtual Museum** of the University of Barcelona showcased 11 temporary exhibitions corresponding to physical exhibitions spread across various UB campuses, and a new collection was published: the Ferran Soldevila Garden Live Plants Collection. Another highlight was the publication of a new virtual tour of the Historic Building with expanded content and a fresh format.



The collection *Instrumenta* has been awarded the seal of Academic Publishing Quality

In an effort to raise awareness of the UB's bibliographic resources and safeguard its heritage, the UB's Learning and Research Resource Centre (CRAI) has continued with its **Sponsor a document** project, which has raised €3,932 over the past year for the restoration and digitization of 3 books.

UB Publications and Editions has published paper and electronic editions of some 200 works of reference, among them institutional books, teaching guides, popular science, scientific journals and monographs, generated by the research of the University's teaching staff. The collection *Instrumenta*, edited by Dr José Remesal, has been awarded the seal

of Academic Publishing Quality by the Union of Spanish University Presses, with the backing of the National Agency for Quality Assessment and Accreditation and the Spanish Foundation for Science and Technology. To publicise its output, Publications and Editions has taken part in eleven national and international fairs and initiatives, including Catalan Book Week, the Madrid Book Fair, the International Book Fair (Liber), the Mexico City International University Book Fair and Frankfurt Book Fair. It has also organized forty-two book presentations at a variety of bookstores and institutions.

The University has signed **collaboration agreements** with the Catalan Agency for Cultural Heritage (ACdPC), for the development of a temporary exhibition at the Museum of Catalan History on the bibliographic treasures of the UB; with the Badalona City Council, for the joint management of the Josep Uclés exhibition space in the El Carme Cultural Centre; and with the Victoria de los Ángeles Foundation, to establish the foundation's offices in the UB's Historic Building and to host some of the activities of the Lied Festival LIFE Victoria de los Ángeles.

The UB has organized and/or taken part in various **workshops, conferences, congresses, seminars and other cultural activities**, such as the congress entitled Constitutional Moments: Founding Myths, Charters and Constitutions Through History; the second annual international poetry conference; the III European Congress on Jewellery called “The Jewel in Art and Art in Jewel”; the second seminar of the Council for the Promotion and Dissemina-



The exhibition “Àfriques: pobles, terres i realitats”, at the Josep Uclés exhibition space in the El Carme Cultural, Badalona

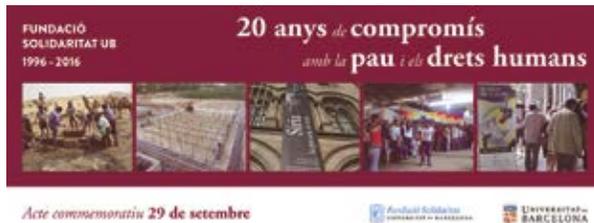


The University of Barcelona hosts the second seminar of the Council for the Promotion and Dissemination of Gaudí's Work



“My name is Eliana, I am 19 and I am from Syria. I am very lucky to be here and I owe this to the UB Solidarity Foundation, which is making things a lot easier for me”

Eliana Sabreen,
first-year Dentistry student



of the Council for the Promotion and Dissemination of Gaudí's Work; and, in May 2017, a day on the UB's heritage and future museum, with a session for reflection and open debate involving the participation of the entire university community. To study the important historical and artistic heritage of the University of Barcelona, the UB worked with the Conciliary Seminary of Barcelona and the provincial government of Barcelona to organize a conference on 6 and 7 June 2017 entitled **Elias Rogent and Barcelona: Architecture, Heritage and Restoration**. Participants delved deeply into the cherished architecture and heritage of the Conciliary Seminary and the Historic Building, both of which are works of the architect Elias Rogent. Participants included young researchers and leading educators and experts. As a complementary activity, the UB organized an exhibition called “**Elias Rogent and Barcelona: The Literary University and the Conciliary Seminary**”, which went on display in the gallery of the Paranimf, the Philology Library, the Historical Archive, and the Public Library of the Episcopal Seminary of Barcelona.

The University of Barcelona [exhibition pro-](#)

[gramme](#) has encompassed a total of eight exhibition projects, with five hosted in various areas of the Historic Building: “Gaudí Nocturn”, “Reality Under Siege: Between Tradition and Contemporaneity”, a photographic exhibition entitled “La vida entera”, “The Assumpció Català Telescope” and “Elias Rogent and Barcelona: The Building of the Literary University”.

The Josep Uclés exhibition space mentioned above hosted three exhibitions, each with a series of accompanying activities. The shows were called “Olfactorium Badalona”, by Nasevo; “Àfriques: pobles, terres i realitats”, on the peoples, lands and realities of Africa; and “Forjadors de la festa”.

The UB's programme of [University Extension Courses for Older Learners](#) is now into its 37th year, welcoming 4,057 students for the academic year, with 76% of the students being women and approximately 3% being over 90 years of age. The number of complementary seminars has also increased, with the addition of new subject areas such as the history of religion and scientific dissemination, and the consolidation of seminars on history, biology, astronomy, history of art, European, Spanish and Catalan literature, and history of music. Choral and theatre activities also continue to attract many participants each year.

The [UB Solidarity Foundation](#) focuses its work on social action, development cooperation, volunteering and the promotion of human rights and a culture

VOLUNTEERS



2,246

volunteers within
the UB community

of peace. It provides advice and evaluation, launches projects and engages in projects led by other institutions and organizations that mobilize members of the university community. In terms of social action, highlights include programmes focusing on education for global citizenship and human rights and on democratic memory, as well as collaborations with diverse entities for the social and professional integration of people belonging to groups at risk of exclusion or in situations of special hardship. Internationally, the UB is carrying out projects on water management, improvement of local governance and citizen participation in Morocco, rural development and peace building in Colombia, and the implementation of rural development projects at universities in Senegal and Mauritania. On education for global citizenship and human rights, the UB and the Institute of Education Sciences announced the Twelfth Award for Peace Research, and various activities have been carried out within the framework of the *Tardor Solidària* (Solidarity Autumn) programme. The European Observatory on Memories, a project funded by the European Commission, continues its work to preserve and honour the memory of human rights violations throughout Europe and the struggles for democracy and freedom that have been waged in Europe over the past 100 years. Of special importance is the support programme for refugees from conflict zones, which assisted more than 60 people in the academic year 2016-2017. In addition, the UB has now instituted a transition course for bachelor's studies that is meant for refugee university students who wish to continue their bachelor's

degree or master's programme at the UB.

The UB also organized its second **Panera Solidària** ("Solidarity Hamper"), with gifts provided through UB partners and services. Members of the university community purchase raffle tickets for the hamper. In 2016, 728 people bought tickets, representing an increase of 20% over 2015, and 4,274 euros were collected, representing an increase of 132% over 2015. The collected moneys went to the telethon hosted by TV3 for people suffering strokes or spinal and traumatic brain injuries.

UB Volunteers is an initiative aimed at promoting values like solidarity, engagement and empathy and building a more committed and socially responsible university. Volunteers have collaborated in the work of various charitable associations with the aim of improving the quality of life for more disadvantaged people.

In addition, the UB's Learning and Research Resource Centre (CRAI) collaborates with the Department of Justice of the Government of Catalonia on **projects to benefit the community**: throughout 2016, 11 people took part. The UB also participated in the Recycle Culture campaign on St George's Day.

As for the restoration of **historical memory**, the UB has signed an agreement with the Government of Catalonia to give genetic samples from the DNA bank for victims of the Spanish civil war so that they can be added to a database for the genetic identification of people who disappeared during the war



Student services



Information and orientation activities for prospective and incoming students

The Student Support Service has planned and coordinated several information and orientation activities especially designed to facilitate the transition to university for prospective students of varying backgrounds, and to provide new students with the tools they need to integrate and adapt to the university environment.

To distribute information about the academic programmes on offer, the UB participated in the National Education Fair; Futura 2016, for master's degrees and postgraduate programmes; the Aula Madrid education fair, and the Ciutadella Higher Education Fair in Menorca, among others. The UB also took part in the University Orientation Unitour, attending fairs in Palma and Bilbao.

Orientation and information on the transition from secondary school to university is provided through targeted initiatives such as *Apropa't a la UB* ("Come to the UB") and *La UB s'apropa* ("The UB comes to you"). This year, through *La UB s'apropa*, the UB advised 12,206 students at 206 secondary schools (including schools in Ibiza). *Apropa't a la UB* included seven talks given to 337 secondary school students to help them in their choice of studies.

Information on the University of Barcelona's various faculties and schools and the bachelor's degrees on offer was also provided to 4,513 visiting second-

ary school students at **UB Open House Days**, and various kinds of activities such as workshops, laboratory sessions, geological excursions and talks were offered to secondary schools.

The UB collaborated in the promotion and management of various **contests and prizes** sponsored by different faculties and schools, such as the UB-Ferran Adrià Award with Gallina Blanca (Faculty of Pharmacy and Food Science), CETT-UB awards for research projects in tourism, the Crystallization Contest (Faculty of Geology), and the Photophilosophy Exhibition (Faculty of Philosophy).

This year saw the second **Secondary School Debate League**, coordinated by the Vives University Network. Some 14 secondary schools registered to participate in the local phase, which was won by Hamelin Laie International School of Montgat, who went on to represent the University of Barcelona in the finals held at Pompeu Fabra University.

The UB's **welcome programme** reached out to all new incoming students to facilitate their integration. The various UB faculties and schools organized informational sessions. A student diary was produced with information on activities, services, administrative procedures, useful telephone numbers and addresses, and additional specific material was distributed to international students.

In the area of **accommodation**, the UB once again collaborated with the Catalunya-La Pedrera Foun-



Institutional welcome of international students



dition's *Viure i Conviure* accommodation programme (the UB is the public university with the highest number of students enrolled in the programme) and with Barcelona Centre Universitari. In addition, a number of agreements have been signed with the aim of providing a more extensive offering of student accommodation.

Information access and queries

A total of 42,419 student queries on academic programmes and services were answered, including telephone, email and face-to-face queries, and the web portal MónUB received a total of 21,482,825 visits over the course of the academic year.

The **CRAI libraries** provided students with all the resources they needed to facilitate learning and study throughout their time at the UB. Over the past academic year, bachelor's students have borrowed 372,422 documents, and 13,262 bachelor's students have participated in training courses on information resources.

This year the UB has also launched a new application for mobile devices. Called the **UB Virtual Campus**, the application enables UB students to enter and browse subjects, download materials, check grades and receive notifications of alerts sent by teaching staff or through calendar reminders. Students can also take part in forums and chats.

Career services and placements

The **Feina UB** programme helps UB students with their career process by providing support and advice to UB faculties and schools, to students directly, and to companies and institutions. The UB took part in the organization of several fairs and business forums, including the first Talent Forum on Biomedical Engineering. Over the past academic year, the Job Bank has listed 14,848 job offers and placements.

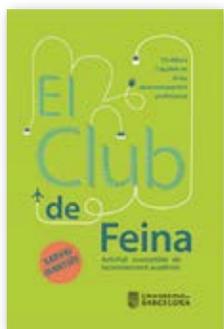
In the case of **external academic placements**, 12,548 students completed periods with companies and institutions, of which 3,519 were extra-curricular placements. Within the framework of the Erasmus+ mobility programme, 122 UB students completed placements abroad, while 46 international students completed placements at the UB. Development has continued on the new GIPE application for the integrated management of placements and a model framework agreement has been instituted for students to do placements within the departments of the Government of Catalonia.

The fourth round of **Santander Grants** for paid internships was held. Thanks to this collaboration agreement between Santander Bank, the Conference of Rectors of Spanish Universities and the Spanish Confederation of Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises, 31 UB students enjoyed the benefit of the grants.

FEINA UB
PROGRAMME

12,548

students completed
external academic
placements



This past year has also witnessed the first call for the **ONCE Foundation-CRUE Placement Grants**, which resulted in the awarding of financial assistance to five students with some degree of disability equal to or greater than 33%.

In addition, 103 students from Spanish and international schools and universities completed an internship at a UB centre.

Career guidance

Several **careers guidance programmes** have reached a total of 7,535 students. Designed to provide advice on decision-making, career orientation and skills development, most of the programmes are covered under the third collaboration agreement between the Catalan Ministry of Business and Knowledge, through the Secretariat for Universities and Research, and the Catalan universities. The aim of the third collaboration agreement is to enhance the employability of young students and university graduates.

Skills training for students and new graduates included 39 face-to-face training courses and four online courses available through the UB's Virtual Campus. A total of 1,656 students took part, with 674 completing the virtual courses on job search strategies, personal branding and Web 2.0 tools for job seekers.

The **Job Club** offers personalized advice, resources and activities to assist students and new degree holders in defining their career goals, building self-knowledge and designing a training plan and professional project. Of the 1,009 students visiting the Job Club, 463 received advice and made use of the available resources, 373 attended the 16 monographic sessions held, and 173 participated in a total of 23 fortnightly workshops focusing on CV preparation and job interviews.

