



UNIVERSITAT DE
BARCELONA

Report on the academic year 2018-2019

University of Barcelona

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UNIVERSITAT_{DE}
BARCELONA

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It is my pleasure to present this latest edition of the Report on the academic year, a window on the many projects, initiatives and activities carried out at the University of Barcelona over the course of 2018-2019.

The Report describes our most noteworthy achievements in the fields of teaching, research and knowledge transfer, both in our immediate sphere of influence and as part of our international endeavours.

As a public institution, we are conscious of the need to go beyond the demands that are placed on us and of the responsibility that comes with the scale of our social impact. As such, the Report reflects the University's commitment to wider society, to which we are ultimately accountable. It is through this commitment and, most importantly, through our core values that we address the challenges in our path, transmitting knowledge and striving for excellence through continuous improvement.

I invite you, then, to read and explore this Report, which will take you through the key developments of the academic year, achieved through the hard work and rigour for which we have become known.

Joan Elias
Rector of the University of Barcelona



UNIVERSITAT DE BARCELONA



The University of Barcelona

UB Identity

Structure and basic figures

Geographical distribution: campuses and centres

• UB Identity



Public. The University of Barcelona is the foremost public university in Catalonia. Its results are conveyed to the general public through teaching, research and knowledge transfer, contributing to social and scientific progress.

Historic and urban. Founded in 1450, the UB is woven into the urban fabric of Barcelona. Its six campuses spread across the city are poles for activity in the surrounding areas. The Historic Building, designed by the architect Elias Rogent, was given historical and artistic heritage status in 1970.

Universally renowned. The University of Barcelona is renowned throughout Spain and across the world as a leader in education, research and thought, as reflected by its position in the foremost international rankings. Its dynamic, critical, constructive and human spirit is placed at the service of society, where it strives to defend values of freedom, democracy, justice, equality and solidarity.

Anchored by good governance and transparency. The UB implements a comprehensive, efficient management model for the allocation of resources which bolsters its accountability and underpins its institutional and social leadership.

Generalist and multidisciplinary. The University offers a broad selection of bachelor's and master's degrees covering the many disciplines that make up the principal branches of knowledge: arts and humanities, social sciences, health sciences, experimental sciences and engineering. Traditional and modern disciplines are combined in the UB's daily activities.

Socially engaged. The University of Barcelona has adopted the UN's 17 Sustainable Develop-

ment Goals and works towards materializing this broad-reaching effort to eradicate poverty, protect the planet and achieve worldwide respect for human rights.

Committed to quality teaching. The UB's community of 5,000 lecturers pursue the shared goals of improvement and innovation. Each year, the demand for places exceeds availability by 30%, and student performance rates are currently 84% for bachelor's degrees and 95% for master's degrees.

Research-intensive. The UB is the only Spanish university in the League of European Research Universities (LERU) and its researchers are cited in the most prestigious publications. Through the Barcelona Science Park and the Bosch i Gimpera Foundation, the research generated at the UB and its affiliated centres is carried out in close collaboration with the most innovative sectors of the science, business and technology communities.

International. The University of Barcelona promotes international activity among students and staff alike, offering mobility options to all members of the university community, building strategic alliances with international institutions and participating in leading international and multidisciplinary consortia. It is the highest-ranking Spanish public university in the international arena.

Entrepreneurial and innovative. The University of Barcelona actively promotes entrepreneurship, advising on and supporting business creation and providing financial and training resources for entrepreneurs. The UB's innovative activities and projects in this area create value for society.

• Structure and basic figures



190,000
FOLLOWERS ON FACEBOOK

54,000
FOLLOWERS ON TWITTER

26,000
FOLLOWERS ON INSTAGRAM

• Structure

16 faculties
9 affiliated centres
60 departments
1 training and research unit
35 UB research structures
17 research structures with UB participation
682,800 sq m of constructed area

• Course Offering

74 bachelor's degrees
12 dual study pathways
157 university master's degrees
48 doctoral programmes
902 postgraduate courses
709 lifelong learning courses (IL3)

• Students

42,165 bachelor's degree students
5,635 university master's degree students
10,115 postgraduate students
7,210 bachelor's degree graduates
3,530 university master's degree graduates
15,167 external placements completed

• Research

134,448,032€ research funding secured
877 active research projects
38 projects awarded by the European Research Council
574 trainee predoctoral researchers
194 junior, senior and post-doctoral researchers
466 research technicians and assistants

• Transfer activities

719 Bosch i Gimpera Foundation contracts
69 patent applications
2 new technology-based companies
327 Bosch i Gimpera Foundation researchers
147 Bosch i Gimpera Foundation research technicians and assistants