The UB's team of advisors carried out a total of 246 **personal interviews** with students and new graduates, providing advice on career prospects, options for continuing their education or changing their studies, and guidance for secondary school students on their choice of university degrees. In this context, the UB continues to help students who take part in some integration programme. For the first time, in fact, the UB worked with five Syrian students who were taking part in a university preparatory course offered under the support programme for refugees from conflict zones, sponsored by the UB Solidarity Foundation. The specific focus was to help the students in their choice of university degrees.

The Student Support Service (SAE) also offers a programme of personalized advice to students in disciplines within the Faculties of Education and Psychology. The programme, known as **El SAE s'apropra a Mundet** ("The SAE comes to Mundet Campus"), has resulted in 74 guidance sessions in the past year.



In addition, SAE coordinated a total of 132 **careers guidance activities** for the UB's various faculties and affiliated centres, which involved 4,213 students in all. SAE meets the specific needs of each faculty and school through welcome sessions, career guidance programmes (throughout undergraduate life) and business fairs. For the third year in a row, the UB has also played an active role in the working group on Guidelines and Tools for University Orientation, which is part of University Information and Orientation Services.

Student integration programmes

Actions undertaken within the scope of integration programmes are designed to help disabled students or those with special needs enjoy equal opportunities in academic life. The various services and resources for this student group are offered through the **Fem Via programme**, which serves the 745 enrolled students with a disability of 33% or more, and the **Avança programme** for students with special educational needs, which was used by 112 students. Within the framework of these two programmes, 1,566 advisory and follow-up actions have been carried out, 80 reports on curriculum adaptations have been issued, 32 students have received support products on loan, the collaboration of 44 support students has been coordinated, and 2,576 hours of interpreting have been offered to ten students with hearing impairment.

The Mobility and International Programmes office works to promote the international mobility of students with disabilities. Over the past year, the effort has included participation in the VII Meeting of the National Network of Services for People with Disabilities at University as well as involvement in various actions of the Technical Committee on Universities and Disability in Catalonia.

UB Alumni

With a current membership of 5,371, the objective of **UB Alumni** is to establish a stable relationship between the UB and former students, creating a context for common services, knowledge exchange, professional relationships, opportunities, professional growth and shared benefits.

Over the 2016-2017 academic year, UB Alumni organized 65 activities relating to several areas of knowledge. The events drew the attendance of 1,333 individuals, 466 being UB Alumni members. In the area of job offers, 1,308 companies used the UB Alumni platform, posting 1,863 positions. Some 14 career activities were held, attracting 493 participants.

UB Alumni again ran the publicity campaign known as *Orgull UB* (UB Pride) to raise the visibility of its efforts.





“Here, sport and university are still different worlds, but if there’s one thing I knew for sure it was that I wanted to stay because I knew that the UB is one of the best universities where I could take my studies.”

Marta Bach,
third-year Human Nutrition and Dietetics
student and water polo silver medallist
at the London 2012 Olympic Games



A UNIVERSITY AT THE FOREFRONT OF EDUCATION

Academic course offering

Additional academic opportunities

Support services for teaching,
improvement and educational innovation

3





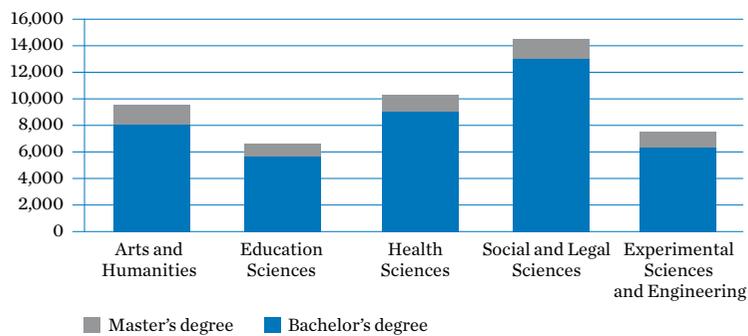
Academic course offering

In the academic year 2016-2017, the UB offered 73 **bachelor's degrees** and received 14,041 **first-preference applications** for 10,814 places, putting the demand ratio for places at 1.3. The highest numbers of first-preference applications were received for Business Administration and Management (865), Psychology (854), Medicine at the Medicine Campus – Hospital Clínic August Pi i Sunyer (831)

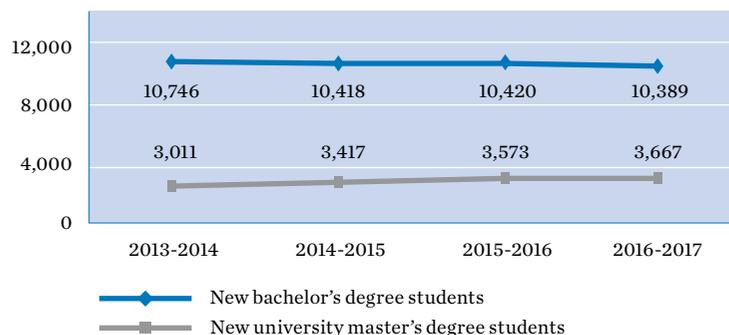
and Law (608). A total of 42,997 bachelor's degree (including the UB degree of Private Investigation) were enrolled at UB faculties, including 10,389 new students and 4,053 at UB-affiliated centres.

A total of 151 **university master's degrees** were offered, with 5,539 students enrolled, while an additional 1,892 were enrolled at UB-affiliated centres. The most popular master's programmes were Secondary and Upper Secondary Education, Vocational Training and Foreign Language Teaching (408), Legal Practice (369), Women, Gender and Citizenship (135), General Health Psychology (130) and Advanced Medical Skills (124). Of the total number of students enrolled (including those at affiliated schools), 2,752 (37%) were international students, mainly from Latin America and – within Europe – Italy. There were also a significant number of students of Chinese nationality. The teaching of foreign languages was strengthened too, especially in master's courses, in which 16% of the instruction was in English.

Bachelor's and university master's degrees students



Evolution of bachelor's and university master's degree students at UB schools



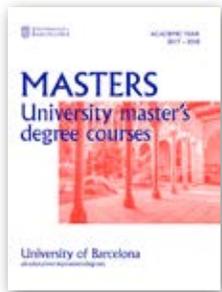
In 2016, the **accreditation** process for UB qualifications, which was initiated in the 2014-2015 academic year, resulted in 75 accreditations (33 bachelor's degrees and 42 university master's degrees). Of these, 26 were recognized as being "on track to excellence" (10 bachelor's degrees and 16 university master's degrees). Also, the master's degree in Economics obtained the highest assessment on the dimension of internationalization from the evaluation conducted by the Catalan University Quality Assu-

TRAINING



47,050

students in 73 bachelor's degrees (including affiliated centres)



rance Agency (AQU Catalunya). In 2017, an additional 36 assessments have been started (4 bachelor's degrees and 32 university master's degrees).

The accreditation process entails an internal evaluation (a self-report prepared by the heads of each school), a visit to the school by an external evaluation committee appointed by AQU Catalunya, and final accreditation by the Spanish Universities Council. In 2016, the process has involved 11 self-reports prepared by schools seeking accreditation of qualifications, followed by the corresponding visits.



A total of 7,261 bachelor's degree students and 56 Private Investigation's degree students graduated from UB schools, while 3,121 university master's de-

Postgraduate students

Area	Master's degrees	Specialization courses and postgraduate courses	Expert courses	Advanced university courses	University extension courses
Arts and Humanities	81	99	—	31	308
Social and Legal Sciences	922	345	221	54	206
Experimental Sciences and Engineering	98	15	38	67	196
Health Sciences	2,190	446	211	187	280
Education Sciences	119	71	63	11	5
Institute of Education Sciences	164	185	37	—	—
Institute for Lifelong Learning	1,823	1,224	72	42	26
Affiliated centres	285	59	19	14	242
Total	5,682	2,444	661	406	1,263
% women	73.2	76.3	68.7	61.1	53.8

**A COMMITMENT
TO INTERNATIONALIZATION**



37% of university
master's students
are international

degrees were awarded. In addition, special **academic achievement awards** went to 109 bachelor's degree students, and 86 master's degree students (for courses completed in the academic year 2015-2016).

The UB also offered 215 **specialization courses and postgraduate courses**, 23 **master's degrees**, 137 **expert courses**, and 124 **advanced university courses**, which were taken by 2,444, 5,682, 661 and 406 students, respectively. The high number of international students (25% of the total) underscores the strong degree of internationalization that continues to characterize postgraduate studies. The UB's **university extension programme** offered 93 courses, with 1,263 students enrolled. A total of 4 master's

programmes, 3 specialization diplomas and 3 expert courses were taught abroad.

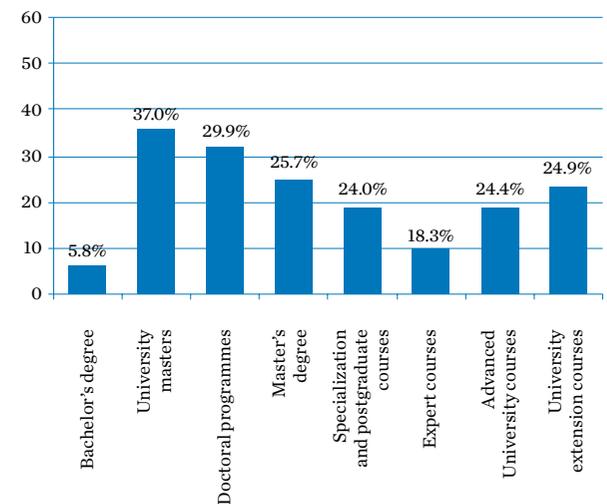
Over the course of the academic year, several **marketing campaigns** were run to promote the UB's course offering and increase the visibility and presence of its brand. Advertisements appeared in a variety of generalist and specialist educational media (press, digital media and billboards). The campaigns were also carried out internally, both online and offline. Thanks to collaboration agreements signed with various media companies, advertisements have appeared at no cost to the UB, enabling the campaigns to reach a wide audience.

International reach of the student body*

Studies	International students
Bachelor's degree	2,723
University master's degree	2,752
Doctoral programme	1,464
Master's degrees	1,463
Specialization courses	587
Expert courses	121
Advanced university courses	99
University extension courses	315
Total	9,524

*Includes students at the Institute taught at affiliated Education Sciences and the Institute for Lifelong Learning (IL3).

% International students



FINANCIAL AID FOR STUDENTS



463 beneficiaries of the bkUB programme

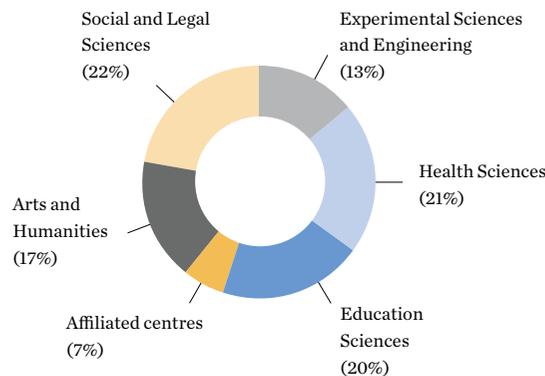


In order to increase student participation in international mobility calls, a campaign called **Vés més enllà** (“Go Beyond”) was run to circulate and promote the various mobility options that the University of Barcelona makes available to students.

Grants and financial aid

Over the past academic year, 20,466 applications were received for **general and mobility grants** for bachelor’s degrees and diplomas, and university master’s degrees. A total of 11,861 grants were awarded, with a total value of 28,684,816 euros distributed as follows: 11,622,654 euros for grants awarded to students entitled to full exemption from tuition fees, 108,720 for minimum variable-sum grants, 2,135,250 euros for residency-dependent fixed-sum grants,

General and mobility grants for bachelor’s degrees and university master’s degrees

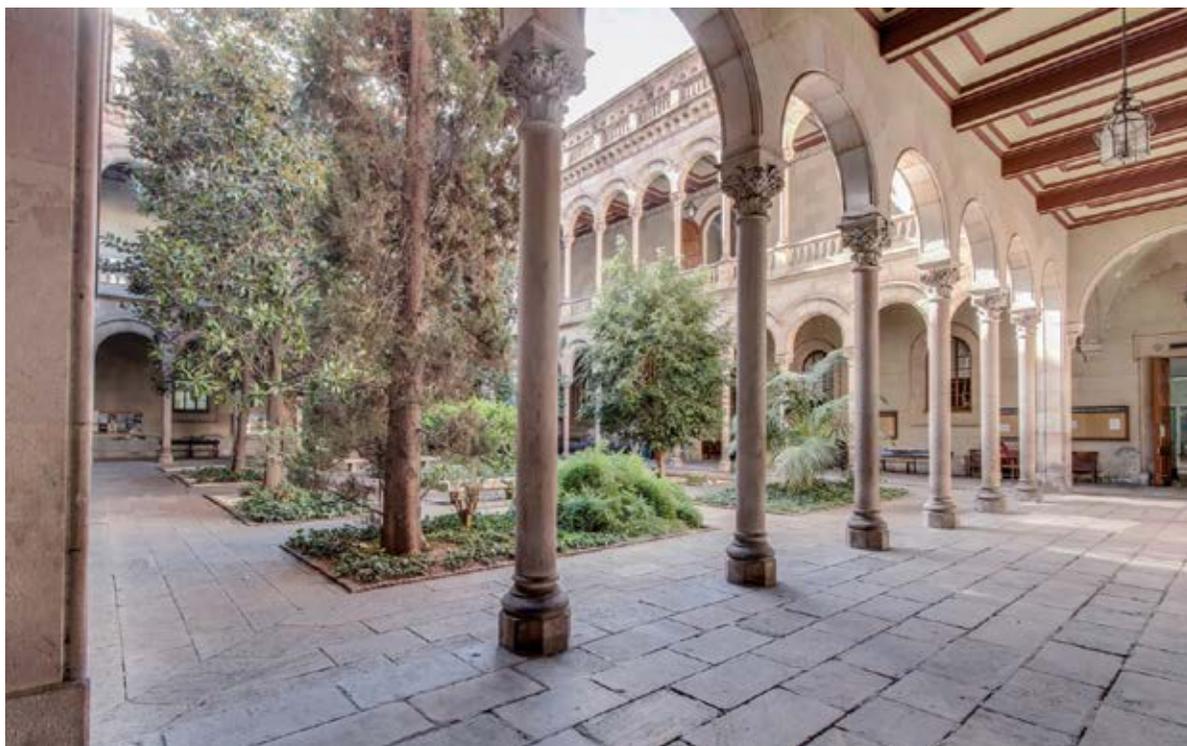


4,631,250 euros for means-tested fixed-sum grants, and 10,186,942 euros for variable-sum grants.

Additionally, 12,926 applications for means-tested **equity grants** were processed, of which 9,807 were awarded. These grants reduce enrolment fees for students by 10% to 50% depending on which of six means-based categories applies.

Lastly, the **University of Barcelona’s bkUB programme** encompasses a series of measures aimed at ensuring that financial difficulties do not prevent anyone from studying at the University. Within the framework of this programme, over 13,000 bachelor’s degree students took advantage of flexible payment options and four grant programmes were opened: one for incoming students, with 5 applications and 1 award, where the general grant is not sufficient; one for students repeating subjects, with 274 applications and 232 awards; one for students facing extraordinary circumstances, with 143 applications and 66 awards; and one for students to study third languages, with 190 applications and 164 awards.

The Spanish Ministry of Education, Culture and Sport awarded 114 departmental collaboration grants, with a total value of 228,000 euros; 510 **collaboration grants for UB services and units**, with a total value of 1,890,741 euros; 420 **faculty collaboration grants**, with a total value of 948,936 euros; and 12 grants for the Vives University Network’s **DRAC programme**, with a total value of 2,708 euros.



Grants and financial aid awarded

Grants awarded	Number	Amount (€)
General	11,861	28,684,816
Departmental collaboration	114	228,000
Collaboration with UB services	510	1,890,741
Collaboration with UB faculties/schools	420	948,936

Financial aid	Number
Drac programme	24
Mobility programme	465
Eurolife network grants	10
Becas Iberoamérica del Banco Santander	30
Grants for Els Juliols	30
UB Entrepreneurship Chair grant	1
Programa bkUB (convocatòries)	463
Equity grant	9,807

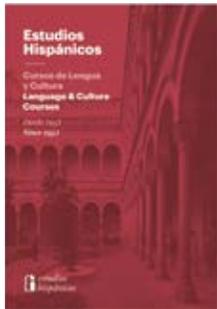
In the context of **mobility programmes**, a total of 465 grants were awarded, 443 for placements within the European Union and 22 for placements in other countries. Ten exchange grants were awarded to students enrolled in the master's degree in Biomedicine for placements within the **Eurolife** university network. An additional 30 Santander Bank international mobility grants (**Ibero-America grants**) provided a total of 90,000 euros in funding to support students who participated in various international exchange programmes. Also, 35 grants worth 70 euros each were awarded to people enrolled in the **Els Juliols** summer courses and one grant (equivalent to the tuition fee) was awarded by the **Entrepreneurship Chair of the École des Hautes Études Commerciales de Montréal**.

Within the framework of the **SICUE national mobility programme**, the UB signed bilateral agreements with 51 universities of Spain. Participating in the programme were 118 UB students and 446 students from Spanish universities.

OUR COMMITMENT
TO LANGUAGE
EDUCATION

12 foreign languages at the School of Modern Languages (EIM)

Additional academic opportunities



The **EIM**, Catalonia's first university language school, now has a network of 27 accredited centres (in 22 cities) that ensure quality language instruction to over 6,900 students.

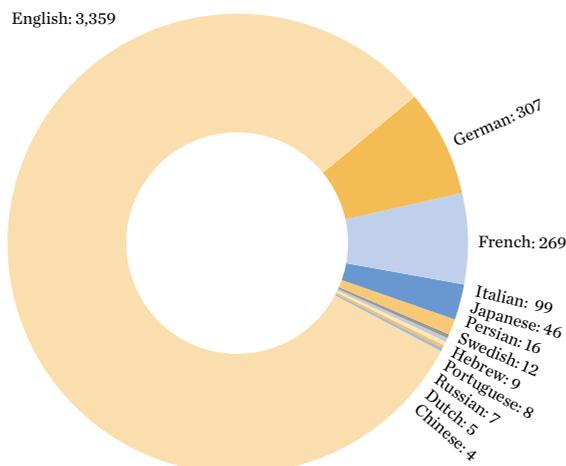
The **Educational Programmes** area offered courses in 12 languages during the academic year: Chinese, Dutch, English, French, German, Greek, Hebrew, Italian, Japanese, Persian, Portuguese, Russian and Swedish. A total of 4,141 students and 67 teachers participated in these courses. Over the year, 15 calls were held for language accreditations, and 1,094 individuals signed up for official examinations.

The **Institute of Hispanic Studies** provides education in Spanish language and culture to visiting

students. With a tradition that goes back over 60 years, the Institute organizes and delivers Spanish courses to students taking part in the Erasmus programme and runs examinations for them to obtain the Cervantes Institute's Diploma in Spanish as a Foreign Language (DELE). It also designs, organizes and teaches courses for groups with special needs or specific requirements.

In the academic year 2016-2017, a total of 743 students enrolled in Spanish language and culture courses at the Institute. The exam for the Diploma in Spanish as a Foreign Language (the DELE awarded by the Cervantes Institute) was taken by 783 individuals in 6 exam sittings. In addition, 472 accreditation exams for Spanish constitutional and sociocultural knowledge were taken in 10 exam sittings organized throughout the academic year by the Cervantes Institute as a necessary condition to obtain Spanish nationality.

Students enrolled in courses at the EIM



In the summer, the UB held the 21st annual **Els Juliols** programme. A total of 1,720 students enrolled in 54 summer courses led by 451 instructors. Various entities and foundations and nine municipal governments collaborated in the courses, which were held in Barcelona, Sant Joan Despí, L'Hospitalet de Llobregat, Cornellà de Llobregat, Vilafranca del Penedès, Terrassa, Alella, Santa Coloma de Gramenet and Viladecans. The programme included the 10th edition of the **Women's Summer University**, organized in collaboration with the Cornellà City Council's Information and Resource Centre for Women.



“For me, the time I spend at university is time for myself: my moment, to enjoy what I like and to disconnect from the pressures I get in my sports activities.”

Marta Bach,
third-year Human Nutrition and Dietetics
student and water polo silver medallist at the
London 2012 Olympic Games



The **Gaudir UB** programme, based in Barcelona and Sant Joan Despí, was run again this year. A total of 85 courses were offered over three terms; 2,867 students and 146 lecturers and specialists took part.



The seventh year of the **University of Experience** – the UB’s learning initiative for over-55s of any educational background – attracted 1,249 students this year, 601 of them being new students. Most of the enrolled students were between 55 and 65 years of age, while 63.25% were women. The number of programmes of study rose to 13, including a new one in Fine Arts, a year of further study in Biology, and a doubling of groups in History of Art and Philosophy in Badalona.

The University of Experience also delivered 29 courses and continued to organize complementary activities, such as courses in French and English for

specific purposes, courses in physical activity and chi kung, and, in association with the Conservatory of the Liceu, a variety of introductory music and instrumental courses. Within the framework of this initiative, the UB also took part in the 19th edition of the Saló de la Gent Gran de Catalunya.

Catalan language courses provided by the UB’s Language Services were offered as year-long, single-term and intensive summer courses at CEFR levels A1, A2, B1, B2, C1 and C2. Successful students receive official certificates of accreditation from the Government of Catalonia and recognition of ECTS credits toward their degree. A total of 77 courses were run, with 1,061 students enrolled. Also, 8 workshops with roughly 200 students were held. One highlight is the language learning completed by Syrian refugee students sponsored by the UB Solidarity Foundation, who started at level A1 in their first term. By the end of the academic year, most of them had achieved level B2 in Catalan and Spanish within a context of inter-comprehension of Romance languages. New workshops were also on offer to improve the writing of bachelor’s degree and master’s degree final projects. In addition, Catalan classes were offered to teaching and research staff (PDI) seeking to obtain a certificate of proficiency in Catalan for teaching at the UB, a qualification officially recognized as equivalent to “Level C” as defined by the Government of Catalonia, while administrative and service staff (PAS) could enrol in specially designed courses for multilingual assistance to the public. Catalan language proficiency tests were offered to both PDI and PAS groups as well.

A COMMITMENT
TO SOCIETY



1,249

students enrolled in 13 programmes at the University of Experience



Under the Plan for Languages, UB students and staff were again able to use Rosetta Stone computer-assisted language learning software, a self-access language-learning tool offered via the Virtual Campus. A total of 931 language learners from different sectors of the university community made use of the system. The UB's self-access language centres also facilitated the formation of peer conversation groups in English (with 922 student participants), French (47 participants), German (41), Italian (25), Portuguese (9) and basic Catalan (19). Other offerings included the Enjoy English activity, in which English is used in recreational contexts, such as improvisation and theatre groups (36 participants), a CV preparation workshop (19), reading and writing clubs (16), debates (22), and even a basketball team (9). There were self-access learning groups for beginners in German (18) and French (11).

As part of the UB's welcome programme for mobility students, 432 students took part in 17 cultural wel-

come activities and 140 international students took part in conversational exchanges with local students through the UB's Language Exchange. A total of 18 languages were used, including English, German, Korean, Russian, Czech, Romanian and Chinese.

The **Institute for Lifelong Learning (IL3-UB)** has promoted a new training offering that prioritizes two lines of development: digitization and training for specialist professionals. This is the IL3's response to the high demand for information on innovative subjects in fields like marketing and communication, human resources, information and communication technologies (ICTs) and the educational sector, given the impact of digitization in all fields of professional life. In addition, the IL3 has developed specific technical training proposals for ongoing refreshers and specialization for professionals in fields such as health and nutrition, education and management.

Students enrolled in lifelong learning courses (IL3)

Type of course	Open courses		Corporate solutions	
	Students	Courses	Students	Courses
Distance	5,180	23	—	—
Online	9,154	250	540	37
Face-to-face	2,374	123	735	59
Blended learning	871	32	341	16
Total	17,579	428	1,616	112

Further training and other students

	Students
School of Modern Languages	3,751
Hispanic Studies	743
University of Experience	1,249
Els Juliols summer courses	1,721
<i>Gaudir UB</i> courses	2,867
Language Services Catalan courses	919

Support services for teaching, improvement and educational innovation

The **Learning and Research Resources Centre (CRAI)** is made up of seventeen libraries, the Centre for Research on Plant Biodiversity and seven cross-university units that facilitate access to and disseminate information resources, as well as collaborating in learning and knowledge creation. In addition, this past year has witnessed the incorporation of the Digitization Centre, which can digitize the UB's library resources to a high level of quality and then disseminate them through the Digital Heritage Library portal, which has an increasing number of collections available each year.

Since 2011, the CRAI has been working to implement a process management model in order to achieve recognition for excellence and has now finally succeeded in obtaining the EFQM 400+ European Seal of Excellence, becoming the first Catalan university library to receive the distinction.



Book *Els tresors de la Universitat de Barcelona*. Fons Bibliogràfic del CRAI Biblioteca de reserva



CRAI Library – Pavelló de la República

The UB also published a book entitled *Els tresors de la Universitat de Barcelona*, featuring a selection of 65 representative works from the CRAI Rare Book and Manuscript Collection.

The CRAI supports teaching and research staff by managing and providing information resources, and offering advice on the creation of teaching materials, publication, copyright, the use of teaching platforms and tools, and continuous improvement of teaching and research. In this respect, a catalogue of tools and resources was published to give users access to over 500 files broken down into information and communication technologies (ICTs), learning and knowledge technologies (LKTs), and active methodologies. Other additions include a blog, recommended resources, an online folder or dossier, and a list of subjects with self-learning materials. The CRAI also took part in 32 projects to create new teaching materials, developed 8 new tutorials (published in the UB Digital Repository), and reviewed and approved 193 publications in the UB's specialized teaching collections. It also delivered 78 training sessions on teaching tools and resources and, in coordination with the UB's teaching resource points, responded to 5,171 user queries, most of which were about the Virtual Campus.