• Internationalization

1,365 UB students abroad as part of mobility programmes
1,888 international students at the UB as part of mobility programmes
3,769 agreements with foreign universities and other institutions
54 active Erasmus+ projects

• People

5,773 teaching and research staff
3,858 full-time-equivalent teaching and research staff
2,362 administrative and service staff
760 grant holders in UB services and faculties

• Budget

€ 386,110,607 total budget
65% total income from public transfers
35% total income from self-finance
93% current costs

• Services

16 libraries
1,773,469 monographs
4,173 UB Sports users
7,695 UB Alumni members
2,467 job offers registered in the Job Bank

• Doctoral Studies

4,690 trainee researchers
599 doctoral theses read
18 industrial doctorate programmes
14 joint supervision agreements signed

• Society

2,095 UB Volunteering participants
45% reduction in water consumption (2013-2018)
23 participants in the UB's transition course for young learners from refugee families and conflict zones
3 international cooperation projects
14 University of Experience programmes

• Culture

4,576 visitors attending guided tours of the Historic Building
18 concerts in the Season of Music at the UB
13 temporary exhibitions in the Virtual Museum
9th Season of Contemporary Dance

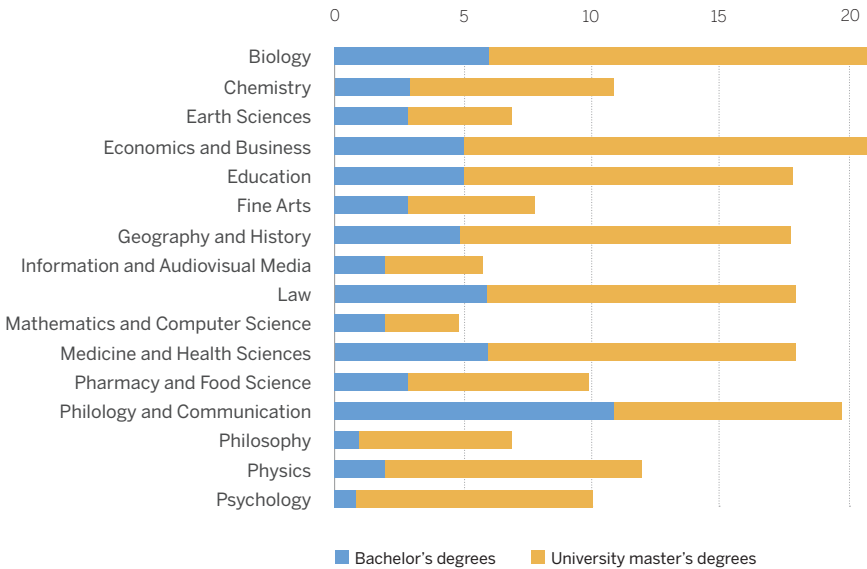
Global rank in the main international rankings



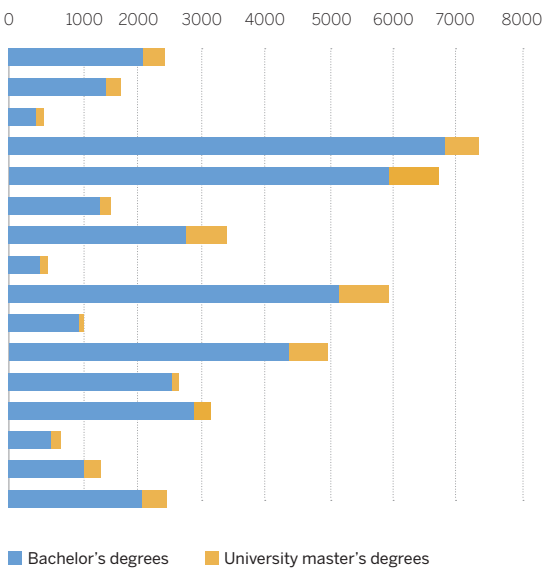
“One of the things I like most about the UB is that it is an urban university; it’s located right in the heart of Barcelona. This immersion in an urban environment is very enriching and not something all universities offer; it is one of the UB’s features.”

Cristina Madrenas, Staff member, Management Area
Retired in the 2018-2019 academic year

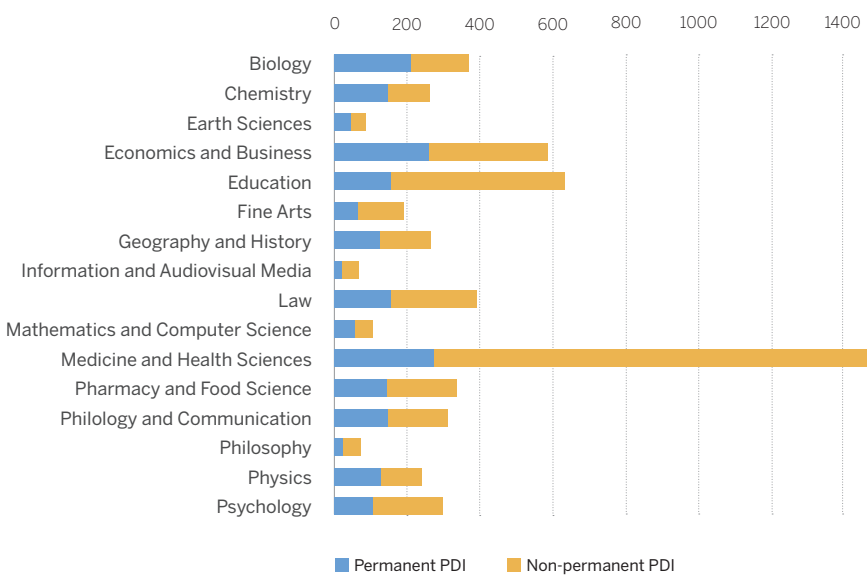
Academic discipline



Students



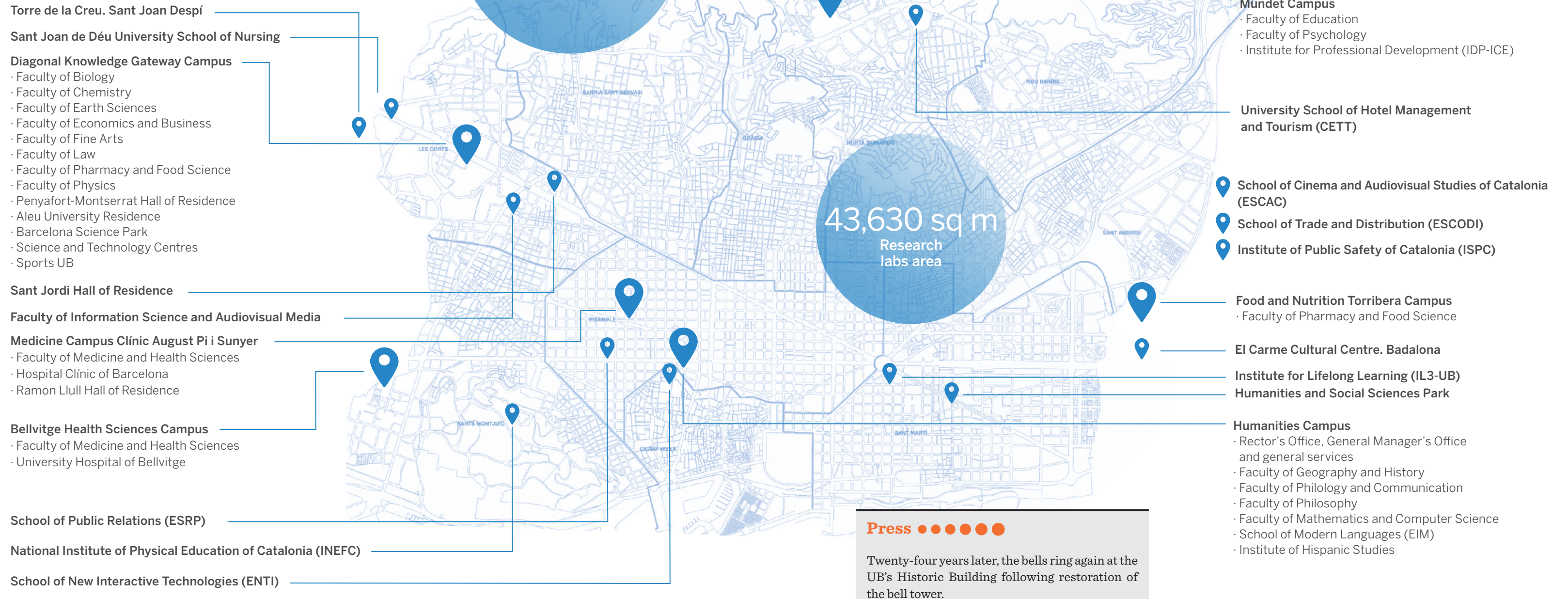
Teaching and Research Staff (PDI)



EMPLOYMENT RATE

According to the Catalan University Quality Assurance Agency's (AQU's) sixth graduate employment study, the employment rate for UB graduates three years after earning their degree is 87.26% in the case of bachelor's degrees, 88.44% in the case of master's degrees, and 90.67% in the case of doctorates.

• Geographical distribution: campuses and centres



Press ●●●●●●

The University of Barcelona's Governing Council has approved a new Protocol for prevention, detection and action against situations of sexual harassment based on sex, gender identity or sexual orientation and other sexist behaviours. The new regulation, which provides for criminal action, updates the 2014 protocol.