Teaching quality is one of the University of Barcelona's priority objectives. The **Teaching Improvement and Innovation Programme** supports continuous improvement in teaching at the UB by fostering teaching innovation and stimulating

activities that allow teaching staff to share their experience. During the past academic year, 75 new **teaching innovation proposals** were submitted (for total funding of 75,000 euros), and 33 received approval, bringing the current total to 106 **active teaching innovation projects**. Of the new projects and the long-term ones, 30 are recipients of direct funding and have received additional support for the creation of learning materials, while 1,016 members of the university community (PDI, PAS and collaborating staff) have been directly involved in active teaching innovation projects as a whole.

As for the UB's **teaching innovation groups**, accreditation was maintained by 78 consolidated groups and by 16 groups recognized as "not consolidated". Specific financial assistance and support staff continued to go to the consolidated groups with the highest scores, while funds also continued to be made available for the dissemination of inno-



vation actions by all groups. A total of 1,165 members of the university community (PDI, PAS and support staff) were engaged in the various activities of the recognized teaching innovation groups. Highlights include the Jaume Vicens Vives distinction in teaching quality awarded to the Dikasteia Group, for its long track record as a pioneer and expert in the development of active and innovative teaching and learning methodologies in law, business administration and management, and industrial relations. The Dikasteia Group was also the recipient of the UB's **Distinction in Teaching Quality** in the group category. In the individual category, the honour went to Alberto Prats, professor in the Department of Surgery and Surgical Specializations in the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences.

In the academic year 2016-2017, the UB reaffirmed its commitment to **massive open online courses** (MOOC) through the Coursera platform, which has expanded its advisory service, technological assistance and support in materials development. Nine courses were offered, with over 45,000 students enrolled and nearly 600 certificates issued.

Over the past academic year, the fourteenth formal assessment of teaching activity was carried out. In total, 79.5% of eligible teaching staff participated, and 95.3% of participants received positive evaluations. Participating teachers were able to manage the process via a specific teacher assessment app that can be accessed from the *Carpeta Docent* (the



Lecturers and students from the UB's Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science have published in the high-impact journal PLOS ONE an article about the results of their data analysis system, which predicts drop-out risk among first-year university students.

La Vanguardia, 3 July 2017

“Teacher’s Folder”) and already incorporates new functions to facilitate the assessment process.

This was the first opportunity for temporary senior lecturers to take part in the formal assessment of teaching activity. Of the 88 eligible lecturers, 69 applied to take part, 62 were ultimately evaluated and 58 received positive evaluations.

Participating teaching staff were asked to complete a satisfaction survey on the assessment process. Respondents gave an average score of 6.95 out of 10. Notably, high scores were given for items linked to communication.

As for **opinion surveys** on bachelor’s and university master’s degree subjects and teaching staff, the application for mobile devices became firmly established, and actions aimed at encouraging student participation were continued. In the two semesters, 190,642 responses were submitted online, with a participation rate of 25.5% for bachelor’s degree courses and 36.4% in university master’s degrees. A total of 15,909 reports were produced.

The average rating on the question “In general, I am satisfied with the teaching activity carried out by the lecturer in this subject” was 7.22 for bachelor’s students and 7.72 for university master’s students.

In addition, **other surveys** were distributed to collect students’ views on Els Juliols summer courses, the courses given by the School of Modern Language-

es, Hispanic Studies, the University of Experience and Guadir UB, the UB’s services and facilities, new students’ perceptions of the University of Barcelona, and the satisfaction of recent graduates (who have obtained bachelor’s degrees).

The functions of the **Institute of Education Sciences (ICE)**, founded in 1969, include analyzing the training needs of teaching staff and designing proposals for action, promoting and fostering educational innovation, providing guidance and advice on research, disseminating best practices, and developing training materials for a range of media. Two hundred and five educators participated in training activities organized by the ICE, and the number of enrolled students was 9,059 (70.8% women).

Activities offered by the Institute of Education Sciences

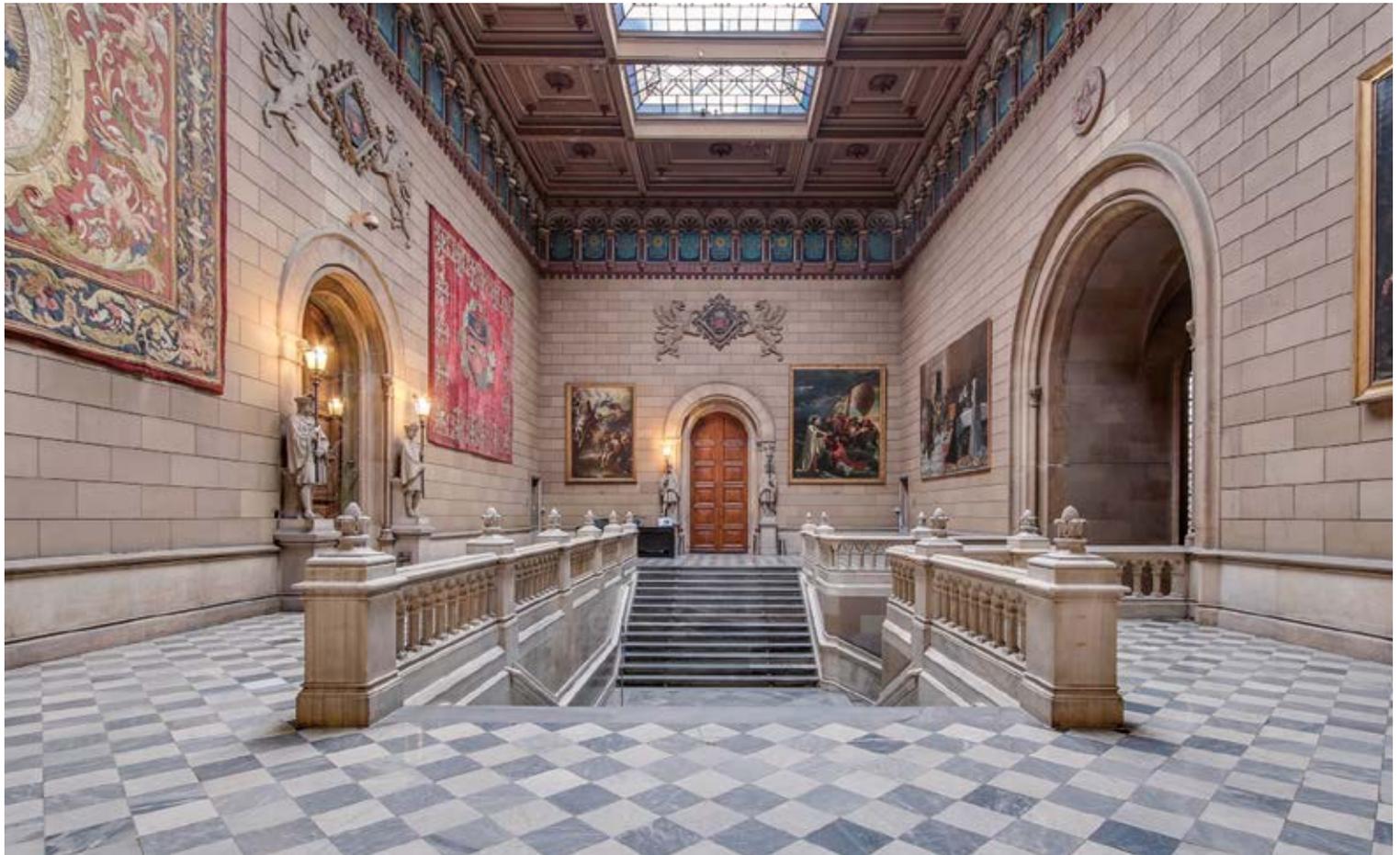
Course/activity	Enrolments
In-service training courses for teachers in early childhood, primary and secondary education, vocational training and for other professionals in the social and community field	4,429
Online coursesa	203
Courses for university teaching staff	4,179
Postgraduate courses and master’s degrees	248
Total	9,059

AVERAGE RATING OF THE
TEACHING STAFF ACCORDING
TO THE STUDENTS



7.22 bachelor's
degree

7.72 university
master's
degree





“Research allows you to think, create, ask questions and find answers that lead to new discoveries. For me, having the chance to propose a project, write it, defend it and make it real is a dream come true. For us, creativity is our essence.”

Isabel Cacho,
lecturer at the Department of Stratigraphy, Paleontology and Marine
Geosciences, and winner of a European Research Council
Consolidator Grant



A UNIVERSITY AT THE FOREFRONT OF RESEARCH

Promotion, funding and internationalization
of research

Research and scientific output

Technology and knowledge transfer
and innovation

Doctorates

Dissemination of scientific culture

4



Promotion, funding and internationalization of research



Research at the University of Barcelona has a strong international presence in the following broad areas: life sciences and medicine, experimental sciences (physics, mathematics, geology and chemistry), economics, business sciences, law, humanities (philology, philosophy, history and geography) and education and behavioural sciences.

In the primary call for the **National Plan for Scientific and Technical Research and Innovation 2013-2016**, overseen by the Spanish Ministry of Economy, Industry and Competitiveness, the UB was awarded 125 research projects. Of these, 57 figured in the category *Challenges* involving the search for solutions to meet social challenges identified in the Spanish Strategy for Science, Technology and Innovation. Funding for the UB's 57 projects totalled 7,487,238 euros. In addition, the UB was leader in the category *Excellence*, with 68 projects totalling 5,707,812 euros. Projects in the *Excellence* category focus on fostering more basic research, with the aim of acquiring new knowledge even when there are no immediate prospects of practical and direct application. Altogether, these projects position the UB as the Spanish university with the greatest number of projects and the largest amount of funding.

As part of the European Commission's **Horizon 2020** programme, the UB was awarded 85 research projects at a value of over 32 million euros. The UB coordinates 16 of these projects, eight of which correspond to the **European Research Council**: five



from the 2015 calls (a consolidator grant, an advanced grant, a proof of concept and a starting grant awarded in 2016 and an advanced grant awarded in 2017) and three from the 2016 calls (a proof of concept awarded in 2016 and a consolidator grant and a starting grant awarded in 2017). Because of its success in calls, the UB has introduced a policy to promote and assist its researchers by offering funds through a call for preparing applications.

The UB participates in major international research projects, such as the **EIT-Health** consortium, which is comprised of 140 entities and companies, and approved by the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT). From the outset, the UB has coordinated the Spanish node, which became the EIT Health Spain Association in July 2015. The Spanish node, which has 18 members, is based in the Barcelona Science Park. As a result of participating in EIT Health activities, the UB is involved in the implementation of seven subsidized projects (two on innovation and five on education, including the CCentre Project, which is coordinated by the UB, and the Summer School on Big Data for Healthy Living, which the UB coordinates with the University of Grenoble). At the call in 2017, thirteen proposals were submitted for innovation projects and sixteen for education. Renewal was sought for an innovation project and the UB received an invitation to join a current project, with participation by researchers from the UB and the UB Group.



In the **RIS3CAT** programme, the Government of Catalonia's Research and Innovation Strategy for the Smart Specialization of Catalonia, the UB is participating in two of the five approved communities: in the health community, Nextcare is coordinated by Biocat, and in the food community, Innoàpat is coordinated by the Institute for Agrifood Research and Technology (IRTA). In addition, the UB has taken part in various proposals for communities submitted in February 2017 and appears in the proposals for specialization and territorial competitiveness projects submitted by the municipal governments of L'Hospitalet de Llobregat and Santa Coloma de Gramenet. For example, the UB and the Alícia Foundation have jointly submitted the RIS3CAT Gastronomy Community.

The UB also received other external funding for research. Of particular note, UB researchers were awarded three grants in the 2016 call of the **ICREA Academy** programme. In addition, five projects were selected in the seventh call for the **RecerCaixa** competitive programme, while 16 projects involving UB researchers or researchers at participated research institutes were awarded through **La Marató** in 2015, an annual telethon dedicated that year to research into diabetes and obesity.

In the case of internal initiatives, the University set up two new UB research institutes – the **Barcelona Economic Analysis Team** (a research institute in economics) and the **Institute of Research in Education** – with the aim of fostering interdisciplinary

practice and coordinating research being undertaken by various groups in a more complementary manner. At the same time, the creation of the **Research Centre on Information, Communication and Culture** went ahead, approval was given to set up the **Observatory of Analysis and Evaluation of Public Policies**, and the **Barcelona Institute for Global Health (ISGlobal)** became a UB-affiliated university research institute six years after it was created. In the last case, the shift is a recognition of ISGlobal's research activities, educational programmes and knowledge transfer efforts aimed at global policies and development.