La Vanguardia, 15 May 2019

Press ●●●●●●

Twenty-four years later, the bells ring again at the UB's Historic Building following restoration of the bell tower.

La Vanguardia, 10 April 2019



1

A University engaged with society

Transparency, ethics, sustainability and good governance

Institutional and cultural activities

Culture and society



“The most valuable part for me is not just the knowledge, which is incredible, but the values, ethics, perseverance, effort...”

Mariona Ruiz, Graduate in Biomedical Engineering

• Transparency, ethics, sustainability and good governance

The University of Barcelona consolidates its **open, accessible and participatory governance model** through a series of actions and regulations concerning ethics and integrity, transparency and good governance, as well as improvements to its management and accountability systems.

In this regard, the University’s Regulation on transparency, access to public information and good governance, approved in 2018, and its Code of Ethics on Integrity and Best Practices have bolstered a university governance model that promotes efficient and comprehensive management in the allocation of resources and increased accountability.

The University’s new Regulation on the preparation and monitoring of service charters governs the structure and content and the preparation, monitoring,

updating and review procedures for service charters. These tools, inherent to public-sector services, are required under the transparency regulation and facilitate the process of improving management systems and their outcomes.

The UB has also adopted the United Nations’ 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in order to build a better future. The **Sustainable Development Commission**, whose creation was approved by the Governing Council, addresses issues linked to both the environment and social responsibility. Its tasks include mapping actions related to the implementation of the SDGs and proposing an action plan to implement and monitor compliance with these goals at the UB, as well as approving the content of the institutional Social Responsibility Report.

The University of Barcelona fulfils its commitment to society in a variety of areas. In the area of **social responsibility**, it has published its ninth Social Responsibility Report, which details the University’s social, economic and environmental impact in the academic year 2016-2017 or the calendar year 2017. For the first time, the University prepared the report taking into account the consolidated set of Glob-



al Reporting Initiative (GRI) sustainability reporting standards.

The University of Barcelona **Ethics Committee** has developed the Code of Ethics on Integrity and Best Practices, intended to guide members of the university community with regard to their rights and duties and support them in the exercise of their freedoms and responsibilities. “Best practices” are understood as the set of rules, recommendations and commitments that the different groups in the UB community must adhere to in order to foster excellence in the University’s various fields and to prevent integrity issues in the personal performance of their activities. The Code covers the areas of research, teaching, learning, publications, communication and management, among others.

Academic freedom, professional responsibility, scientific and academic integrity, honesty, equal rights, respect, privacy and confidentiality, sustainability and solidarity, and potential risk behaviours are essential parts of the Code of Ethics, which will be interpreted by the UB’s Ethics Committee.

Another initiative in this regard was the drafting of the Declaration on ethics and integrity in university teaching, published by the UB’s Observatory on Bioethics and Law.

In the area of **equality**, the University of Barcelona approved the Protocol for Prevention, Detection and Action against Sexual Harassment and Harassment

• UB bodies engaged in social responsibility and ethics

- Bioethics Committee
- Courses for Senior Citizens
- Equality Unit and Equality Committees
- Ethics Committee
- Gaudir UB courses
- Office for Health, Safety and Environmental Issues
- Office for Internal Control, Risks and Corporate Social Responsibility
- Ombuds Office
- Scientific Culture and Innovation Unit
- Service-learning
- Student Support Service. Student integration programmes: Fem Via and Programa Avança
- Support and Mediation Office
- Sustainable Development Commission
- UB Alumni
- UB Saludable
- UB Solidarity Foundation
- UB Sports
- University of Experience
- UB Volunteers



Based on Gender, Gender Identity or Sexual Orientation, and Other Sexist Behaviour as part of its zero-tolerance policy towards sexual harassment and gender-based violence. To promote its proper implementation, training has begun and informational material has been prepared for the entire university community. The University has also dealt with cases of harassment and complaints of sexist behaviour.

The Copolis Research Group, whose primary purpose is to propose research and activities with society's least visible groups, was tasked with conducting an assessment of the Second Equality Plan to determine the starting point for the preparation of the Third Equality Plan. Several working groups are already working on the new plan, one for each of its ten areas.

The UB has also launched a campaign to increase the visibility of women at the University and of research incorporating a gender perspective. Classrooms and other facilities in various faculties have been named after prominent women in the respective fields and the UB has published the e-book *Les primeres professores de la Universitat de Barcelona* [The University of Barcelona's first women lecturers]. As for increasing the visibility of research incorporating a gender perspective, the Office of the Vice-Rector for Equal Opportunities and Social Action has announced the opening of the awards for best bachelor's and master's degree final projects incorporating a gender perspective. These awards are in addition to those already offered by the Faculty of Medicine and

Health Sciences and the Faculty of Law. The University has also continued to carry out educational projects, such as courses and lecture series, and events were held at all the faculties to celebrate and demonstrate on 8 March, International Women's Day, and 25 November, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women.