In 2016, nine researchers benefited from a new call for grant applications under the **Talent Retention Programme**, which seeks to keep the finest researchers employed at the UB. The UB also took part in managing the **Ramón y Cajal** and **Juan de la Cierva** calls for grant applications, organized by the Spanish Ministry of Economy, Industry and Competitiveness. Also, the **Fund to Foster Innovation** was created to encourage the innovation and transfer activities of UB researchers. Along the same lines, the Bosch i Gimpera Foundation held a call for **Proof of Concept** grants for UB researchers leading transfer projects in which the UB is sole or joint owner of the knowledge and original technology as well as the results for which financial assistance is sought.

For the UB to receive the recognition of **HR Excellence in Research**, which shows commitment to



First edition of Eurolife Summer School



the European Charter for Researchers and the Code of Conduct for Recruitment, the European Union required the development of an 11-point action plan, to be audited at an appropriate time. Implementation of the plan began in September 2015. In the academic year 2016-2017, some of the planned actions were carried out, primarily those relating to the induction plan for new teaching and research staff, including a formal commitment on preventing occupational risks. In 2017, the intention is to conduct a self-assessment covering the first two years' tenure with the recognition and to put forward an action plan for the period 2017-2020.

The UB continues to be the only Spanish university represented in the **League of European Research Universities (LERU)**, which includes Europe's finest 23 research-intensive universities across 12 different countries. The most recent additions (in January 2017) are Trinity College, Dublin and the University of Copenhagen. Highlights of the UB's involvement in LERU are the participation of UB representatives in working meetings and in the preparation of publications. In 2016, UB representatives took part in a total of 32 meetings held by LERU policy and issue groups and the UB hosted the Conference of Deans of Science and the workshop on Big Data in Health & Research Integrity, sponsored by the Observatory on Bioethics and Law. Foremost among recent LERU initiatives is the publication of two advisory papers (*LERU's Interim Evaluation of Horizon 2020* and *Citizen Science at Universities: Trends, Guidelines and Recommenda-*

tions) and three ranking publications (*Productive Interactions: Societal Impact of Academic Research in the Knowledge Society*, *Excellent Education in Research-Rich Universities* and *Interdisciplinarity and the 21st Century Research-Intensive University*). In June 2017, LERU published a study with views and recommendations on the framework programme for the European Commission: *Beyond the Horizon: LERU's views on the 9th Framework Programme for Research and Innovation*. All of these LERU publications reflect contributions from UB representatives.

At present, the UB is coordinating the **Eurolife** network (2015-2017), a consortium of European institutions dedicated to research and teaching in the field of medicine and biomedicine. The consortium has grown from 8 to 9 members with the addition of Semmelweis University (Hungary). Initiatives currently being led by the UB include a mobility call for bachelor's and master's students and postdoctoral researchers at universities in the network, the maintenance of the Eurolife network webpage, and actions to promote collaboration on research projects. A highlight of these efforts is the organization of the first Eurolife Summer School, which took place in Barcelona in July 2017 and was organized jointly by the UB and the Barcelona Institute for Global Health. The course was called *Antimicrobial Resistance: Research and Innovation*, and it brought together more than 35 students and over 20 speakers from 14 countries around the world.

Research and scientific output



The **income from competitive research** undertaken at the sixteen UB faculties and schools amounted to 55,720,699 euros, including national and European projects and grants for a total of 570 research activities.

The UB signed 43 European projects as part of the **Seventh 2020 Horizon Framework Programme of the European Commission** for a total of 13,797,160 euros. The UB's remaining European projects amounted to 571,970.86 euros.

The UB also signed 52 research **agreements** at a value of 444,802 euros.

In the **internal call for grant proposals**, 9 grants were awarded as part of the Talent Retention Programme and 10 grants were awarded in the Research Activity Intensification Programme. An internal grant call was also held to promote participation in international research projects under the Horizon 2020 programme. In total, 32 grants were awarded for an overall amount of more than 150,000 euros.

Regarding **research structures** for the promotion and coordination of research, in 2016 the UB had fifteen of its own research institutes, two university institutes, three research and special research centres, ten observatories and three documentation centres. In addition, the UB is a participant with other institutions in ten joint research institutes, two joint observatories and four inter-university institutes.

Under the National Agreement on Research and Innovation and the new Research and Innovation Plan, the following **research groups** applied for government funding in 2014: 303 consolidated research groups, 22 emerging research groups, 17 groups managed by the August Pi i Sunyer Biomedical Research Institute (IDIBAPS), 6 managed by the Bellvitge Institute for Biomedical Research (IDIBELL) and 12 by other participating institutions.

Income from competitive research at UB schools and faculties

Type	Number	Amount (€)
Projects	456	47,383,734.05
Infrastructure	3	657,250.00
Grants	111	7,680,714.96
Total	570	55,721,699.01

2016

Origin	Number of activities	Amount (€)
Regional government	112	6,413,326.51
National government	347	32,305,584.75
Local government	2	26,257.23
Others	10	383,214.53
European Commission	49	14,369,130.86
Private sector: PNPs* and business	28	1,045,270.17
Public sector	22	1,178,914.96
Total	570	55,721,699.01

* PNP: private non-profit institution.



RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER

107,325,705

euros in income from competitive and non-competitive calls for research and technology transfer

UB research institutes, university research institutes, participated research institutes and interuniversity institutes

UB research institutes

- Barcelona Economic Analysis Team (BEAT)
- Institute of Biomedicine (IBUB)
- Institute of Cosmos Sciences (ICCUB)
- Institute of Nanoscience and Nanotechnology (IN2UB)
- Institute of Nanoscience (UBNeuro)
- Institute of Theoretical and Computational Chemistry (IQTUB)
- Water Research Institute (IdRA)
- Biodiversity Research Institute (IRBIO)
- Institute for Research on Medieval Cultures (IRCVIM)
- Research Institute of Applied Economics (IREA)
- Institute of Research in Education (IRE.UB)
- Nutrition and Food Safety Research Institute (INSA-UB)
- Geomodels Research Centre
- Institute for Legal Research TransJus
- UB Institute of Complex Systems (UBICS)

University research institutes

- Institute of Mathematics (IMUB)
- Institute of Ancient Middle East Studies (IPOA)

Research centres

- ADHUC: Research Centre in Theory, Gender and Sexuality
- Centre for Sociolinguistics and Communication Research (CUSC)
- POLIS Research Centre: Art, City, Sustainability

Participated research institutes

- AgriGenomics Research Centre (CRAG)
- Centre for Ecological Research and Forestry Applications (CREAF)
- Barcelona Institute of Economics (IEB)

- Institute for Space Studies of Catalonia (IEEC)
- Bellvitge Institute for Biomedical Research (IDIBELL)
- August Pi i Sunyer Institute for Biomedical Research (IDIBAPS)
- Institute for Bioengineering of Catalonia (IBEC)
- Institute of Biomedical Research (IRB)
- The Catalonia Institute of Energy Research (IREC)
- Barcelona Institute for Global Health (ISGlobal)

Interuniversity institutes

- Barcelona Graduate School of Mathematics (BGSMath)
- Barcelona Institute of International Studies (IBEI)
- Sant Joan de Déu Research Institute (IRSJD)
- Inter-University Institute of Women's Studies and Gender Research (IIEDG)

Subject chairs

- Antoni Gaudí Chair
- Cellex Chair in Oncology and Multidisciplinary Knowledge
- UB Chair in Energy Sustainability
- Chair of Tourism, Hospitality and Gastronomy
- Family Business Chair
- ICEA-UB Chair on Insurance and Pension Funds
- Joaquim Xirau Chair
- Pasqual Maragall Chair on Economy and Territory
- Chair for the labor integration of people with disabilities
- Ramon Llull Chair
- Ramon Trias Fargas Chair on Catalan Economy
- UB Chair on Meat and Health
- UB Chair for Research and Teaching in Internal Medicine
- UB Rector Francisco Buscarons Úbeda Chair. Forensic Chemistry and Chemical Engineering



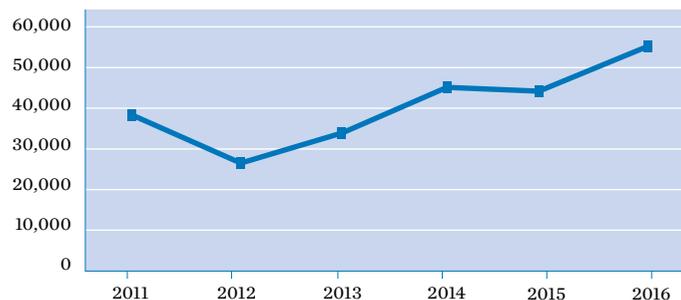
- UB-Danone Chair
- UB-Telefónica Chair on Smart Cities
- UB-Zurich Chair in Insurance
- UNESCO Chair in Bioethics
- UNESCO Chair in Gender, Development and Cultures
- UNESCO Chair for Environment and Sustainable Development

According to the international database of the Institute for Scientific Information (ISI), the **scientific output of UB researchers** includes 5,381 scientific publications, 4,376 of which are in the Science Citation Index Expanded, 804 in the Social Sciences Citation Index, and 201 in the Arts & Humanities Citation Index.

The **CRAI Research Unit** validates researchers' papers and publishes them in the digital UB repository,

where they are available in open access format. Over the past year, 2,930 documents were added to the research collection. These were mainly research papers, but they also included working papers, contributions to conferences, and book chapters. In addition, the CRAI Research Unit manages grants to support publishing in open-access journals, through which some seventy papers were published in the past year. It also manages the scientific journals portal (RCUB), which hosts 37 UB journals and provides links to the remaining publications solely or jointly edited by the University.

Evolution of competitive research funding at UB faculties and university school (in thousands of euros)



Income from Research and Technology and Knowledge Transfer

Item	Amount (€)
Projects	47,383,734
Grants	7,680,715
Infrastructure projects	657,250
UB research agreements	444,802
FBG contracts	12,532,156
CCiTUB services	3,249,672
Income generated by UB researchers at institutions*	35,377,376
Total	107,325,705

*This includes income generated by UB researchers in competitive and non-competitive research activities at IDIBAPS, IDIBELL, IBEC, IREC, IRB, CREAF, IEEC, ISGlobal and CRAG.



SCIENTIFIC OUTPUT

5,381

scientific publications collated by the Institute for Scientific Information (ISI)



OPEN ACCESS

11,997 articles in the institutional repository

358 grants for open-access publishing

7,705 open-access documents published

5,723 doctoral theses in the institutional repository

The Barcelona Science Park (PCB) promotes innovation and knowledge transfer by focusing on the relationship among the University, public research organizations and businesses. It is an environment in which public research and business innovation share the same space and have common objectives. In 2016, a total of 99 entities were **users** of the PCB. Of these, 63 were companies (54 on-site and 9 off-site associates), 18 were non-profit entities, 10 were UB groups or units, and 8 were various PCB services. Taking all of the entities together, the user population stood at 2,240 people (54% women and 46% men).

The PCB has a **total built area** of 101,486 sq m and usable space of 59,744 sq m for clients and services. The total leased area is 21,898 sq m, while 14,745 sq m are laboratories. Total occupied space has risen 6% from the year before.

In terms of the high value-added **scientific and technological services** that are on offer to entities located at the PCB and, through technology platforms, to the entire research community that requests them, the UB's Core Scientific Services have been used by roughly a thousand users, while the radioactivity unit and the special reactions unit, together with the technology platforms (Proteomics, Combinatorial Chemistry and Toxicology) and the animal facilities, have provided service to 143 clients (entities and research groups) and generated 9 scientific publications.

In the area of **activities to promote entrepreneurship and innovation**, the PCB has taken part in events such as BizBarcelona, SciCloud 2016, "Lessons Learned" sessions (CataloniaBio & Biocat) and the EIT Health Summer School, to name but a few.

For companies located in the PCB, 8 networking activities were held, talks took place on subjects of interest to the PCB community, and a host of other activities were organized as well.

In addition, the PCB has collaborated in various local, national and international fairs in the "bio" sector, such as BioSpain, Innova or BIO-Europe Spring



in Barcelona, and the PCB has welcomed some twenty international delegations from Europe, Asia, Latin America, the United States and Canada.

In the area of **communication**, development work began on a services portal. Also, the PCB's impact reached over a thousand hits in general and digital media, while 162 online news items appeared. In terms of social media, the PCB's number of followers doubled.

In addition, **scientific dissemination and the promotion of scientific careers** continues to be actively promoted through the Research in Society programme, which drew on the participation of over four thousand children and young people.

The **Science and Technology Centres (CCiTUB)** are a group of facilities whose main mission is to support research and innovation in the fields of chemistry, materials science and the biosciences. Thanks to highly qualified technical staff, they provide the scientific and industrial community with the latest scientific instruments and advice on experimental techniques. At present, they cover more than 12,000 sq m of space spread over four UB campuses. In the area of **accreditation and certification**, the CCiTUB passed the follow-up audit for ISO 9001:2008 recertification through 28 March 2017 (the original certification took place in 2005) and renewed their US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) self-identification as a contract laboratory for drug trials for an additional year.