To facilitate the exchange of information and the undertaking of joint activities, the UB intensified its participation in national and international networks, such as the Ibero-American Universities Union, the League of European Research Universities' Equality Commission, or the Inter-University Council of Catalonia's Women and Science Committee. Additionally, the University has worked to define the equality actions to be undertaken in the framework of the 2030 Agenda and the University of Barcelona's Strategic Plan.

In the area of **mediation**, the UB has continued its efforts to promote, sustain and cultivate a culture of respect and humanization among all university staff.

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 128 complaints and 203 queries.

Service-learning projects offer an approach to teaching and research that integrates service to the

1,450 A COMMITMENT TO THE COMMUNITY
students involved in service-learning projects

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 projects seek to respond to social needs identified by social organizations, educational centres and other institutions and to enable students to take part in the response through their own educational activities.

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 interdisciplinary in nature. Its members include teaching staff from several faculties and areas of knowledge. In 2018, participants included roughly a hundred members of the teaching and research staff at 12 different faculties as well as 1,450 students and more than 85 collaborating organizations.

In the area of **entrepreneurship**, the UB has approved the Entrepreneurship Plan with the aim of nurturing students' entrepreneurial spirit, as well as mentoring students and incubating student initiatives, which should be linked to the SDGs. It has also updated the image of the Barcelona Entrepreneurship Institute (BIE), renaming it the StartUB!Lab. The StartUB!Lab promotes entrepreneurship in the university community, fostering connections and the exchange of synergies between projects. Located at the Aleu University Residence, in premises spanning more than 400 sq m, it is designed to accommodate entrepreneurial teams of up to 80 people. The

Press ●●●●●●●●

Numerous speakers at the 8th Environmental Conference (held in the UB's Aula Magna assembly hall) supported a carbon tax, in keeping with the position recently expressed by a group of 25 Nobel laureates and former leaders in favour of taxing fossil fuels.

La Vanguardia, 6 June 2019



45% A COMMITMENT
TO THE ENVIRONMENT
reduction in water consumption since 2013

EmprènUB Awards were given at the opening ceremony for the facilities, which also hosted the second annual Innovation Day.

To help entrepreneurs secure external funding through projects, contracts and agreements with public or pri-

vate bodies, the UB implemented a strategy to create **chairs and sponsored classrooms**. Such tools govern partnerships between the University and companies and institutions to achieve common goals in areas such as training, cultural creation, research and knowledge dissemination. The UB presently has 23 active chairs and two active sponsored classrooms, spread across 12 centres. Of the 23 chairs, two are UNESCO chairs and two are Jean Monnet chairs.

Another action undertaken to increase the University's funding is the **Fundraising Plan**, which will provide a means of securing greater philanthropic resources.

In the area of **occupational risk prevention and sustainability**, the main lines of action have been the management of health and safety at work, the integration of prevention in all areas of the university community, research support, emergency preparation and response, sustainability, and social assistance.

For the **management of health and safety** at work, steps have been taken to minimize and eliminate risk factors in staff workplaces across all areas of prevention: occupational safety, industrial hygiene, ergonomics, psychosocial aspects and health monitoring. Specifically, the University has scheduled the evaluation of all Faculty of Biology and Faculty of Economics and Business staff and infrastructure.



Press ●●●●●●

The University of Barcelona has signed four agreements under its support programme for refugees and people from conflict zones, coordinated by the UB Solidarity Foundation, to facilitate access to higher education for members of those groups.

El Economista, 11 December 2018

The University has also continued to develop self-protection plans for buildings and to hold **emergency drills** at various centres, as well as its work in the areas of ergonomics, psychosociology and occupational medicine, with 800 health examinations.

With regard to the **environment**, the UB has endorsed the Government of Catalonia's programme of voluntary agreements for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. In the first assessment, in 2017, the inventory resulted in a total of 21,577 tonnes of CO2-equivalent emissions. The data for 2018 are much better due to measures such as the contracting of electricity from renewable energy sources with guarantees of origin.

The University also launched the “Desconnecta’ls, desconnecta” [Disconnect them, disconnect] cam-

UB chairs

- BioHorizons & UB Chair
- Cellex Chair in Oncology and Multidisciplinary Knowledge
- Family Business Chair
- Energy Sustainability Chair
- ICEA-UB Chair on Insurance and Pension Funds
- Joaquim Xirau Chair
- Professor Manuel Serra Domínguez Chair in Procedural Law Studies
- Ramon Llull Chair
- Ramon Trias Fargas Chair on Catalan Economy
- Tourism, Hotel Trade and Gastronomy Chair
- UB – Adecco Foundation Chair for the Professional Integration of People with Disabilities
- UB – Danone Chair
- UB – Edu1st Neuroeducation Chair
- UB – Telefónica Smart Cities Chair
- UB – Zurich Insurance Chair
- UB Chair for Research and Teaching in Internal Medicine
- UB Chair in Urban Economics and City of Barcelona
- UB Chair Repsol Foundation
- UB Llorens i Barba Chair. City of Vilafranca
- UB Rector Francisco Buscarons Úbeda Chair. Forensic Chemistry and Engineering
- UNESCO Chair in Bioethics
- UNESCO Chair for Environment and Sustainable Development
- Unesco Chair Women, Development and Cultures

140

A COMMITMENT TO SPORT

medals won by UB competitors in university championships

Press ●●●●●●

The cosmologist and astrophysicist Licia Verde, an ICREA researcher and lecturer at the University of Barcelona's Institute of Cosmos Science, was awarded the 2018 National Research Prize by the Government of Catalonia.

La Vanguardia, 19 January 2019



paigned to raise awareness of the need for responsible energy consumption in its buildings.

As regards mobility, the second survey, conducted in 2018, shows that, over the course of a year, the UB is responsible for 586,535 weekly trips and nearly 429 million kilometres travelled. Some 31% of the university community use active transport, 55% public transport, and 14% private motorized transport.

In the area of **training**, conferences and training sessions have been held for staff and master's and post-graduate students, including training on emergency plans, first aid, defibrillators and other specific topics. In addition, the University has collaborated with laboratory technicians and departmental research staff on seminars and specific training sessions on risk prevention and reminders of best practices in the taking, handling and treatment of samples, chemicals and biological agents in the Ecology and Physiology and Immunology sections. It likewise continued its preventive work within the context of the Onboarding plan for new teaching and research staff.

For another year, students of the subject Sustainable Development, from the bachelor's degree in Environmental Sciences taught by the Faculty of Biology, participated in a service-learning project to seek practical solutions to environmental problems identified at UB centres.