The CCiTUB carried out **training activities** aimed at fostering a culture of innovation through knowledge and technology transfer and engaged in activities focused on **knowledge transfer** to the scientific community and society. Highlights include the first Festival of Nanoscience and Technology, which was held in Barcelona, Zaragoza, San Sebastián and Bellaterra, and participation in BioCores, a directory aimed at biomedicine and research in biology. The CCiTUB also implemented a new management system to acquire and manage information generated by CCiTUB laboratories, and the Spanish National Institute for Safety and Health at Work awarded the project "Analysis of occupational exposure to nanomaterials in the cosmetic sector" to the CCiTUB in collaboration with the CSIC's Institute of Environmental Assessment and Water Research and the Catalan Institute of Occupational Health and Safety, of the Department of Labour, Social Affairs and Families. In terms of publications, the CCiTUB published five articles on solid-state chemistry in 2016.

The Science and Technology Centres

Personnel	160
Approximate value of scientific equipment	42,000,000 €
Total Campus area	12,000 sq m
Users	93 entities 267 small and medium-sized companies
Income from services	4,319,554 €



Researchers from the Institute of Neurosciences and the UB's Institute of Complex Systems have identified differences in the functional brain activation pattern of patients who suffer from diabetes type 1. This marks a very important step towards the understanding of how diabetes type 1 can affect the brain during cognitive activity, and could have implications for the way sufferers of this metabolic disorder are treated.

Correo Farmacéutico, 3 July 2107

In 2016, the CCIiTUB logged 966 new **users and clients** (15.8% more than in 2015). Highlights include new public and private users (245) and new registrations by principal researchers (245).

In addition, the CCIiTUB have supported principal researchers from 93 other public institutions and research centres, and clients from a total of 267 private companies, of which 232 were small and medium-sized companies based in Catalonia. The **income** from services stood at 4,319,554 euros, which is 2% more than in 2015.

In the area of **overall quality**, 41 indexed papers appeared in print (18 more than in 2015) and 33 courses were taught by various units. The CCIiTUB also took part in 58 congresses, seminars and workshops and hosted visits from several companies, while sending technicians to visit other companies. The CCIiTUB submitted 484 budgets and 78% of them were accepted.

As for European **networks** and other projects, the CCIiTUB took part in the third Spanish-Portuguese Meeting for Advanced Optical Microscopy, and the Advanced Optical Microscopy Unit, located in the Faculty of Medicine, was appointed coordinator of the Barcelona Live and Intravital Imaging Node of the Euro-BioImaging Project. The Advanced Optical Microscopy Unit also participated in the COST Action: NEUBIAS, a European network of bio-image analysts founded in 2016, while the Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (NMR) Unit was

again recognized as a “Singular Scientific Facility”. The CCIiTUB began work on the **AuthenticFood** Project, which aims to create NMR profiles to identify oil samples by variety and origin.

In terms of **laboratory equipment**, the CCIiTUB secured the transfer of a 400 MHz Prodigy NMR from Bruker, SA, valued at 480,000 euros; an AV 30/70 (Telstar) vertical laminar flow cabin, transferred by the PCB and valued at 6,215 euros; Cytotflex equipment from Beckman Coulter, SA; a flow cytometer (Sorter) purchased by the Institute of Biomedical Research (IRB) at a value of 450,000 euros, and the installation of a camera for the direct detection of electrons in the CM30 transmission electron microscope of the Electron Microscopy Unit transferred by the NanoMEGAS company.

In the area of **competitive public funding**, the CCIiTUB renewed the following: the radio-frequency system of the NMR spectrometer for 560,000 euros; three confocal laser scanning microscopes for 762,300 euros, and an isotope ratio mass spectrometer for 184,784 euros.

The CCIiTUB signed 22 **agreements**.

In the **social area**, the CCIiTUB engaged in a variety of activities, collaborating with the UB Solidarity Foundation and the Manson Project to integrate people suffering from social exclusion, visiting secondary schools (some 25 throughout the year), and participating in a placement programme for



A university at the forefront of research



advanced vocational students. In addition, the CCiTUB engaged in dissemination activities in nanotechnology and nanoscience.

Notable activities of the **Bioethics Committee** (CBUC) are the design and assessment of mandatory reports on bioethics, and the evaluation of ethical aspects of international research projects managed by the Bosch i Gimpera Foundation and Barcelona Science Park. The Bioethics Committee continues to collaborate through specific agreements with outside bodies, such as the Agency for the Management of University and Research Grants (AGAUR) to assess the ethics of applicants for Beatriu de Pinós grants and the research projects submitted by researchers at Pompeu Fabra University, particularly in the area of human and social sciences. Since 2016, the Committee has also assessed projects submitted by the Barcelona Supercomputing Center.

The Bioethics Committee carries out ethical assessments of doctoral theses as required and provides advice and assistance to teaching staff supervising master's degree final projects, bachelor's degree final projects and placement reports. To assist in this task, a new website has been set up with all of the documents that must be submitted to the Committee, as well as a description of the submission process and other useful information.

In addition, members of the Bioethics Committee took part in the LERU Special Working Group on Research Integrity, and the Bioethics Committee

was identified as a benchmark for the implementation of this type of committee model across LERU member universities. The Bioethics Committee continued as coordinator of the Network of Ethics Committees in Universities and Public Research Centres in Spain and remained coordinator of the network's website too. The network planned to hold its tenth meeting in May 2017.



Technology and knowledge transfer and innovation



The **Bosch i Gimpera Foundation (FBG)** is the UB's centre for technology transfer. Its mission is to transfer the results of research conducted by UB researchers and, through innovation, to contribute to economic and social progress. The FBG is responsible for facilitating collaboration between the public and private sectors in order to increase the UB's impact on society, while giving support to researchers, businesspeople and investors at various levels: creating opportunities for them, generating business through the creation of innovative companies, and providing solutions to people through the creation of new products.

In 2016, various companies and institutions **contracted research, transfer and other services** from the UB. In total, the FBG managed 789 research projects for a total amount of 42,172,573 euros and a workforce of 796 people carried out tasks for the projects. The FBG also awarded 112 collaboration grants and, through the Health and Safety Services, visited 47 companies and evaluated 25 workplaces.

A total of 100 **grants** were obtained for the amount of 27.08 million euros: 38 from public and private institutions (1.68 million euros) and 62 for research projects funded by the European Commission (25.40 million euros). Of the European Commission grants, 37 were from the research framework programme (21.33 million euros) and 25 were from other directorates-general (4.06 million euros). A total of three European projects were awarded with the University of Barcelona as the coordinator, at a value of 8.9 million euros.

RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY AND KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER

42 million euros in managed contracts

67 patent applications

4 spin-offs were created

42 activities to drive technology transfer

In the area of **protection, valorization and patent licensing**, 17 license agreements were signed. Over the year, the income from new and existing license agreements amounted to 259,499 euros. A total of 12 priority patent and 17 international patent applications were submitted and 38 patents entered the national phase in 21 countries. The leading sectors were biotechnology and health sciences, which represent 31% of patent applications, and chemistry and pharmacy, which also account for 31%. Researchers submitted 53 invention proposals, which were assessed by the Bosch i Gimpera Foundation.



A university at the forefront of research

TECHNOLOGIES, MATERIALS AND LICENSES (2016)



53 announcements of inventions

119 transfer patents

17 license agreements

4 software registrations

27 material transfer agreements

In addition, four software technologies were registered and nine joint ownership contracts were negotiated and signed with other institutions that had participated in the development of the technology that ultimately received protection.

In terms of **creating businesses and giving support to entrepreneurs** in 2016, four spin-offs were created (Bluephage, SL; Care Respite, SL; Karuna Good Cells Technologies, SL; and Timepath,

Income from research and technology and knowledge transfer earned by the Bosch i Gimpera Foundation in 2016

	Number	Amount (million euros)
Research on contract	626	12.08
Contracts and agreements	434	10.64
Services rendered	192	1.43
Grants	100	27.08
European Commission projects	62	25.4
Public and private grants	38	1.68
Total	726	39.16

SL), and advice was given on a total of 41 projects, including new entrepreneurship projects, business plans and companies in which the UB has a stake. With the FBG's support, the companies Braingaze, Cytes Biotechnologies, Impetux Optics, Iproteos, Nostrum Biodiscovery and Smalle Technologies obtained 2.58 million euros in funding through capital increases.

The FBG, which is responsible for monitoring spin-offs in which the UB has a stake, does so through the **UB Innovative and Scientific Culture (CIC-UB)** company. In 2016, the FBG became a shareholder in Bluephage.

As a founding member alongside the UB, the FBG has played an active role in the UB **Barcelona En-**



The UB's Institute of Neurosciences, the Bellvitge Biomedical Research Institute and the Institute of Advanced Chemistry of Catalonia have designed the first photoactive drug (activated with light) for pain treatment. Photosensitive drugs are a means of controlling pharmacological actions with spatial and temporal precision.

Correo Farmacéutico, 17 April 2017

BUSINESS CREATION AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP SUPPORT (2016)

22 business creation ideas received

41 entrepreneurship projects supported

4 spin-offs created

1 new company in which CIC-UB has a stake

Entrepreneurship Institute by supporting entrepreneurs and participating in the Steering Committee. Some members of the FBG sat on the jury for the Emprèn! UB 2016 award.

In order to **bolster university-business collaboration and foster an innovative environment**, the FBG organized two conferences to promote research in the field of the humanities and social sciences and two sessions of Science Partners, in which businesspeople and investors give advice on projects undertaken by UB researchers. In addition,

the FBG and other entities organized the “Health & Bio Team Dating” meeting, which put researchers and entrepreneurs in contact with each other in order to start new healthcare companies, and the course “Keys in Bioentrepreneurship”, in which bio-entrepreneurs at the forefront of innovative companies spoke about their experiences.

Also, the FBG took part in 15 events that brought together agents from different sectors. The FBG maintained contact with four clusters in Catalonia so that UB research groups and research groups from leading networks could join. The aim was to participate in the definition of new collaboration projects. In addition, the FBG promoted the capabilities of TECNIO-UB centres by attending various fairs and participating at bilateral meetings organized with companies.

The FBG manages six of the eight **Government of Catalonia reference networks** in research.

In terms of **funding**, Proof of Concept and Mentor in Residence grants were offered for the first time in the first call for **Funds to Promote Innovation**, with financial support from Santander Bank.

The FBG also continued to disseminate the projects of UB researchers who seek funding via micro-sponsorship platforms: five new projects have been posted on the FBG's website, of which four have reached their target.

Doctorates

Over the course of the academic year, the UB offered **48 doctoral programmes** linked to the areas of experimental sciences and engineering, health sciences, social sciences, the arts and humanities, and education. The high level of cross-disciplinarity in the programmes, however, means that many were linked to more than one area. Thirteen of the programmes were run jointly with other Spanish universities, and two were **Erasmus Mundus** programmes. At doctoral level, all programmes currently offered are available in English.

A total of **4,890 trainee researchers** enrolled in the doctoral programmes. Out of these, 30% were international students.

In terms of **doctoral degrees**, a total of 135 doctoral students were awarded the **international doctorate** certificate, 8 doctoral students were awarded the **industrial doctorate** certificate and the UB's Governing Council awarded 101 **special doctoral prizes**.

A total of 1,158 **doctoral theses** were defended and 725 of them were published on the Doctoral Thesis Network (TDX) and the Digital Repository of the UB (which now contains over 6,000 theses). The UB also signed 8 joint supervision agreements.

Doctoral School

The **Industrial Doctorates Plan** seeks to increase the competitiveness and internationalization of Ca-



Interdisciplinary Meeting of Predoctoral Researchers

talan industry, retaining talent and preparing doctoral students to carry out research, development and innovation projects in companies, which would become the subject of their doctoral theses.

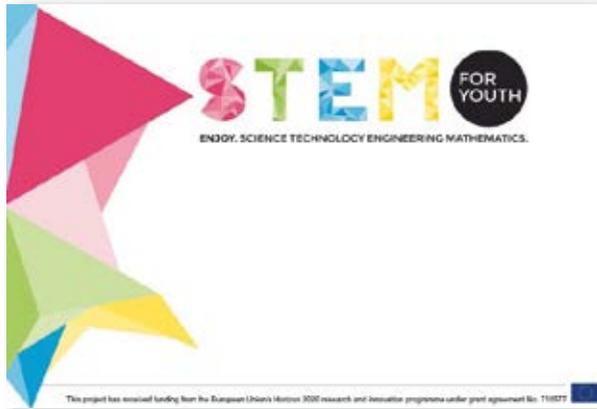
In the 2016 call, the University of Barcelona embarked on 16 projects with different corporate partners, resulting in 16 collaboration agreements. Fifteen of these projects were jointly funded and one was funded with a specific grant.

In addition, the Doctoral School took part in the LERU Doctoral Summer School entitled "Citizen Science – Nexus Between Research and Public Engagement", which was hosted by the University of Zurich and attended by two doctoral students representing the University of Barcelona.