3rd

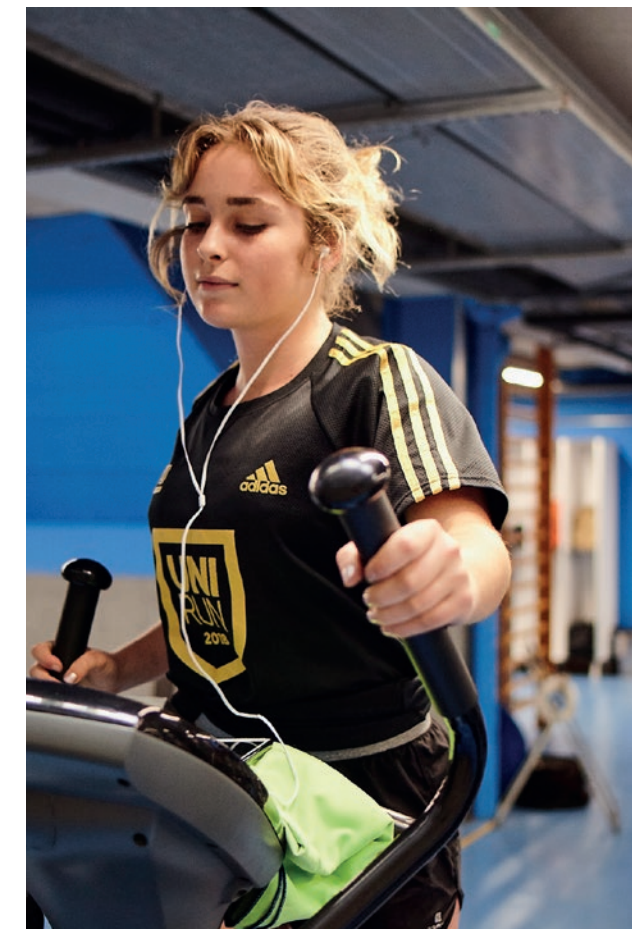
UNIVERSITY IN THE OVERALL

medal count for Spanish championships

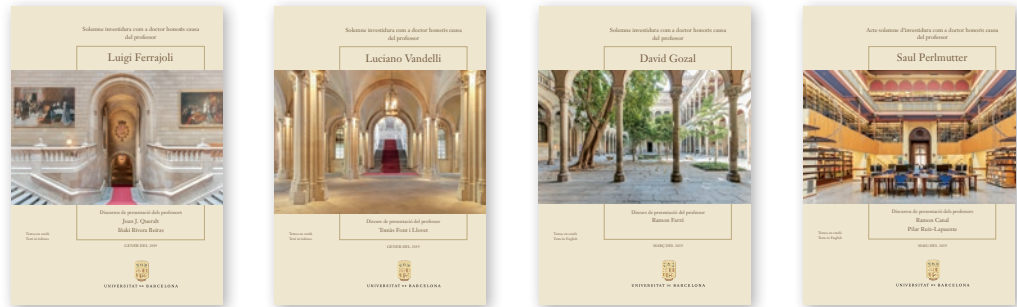
UB Saludable promotes healthy living and well-being, while also encouraging critical thinking about issues such as health and fairness, the universalization of healthcare, and personal health and growth. UB Saludable's projects and goals are aligned with the SDGs: promotion of healthy habits, creation of a healthy and sustainable environment, partnering with institutions, and outreach to the local community and society at large. To share and raise awareness of them, it has developed a new website and, for the first time, participated in the Catalan Healthy Universities Network's Setmana Saludable [Healthy Week].

Additionally, as a member of the Sustainable Development Commission, UB Saludable has helped develop the University's 2030 Agenda. Likewise, together with the Corporate Training office and the Professional Development Institute, it has worked to create training courses on healthy habits and personal growth (such as the course on emotional skills and healthy lifestyles) and meditation workshops.

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 in Catalonia, Spain and Europe. In 2018-2019, 319 athletes (155 men and 164 women) competed for the UB. Seven 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 this year's league 1,502 athletes participated. Mention should also be made of UNIRUN, the university road race. In the fifth edition, there were 4,500 participants, including 985 from the UB.



• Institutional and cultural activities

Within the framework of **institutional activities**, the academic year 2018-2019 began with an opening address entitled “Mirant al futur, una dècada després de la crisi” [Looking to the future, a decade after the crisis], which was delivered by Dr **Joan Tugores**, former UB rector and professor in the Department of Economics of the Faculty of Economics and Business.



Over the academic year, **honorary doctorates** were awarded to the professors **Luigi Ferrajoli** and **Luciano Vandelli**, both leading figures in European law; the sleep apnoea expert Professor **David Gozal**; and Professor **Saul Perlmutter**, an astrophysicist and the 2011 Nobel Laureate in Physics.

The **Doctors’ Senate**, which currently has 1,198 members, awarded its **22nd annual prize** to Dr David Oriola Santandreu (Department of Physics of Condensed Matter at the Faculty of Physics) for his doctoral thesis **Self-organization and cooperativity of cytoskeletal molecular motors**. The **6th Doctors’ Senate and Board of Trustees Award for the best scientific and humanistic dissemination activities** went to Drs David Bueno and Gemma Marfany, lecturers in the Faculty of Biology.

The University also organized **activities** for teaching staff and young researchers, such as the roundtable discussion “Ètica i plagis en la recerca” [Ethics and plagiarism in research], the workshop “Actualització i guia pràctica per a directors novells de tesis” [Refresher course and practical guide for first-time thesis supervisors], and the workshop “Què fer després del doctorat?” [What to do after your PhD?].

Inaugural lecture for the 2018-2019 academic year, delivered by Joan Tugores.



The UB invests as honorary doctors Luigi Ferrajoli and Luciano Vandelli, two leading figures in European law.



David Gozal, medical expert in sleep and the respiratory system, receives an honorary doctorate from the UB.



Nobel Laureate in Physics, Saul Perlmutter, is awarded an honorary doctorate by the UB.

The jury for the fourteenth edition of the annual **Board of Trustees Awards** gave the José Manuel Blecua Prize to Marta Curto and the Ramon Margalef Prize to Anna Alemany. As for the prizes awarded jointly with the Bosch i Gimpera Foundation, the Antoni Caparrós Prize went to Ana M. Fernández Planas for the project “Desenvolupament d’eines d’avaluació automàtica de la parla per a l’entorn d’aprenentatge virtual Chiara” [Development of automatic speech evaluation tools for the Chiara virtual learning environment] and to Ana Inés Fernández for the project “La transferencia a una empresa multinacional líder en desarrollo tecnológico es posible. Un caso en el sector de la energía” [Transfer to a leading multinational in technology development is possible: a case study in the energy sector], and the Senén Vilaró Prize for the best innovative company went to Impetux Optics, SL.