INDUSTRIAL DOCTORATE PLAN



16

 projects

As for **cooperation among doctoral schools** in France and Spain, an analysis of the objectives and operation of the UB's doctoral programmes was conducted as part of the call of the Spanish Ministry of Education, Culture and Sport and in the context of the collaboration agreement signed between the UB and the University of Rennes 2. The aim of the analysis was to strengthen cooperation, laying the groundwork for joint supervision of doctoral theses and bolstering contact between the two universities' research groups.

For the HUBc health campus, two calls were held for **mobility grants** for UB students enrolled in doctoral programmes in Medicine, Biomedicine or Nursing, all areas taught on the HUBc campus of excellence. The UB allocated 48,000 euros to finance stays and cover travel, accommodation and subsistence expenses on the basis of funding given

to the HUBc by the Spanish Ministry of Education, Culture and Sport through the call for grants to consolidate projects of excellence.

As part of the **STEM project**, 14 UB doctoral students took part in out-of-school sessions for young people from ten secondary schools in Barcelona. The sessions revolved around mathematics, robotics, nutrition, life sciences and sustainability. The programme had sponsorship from the Barcelona City Council and drew on the collaboration of the New York Academy of Sciences, the Barcelona Education Consortium (CEB) and the UB, UPC, UAB and UPF.

Over the course of the academic year, the third call for grants was held for UB doctoral students to carry out training periods in Spain and abroad, with funding from the Montcelimar Foundation and the University of Barcelona. In total, 22 grants were awarded, of which 1 student went to Spain and 13 to Europe.

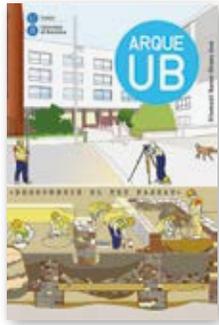
Within the framework of Erasmus Mundus - Action 2 (United States and Canada) awarded to the UB as a coordinating university in the 2013 call held by the Education, Audiovisual and Cultural Executive Agency of the European Union, a total of 25 mobility periods took place in the past academic year: 17 doctoral students (4 from the UB), 3 postdoctoral students (1 UB) and 5 staff.



“As a researcher I think it is very important to make our university research available to the general public and to help people understand its value for the progress of the country.”

Isabel Cacho,
lecturer at the Department of Stratigraphy,
Paleontology and Marine Geosciences, and winner of
a European Research Council Consolidator Grant

Dissemination of scientific culture



The Scientific Culture and Innovation Unit (UCC+i) carried out **scientific dissemination** activities along two broad lines: support and spread of the UB's dissemination activities through the web portal and social media, and coordination and organization of the unit's own projects.

With regard to sharing information on the UB's dissemination activities, the portal publicized 367 activities that were carried out by UB staff either within or outside the UB. The portal also featured 30 individual project pages, which received 7,758 visits and an average of 75 visitors a day. In the case of social media, the profile of *La UB Divulga* reached 1,587 followers on Twitter and 1,176 on Facebook.

In the case of the unit's own projects, highlights include **ArqueUB**, which focuses on two activities (how neighbours in the Raval lived in centuries past and pre-university student visits), and the **Camins infinits** project, which connects schoolchildren and young researchers with two aims in mind: to stimulate social interest in science and knowledge and to improve the communication skills of young researchers. At present, 14 researchers take part. In the past academic year, they have reached 390 students through 9 visits to primary and secondary schools.

The aim of **Animated Science** is to create a library of audiovisual resources that are scientific in nature, organized into self-contained chapters. The resources explain scientific concepts to children in



6th Meeting of UB Scientific Disseminators

an appealing and visual manner. At present, three chapters are available, all in Catalan, Spanish and English. The number of views on YouTube is particularly notable for the first episode (“The Scientific Method”): 123,380 in English, 281,064 in Spanish and 5,306 in Catalan.

Through the **Crystallization at School Contest**, secondary school teachers receive training in crystallography at universities and then transfer the experience to the classroom so that their students learn how to obtain crystals. The results are presented in a workshop that takes the format of a scientific conference. Students present their work and a jury selects the winners. The project is a joint venture of the UB, the Autonomous University of



Botanical tour of the Finca Pedro Pons

Barcelona and Rovira i Virgili University. The sixth running of the contest was held in the past year. Since the first year, more than 7,000 children have taken part from all over Catalonia.

The **Comas i Solà Contest** aims to bring the public closer to the research being carried out at the UB, through a dynamic and visual channel, as well as to give visibility to doctoral students as a research motor of the UB. An additional goal is to give young researchers an opportunity to take part in presenting their projects and to discover potential communicators among their ranks. In the latest edition of the context, nine videos were submitted. They are available for viewing on the project's website and on the UB's YouTube channel.

The UB's **botanical tours** aim to bring botany closer to the general public and to share important aspects of the discipline. At present, people can join botanical tours of the grounds of the Historic Building and of the Finca Pedro Pons. In the academic year 2016-2017, six tours were held and 261 people signed up for them.

The **Toc-toc project** features a series of talks by UB researchers. The aim is to encourage communication between the UB and various social actors who have an interest in the research being carried out at the UB. At present, the project has 15 collaborators across nine faculties. Over the past academic year, they have given 18 talks around Catalonia, reaching over 800 people.



Third UB Science Festival

The **Third UB Science Festival**, which was held in the Historic Building, aimed to make the research carried out at the UB accessible to audiences of all ages in a fun and innovative manner. On offer were 40 workshops and practical demonstrations, in which nearly a hundred researchers from nine faculties took part. A total of 445 young children attended from 13 schools.

Other highlights include the UB's participation in the **Science Space** in the national educational fair **Saló de l'Ensenyament**, at the end of the **RecerKids** programme of the Government of Catalonia, and in the first edition of **The Youth Mobile Festival**, organized by the GSM Association as part of the Mobile World Congress.

To introduce the public to the world of science and research at the University of Barcelona, the UB has produced a short documentary entitled **Som recerca** ("We Are Research"), which reflects the various stages in the professional life of people who dedicate themselves to research. The video places special emphasis on the importance of basic research and knowledge transfer to foster progress in social, economic and cultural well-being.

Lastly, two members of the UB's teaching and research staff have been singled out for recognition: Dr Javier Martín-Vide, professor of Physical Geography and director of the Water Research Institute, received the UB's IV Distinction Award for best activities in scientific and humanistic dissemination



bestowed by the Board of Trustees and the Doctors' Senate; and Dr Antoni Trilla, professor in the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, was the recipient of the Big Vang Medal in recognition of "his altruism and vocation to serve" through the media, in the communication of scientifically rigorous information to the general public (Big Vang is an online channel for scientific information at the Barcelona daily newspaper *La Vanguardia*).



“Our job provides researchers with funding alternatives for their work and, at the same time, helps to strengthen the UB’s international profile.”

Ignasi Sánchez,
head of International Research Projects



AN INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

International institutional activity

Mobility of students, teaching and research
staff and administrative and service staff

5



International institutional activity

Over the past academic year, the UB has focused on building strategic alliances. For instance, the **Ibero-American Union of Universities** was launched. Consisting of the University of Barcelona, the Complutense University of Madrid, the University of São Paulo, the National Autonomous University of Mexico and the University of Buenos Aires, the Union brings together over 750,000 students and some 50,000 teaching staff. Thanks to support from Santander Bank, it supports exchange programmes for teaching staff, researchers and students and promotes joint research and teaching programmes. The Union also establishes a new international framework for the development of joint activities aimed at influencing public and scientific policies in Ibero-America. This year, one of the highlights has been the annual meeting of rectors from member universities, which was held at the Complutense University of Madrid on 17–19 May in the context of the International Congress of Supreme and Constitutional Courts of Ibero-America. The event assembled judges from Spain’s Constitutional Court and Supreme Court and ministers from the supreme courts of Mexico, Argentina and Brazil, together with law professors from the five member universities. The aim was to assess the protection of social rights in times of crisis. The alliance’s schedule of academic activities included a University of Barcelona course on smart cities, addressing innovation, climate change, urban planning, governance and creative participation.

The Alliance Montpellier-Barcelona Plus, which brings together the UB, the University of



The university master’s degree in Economics has received the highest seal of quality (Quality-level compliant) in recognition of its international dimension, following the assessment carried out by the Catalan University Quality Assurance Agency (AQU Catalunya).

20 de juliol de 2017

Montpellier and the Paul Valéry University of Montpellier, gives priority to scientific collaborations, the international mobility of students and PDI, and the exchange of knowledge among member institutions. Highlights include a project called “*Master Ressources en Eau et Risques Environnementaux dans les Métropoles Africaines*” on water resources and environmental risks in African urban centres, and various collaborations on research projects and academic projects in the areas of pharmacy, chemistry, law and psychology.

As a result of an agreement signed by the University of Barcelona, Aix-Marseille University, the Autonomous University of Madrid and the Sapienza University of Rome, the **Transnational Campus of the North Mediterranean** has been created. Bringing together nearly 300,000 students, the project focuses on academic and scientific cooperation and has four primary objectives: to develop



closer relationships among member universities on matters of mobility, training, research and innovation; to engage in far-reaching joint projects in the European and international contexts; to define priority topics and shared areas of excellence; and to strengthen the academic and scientific potential of the four universities, along with their capacity for action and their position in rankings. To begin with, the following actions have been identified: to develop student mobility and multiple degrees among the member universities, to strengthen cooperation in the context of European projects and collaborative research projects, and to work on the organization of a joint summer school.

The University of Barcelona and the **Sapienza University of Rome**, which both stand out in their respective countries in terms of high rankings in research and teaching, reinforced their collaboration agreements: they now have broad agreements

on student and faculty mobility as well as specific agreements to develop a master's programme in the area of health and to engage in joint supervision of doctoral theses. The two universities cooperate on cultural and research projects and scientific publications.

The UB signed an agreement with the **China Scholarship Council** to welcome Chinese students in the sciences for the purpose of pursuing doctoral studies at the UB.

The University of Barcelona, which is a patron of the **Confucius Institute of Barcelona** together with the Autonomous University of Barcelona and the public entity Casa Asia, appointed Dr Javier Orduña, professor in German Studies, as new local director of the institute. Dr Orduña has an outstanding network of relationships that he has forged with the public universities of Catalonia and Andorra. In the past



“The service that the University can offer to the idea of Europe is a vital one.”

Jaume Duch,
spokesperson and Director-General for Communication of the European Parliament

year, he was the recipient of the 3rd Chinese Chair of Madrid Award. The year has also seen the consolidation of the so-called Macro-Confucius, which involves not only formal language courses and teacher training, but also the organization of international contests and language camps in China. Academic exchanges are fostered through grants to study in China and the establishment of thematic networks in various areas: translating and interpreting, arts and music, history and anthropology, economics, medicine and urban planning.

The UB increased its **presence in 24 networks**, participating as a member in the League of European Research Universities, the Coimbra Group, the International Forum of Public Universities, the Mediterranean Universities Union, the Tordesillas Group and the Francophone University Association. The UB also took part in the following international fairs and conferences: European Association for International Education, in Liverpool; Forum on Education Abroad, in Athens; Asia-Pacific Association for International Education, in Kaohsiung; Mobility Fair “Study and Discover Spain”, in Mexico; and the Annual Conference & Expo, in Los Angeles.

The Office of the Vice-Rector for Outreach and Internationalization, in collaboration with other UB units, takes part in the EuNIT Capacity Building project (European project design and management in the South Mediterranean region). The aim of the project is to strengthen internationalization in the institutions of higher learning in the South Mediterranean

region, specifically in Lebanon, Jordan and Libya. Between February and May 2017, Barcelona was the host for a joint working week and sessions with Yarmouk University (Jordan), Saint Joseph University (Lebanon) and Al-Zawiya University (Libya). The project seeks to build enduring relationships of cooperation among participating institutions and to facilitate the creation of units and the training of technicians that specialize in the preparation and management of international projects.

In the academic year 2016-2017, the UB was home to an **international community** made up of over 11,000 students from 139 countries. They accounted for 30% of doctoral students, 37% of university master’s degree students, nearly 6% of bachelor’s degree students, and 24.7% of postgraduate students.

The academic offering in English consisted of five bachelor’s degrees taught entirely in English (Bioinformatics, Business Administration and Management, English Studies, International Business, and Tourism) and 255 subjects of bachelor’s degrees taught entirely in English (which represents 10% of the total subjects). Also taught entirely in English were 22 university master’s degrees (including 7 Erasmus Mundus programmes) and 48 doctoral programmes (including two Erasmus Mundus programmes).

A variety of **Study Abroad** programmes continued: BCA Study Abroad; University of California, Irvine; Council on International Education Exchanges;

Dartmouth College; Knox College, and the Consortium for Advanced Studies Abroad.

The UB **International Summer School** delivered 11 courses to over 130 enrolled students.

With respect to the **international mobility** of students on temporary study periods, the UB welcomed a total of 1,754 international students, while 1,293 UB students travelled abroad to study.

The UB has signed 129 **international agreements** with institutions in 37 countries. All of the institutions meet strict quality criteria, such as high levels of academic quality, sound strategic analysis, and the existence of a well-structured common project. Most of the agreements are specific faculty agreements on academic cooperation, research, mobility and doctoral studies. There are also 18 framework agreements. Particularly noteworthy are research agreements with Mexico's National Institute for Nuclear Research and the MAVA Foundation for nature conservancy (Switzerland), an agreement with the National University of Mar de Plata (Argentina) to teach a postgraduate course, an agreement with the Carolina Foundation, and another with Jingchu University of Technology (China) to deliver its own Master in Configuration of the Contemporary Space.

Over the course of the academic year, the UB received more than 12 delegations representing university institutions, consulates and embassies from eight countries around the world, including Australia, Colombia,

the United States, South Korea and Norway, while student groups also visited from all over the globe.

For their part, UB representatives visited universities in the United States, United Kingdom, Italy, Argentina, Brazil, China and others in order to manage projects and foster academic collaboration and partnerships, as well as any strategic alliances that have been instigated.



The University of Barcelona welcomes international students



Mobility of students, teaching and research staff and administrative and service staff

Student mobility

The University of Barcelona manages student mobility broadly in three ways: through Erasmus+ and Erasmus Mundus Action 2 exchange programmes, through a programme run by the Inter-University Centre for Development (CINDA) and through bilateral agreements. All programmes are based on the principle of reciprocity. Over the past academic year, the UB hosted the thirtieth anniversary celebrations of the Erasmus programme organized by the Spanish Service for the Internationalization of Education (SEPIE).

This academic year witnessed the implementation of the new **Erasmus+** mobility programme between countries in the programme and associate countries outside the European Union (through International Credit Mobility, action KA107). The project kicked off with 27 periods of study mobility: 13 UB students went to universities in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Canada, Russia and Ukraine, while 14 students from universities in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Russia, Ukraine and China came to the UB. As for the Erasmus mobility programme within the EU, the number of UB students continues to rise both for study periods, climbing from 980 to 1,006, and for traineeships, climbing from 116 to 122. In addition, the UB hosted 1,190 students on study mobility and 43 on traineeship mobility. Thus, the Erasmus+ programme has become well established as the most important framework for international mobility at the University of Barcelona, which has persisted in

its efforts to implement the programme as a quality framework. In this respect, mobility students at the UB now have their ECTS grades incorporated on their certificates of marks in order to ensure fairer and more transparent academic recognition, and the UB has approved regulations on the international mobility of UB students that adapt to the context of the European Higher Education Area and the Erasmus+ programme.

As for the **Erasmus Mundus Action 2**, it ceases under the new Erasmus+ programme. As a result, the awarded projects have finished and only one of the consortia coordinated by the UB is ongoing: the CASEU project involving European universities and universities in Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan. As part of the project, two UB students have gone to Kazakhstan for mobility periods.

Bilateral agreements are signed with universities in countries that are neither part of nor associated with the European Union and are therefore ineligible to participate in the Erasmus programme+. These agreements may apply to the university as a whole (general agreements) or to specific faculties or schools (specific agreements). Mobility periods under these agreements follow the Erasmus model: students do not pay enrolment fees at the host university and the period of study receives academic recognition by the home university. The UB has signed a total of 161 bilateral agreements with universities in countries outside the EU. Under these arrangements, the UB hosted 201 incoming students and

Meeting within the framework of the Erasmus+ program with universities from non-EU countries



Mobility of UB students by programme and geographical area

Programme	Europe	EUA and Canada	Latin America	Asia and Oceania	Total	% women
Erasmus+ in the EU: academic studys	1,006	—	—	—	1,006	64.6
Erasmus+ in the EU: placements	122	—	—	—	122	73.0
Erasmus+ outside the EU: academic study	10	3	—	—	13	76.9
Erasmus Mundus Action 2	—	4	—	2	6	50.0
Coimbra Group	2	—	—	—	2	50.0
Bilateral agreements	10	41	57	24	132	73.5
CINDA	—	—	14	—	14	64.3
Individual applications	—	2	—	—	2	100.0
Total	1,150	50	71	26	1,297	66.4

International students on temporary stays, by mobility programme

Programme	Students	% women
Erasmus+ in the EU: academic study	1,147	65.9
Erasmus+ in the EU: placements	43	60.5
Erasmus+ outside the EU: academic study	14	78.6
Coimbra Group	4	100.0
Bilateral agreements	201	65.2
Interuniversity Centre for Development (CINDA)	15	86.7
Study Abroad	274	71.5
Individual applications	56	66.1
Total	1,754	66.9

132 UB students went abroad. The UB also hosted four students from members of the **Coimbra Group** and sent 2 students in return.

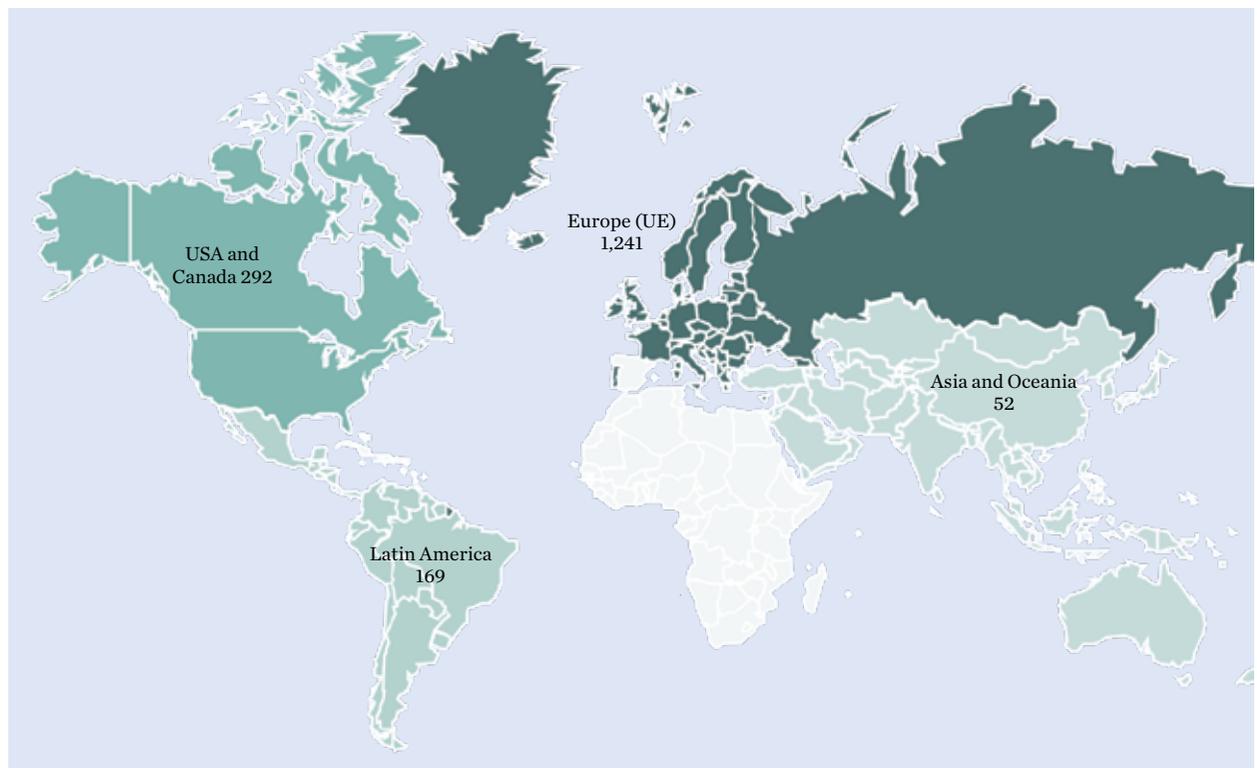
The **CINDA** programme facilitates mobility among universities in Spain, Italy, Portugal and Latin America: 14 UB students undertook study periods abroad and 15 foreign students came to the UB.

UB students participating in a mobility programme may have access to **additional grants**. In the case of the Erasmus programme, in addition to funding provided by the European Commission and overseen by SEPIE, the offices of the UB vice-rectors responsible for international policy and students have established a supplementary funding programme that awarded an additional 443 travel grants to students on the Erasmus+ programme and 22 grants to students

MOBILITY THROUGH EXCHANGE PROGRAMMES

1,754 international students welcomed

International exchange students, by country of origin



undertaking periods of study abroad under bilateral agreements or the CINDA programme. Through the Agency for the Management of University and Research Grants (AGAUR), the Government of Catalonia awarded MOBINT financial assistance to 363 UB students already benefitting from some mobility programme. The Ibero-America Grants programme of Santander Bank has benefitted 30 students undertaking mobility periods in Latin

America through bilateral agreements or the CINDA programme.

The UB is involved in two non-reciprocal mobility programmes. In these cases, students are hosted for temporary study periods at the UB, but must pay enrolment fees. The programmes are: **Study Abroad**, for agreements with university consortia, under which the UB hosted 274 students (not only

from universities in the United States as before, but also from a university in Mexico – the Monterrey Institute of Technology and Higher Education – and a Chinese university – the Beijing Foreign Studies University; and **individual applications**, through which 56 students from around the world came to study at the UB and 2 UB students completed study periods abroad.

As for the **mobility of trainee researchers**, the UB hosted three doctoral students from Latin American universities who were recipients of grants from the **Carolina Foundation**, and 276 doctoral students came to the UB to study thanks to grants awarded by organizations in their home countries.

Also, 78 UB students received mobility grants intended for training university teachers (FPU), for training research staff (FPI) and for trainee research staff (APIF).

Over the past year, 8 agreements have been signed for joint supervision of doctoral theses. In total, temporary study periods have been organized for 341 international students.

Staff mobility

A total of 134 members of the UB's **teaching and research staff** completed mobility periods abroad,

Mobility of teaching and research staff (PDI) and administrative and service staff (PAS) by programme

Programme	UB		International	
	PDI	PAS	PDI	PAS
Erasmus+ in the EU	92	35	–	6
Erasmus+ outside the EU	2	3	7	18
Erasmus Mundus Action 2	–	–	1	3
Coimbra Group	–	–	1	–
International mobility grants	35	–	13	–
Council on International Educational Exchange	2	–	–	–
Funding from Santander Bank	3	–	–	–
Other programmes (former welcome programme for guest teaching and research staff)	–	–	123	–
Total	134	38	145	24

A COMMITMENT TO
INTERNATIONALIZATION



11,278
international students from

139
countries

Summary of mobility and other stays by UB students and staff (PDI and PAS)

Mobility and stays

PDI	
Mobility programme	134
Sabbaticals	33
Travel expenses	330
CIE mobility grants	4
PAS	
Mobility programme	38
Bachelor's and master's degree students	
Mobility programme	1.293
SICUE mobility programme	118
Mobility for bachelor's degree final projects	271
Mobility for master's degree final projects	20
Mobility for master's degree final projects	
Joint supervision	8
Academic study periods	78
Mobility programmes	4
CIE mobility grants	18

mainly within the framework of the **Erasmus+** programme (European Union), which continued to grow in number (92). In addition, 9 mobility periods under the Erasmus+ programme were made outside the EU: 2 UB faculty members completed teaching periods at the University of Sarajevo (Bosnia and Herzegovina) and at the University of St Petersburg

(Russia) and 7 teaching staff from universities in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Palestine, Russia and Ukraine completed periods at the UB.

Under a programme launched by the Office of the Vice-Rector for Outreach and Internationalization and aimed at UB and international teaching staff, **mobility funding** was provided for 35 mobility periods undertaken by UB teaching staff to initiate or consolidate projects involving international collaboration. As part of the agreement with the Council on International Educational Exchanges (CIEE) university consortium, two teaching staff undertook language immersion stays, one at Harvard University (US) and one at the University of St Andrews (Scotland).

A total of 145 teachers from abroad (mostly from universities in Italy, Portugal, Brazil and Argentina) completed periods at the University of Barcelona. With the aim of attracting internationally renowned teaching staff, funding was provided for 13 of these stays, which were the result of invitations extended by UB teachers. One researcher from South Africa was hosted at the UB through the Coïmbra Group, which organizes stays for young teaching staff and researchers from Africa.

Arrangements were formally completed for stays at the UB involving 53 teachers from abroad.

As for the mobility of **administrative and service staff**, 38 UB staff members completed periods under



the Erasmus+ programme, while the UB welcomed 24 staff members from other universities, both from within and outside the European Union.

International projects

The University of Barcelona participates in some fifty international academic cooperation projects. Of these, 18 are new (awarded in the 2017 call): 17 are funded under the [Erasmus+](#) programme – the UB is the coordinator on 4 of them and a partner institution on 8 more – and the eighteenth is funded by the [EuropeAid](#) agency.



UNIVERSITAT_{DE}
BARCELONA



UNIVERSITAT DE
BARCELONA

Gran Via de les Corts Catalanes, 585
08007 Barcelona
Tel. 934 021 100
www.ub.edu