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

Award or distinction	Recipients
2018 National Prize in Research	Licia Verde
National Scientific Communication Prize	NanoEduca Programme
Creu de Sant Jordi	Carme Junyent
Jaume Vicens Vives Honour	Marta Sancho
2019 Serra d’Or Critics Prize	Javier Martín Vide
Narcís Monturiol Medal for Scientific and Technological Merit	Francesc Xavier Hernández, Mary Nash, Jordi Torra and Licia Verde
2018 National Essay Prize	María Xesús Lama
2019 Lilly Foundation Award for Biomedical Research	Josep Dalmau
2019 Joan Lluís Vives Prize for best publication	Anton M. Espadaler
2019 Joan Lluís Vives Prize for best co-publication	Carles Mancho



Additionally, Elías Campo, a professor of Pathological Anatomy at the University of Barcelona, director of the August Pi i Sunyer Biomedical Research Institute (IDIBAPS) and director of research at Hospital Clínic de Barcelona and the Clinic Foundation for Biomedical Research, was elected to be a member of the US National Academy of Medicine. Josep Dalmau, an ICREA lecturer at the IDIBAPS and UB lecturer, is also a member.

The UB continued to host the **Debats UB: Catalunya i Espanya** [UB Debates: Catalonia and Spain] series, with the aim of injecting analysis and insight into the political and social process in which Catalonia is immersed. Five sessions were held over the year, each featuring a talk by a renowned academic, followed by a panel discussion. The UB also held the **2nd Seminar on University Funding**, focused on fundraising at public universities and featuring international speakers and a discussion. Finally, the UB once again held its annual event to recognize **administrative and service staff** who have worked at the University for 25 years.

With regard to **new spaces**, the University inaugurated the **Aleu University Residence**, which is home to numerous facilities, including the Dolors Aleu University Residence, with capacity for more than 500 students, a bibliographic archive, study rooms and co-working spaces. All the areas were designed in accordance with the SDGs. Additionally, the group of classrooms located in the new Faculty of Law

building were named for **Jordi Solé Tura**, a professor of Constitutional Law at the UB and co-author of the 1978 Spanish Constitution.

As part of the campaign to increase the visibility of women at the UB, the University has begun **to name classrooms after illustrious women**: the boardroom in the new Faculty of Law building has been named after **Maria Soterias Mauri** (1905-1976); workroom 1 of the Information and Audiovisual Media CRAI Library has been renamed for **Rosalia Guilleumas** (1924-2007); the Aula Magna assembly hall of the Faculty of Earth Sciences has been named



At the UB's 2nd Seminar on University Funding.

182 GUIDED TOURS OF THE HISTORIC BUILDING
with 4,576 visitors

for **Carmina Virgili** (1927-2014); classroom 1010 of the Faculty of Economics and Business has been named for **Joan Robinson** (1903-1983); the boardroom of the Faculty of Psychology has been named after **Victòria Sau** (1930-2013); and the Faculty of Pharmacy and Food Sciences has named its CRAI Library after **Creu Casas Sicart** (1913-2007).

The Historic Building, which is the work of the architect Elias Rogent and was officially declared a monument of national historical and artistic interest in 1970, continues to elicit admiration from people who come to learn about its history, architecture and spaces, the paintings that hang on its walls and its many other artistic features, such as its gardens. Over the past year, the UB offered 182 **guided tours** of the building to a total of 4,576 visitors, including members of the general public, official visitors and representatives of diverse institutions.

In addition, combined tours of the Historic Building and the Conciliar Seminary of Barcelona are now available: 12 were offered in the past year, to a total of 273 visitors. The University also offered eight tours of the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, to a total of 160 visitors, and six tours of the Pedro Pons Estate, to a total of 128 visitors.

In addition, to showcase for the public the extensive collection of manuscripts, incunabula and printed books in its historic collection, the second largest in Spain, the UB offered 47 tours of the **CRAI Reserve**



A UB classroom named in homage to Carmina Virgili: the Main Hall of the Faculty of Earth Sciences.

Library to a total of more than 250 visitors. In an effort to raise awareness of the UB's bibliographic resources and to safeguard its heritage, the UB's Learning and Research Resources Centre (CRAI) continued its **Sponsor a document** project, which made financially possible the restoration and digitization of three books.

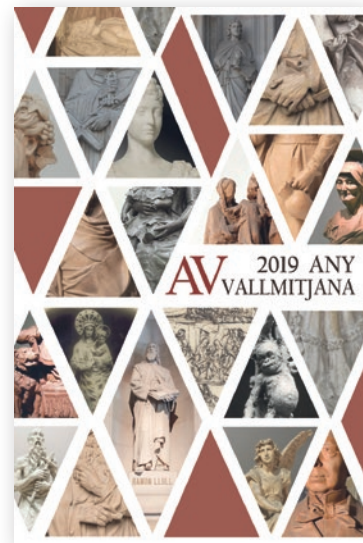
Among other **projects to promote the study of and publicize the University of Barcelona's wealth of historical and artistic heritage**, the University published and presented the book ***Elias Rogent i Barcelona. Arquitectura, patrimoni i restauració*** [Elias Rogent and Barcelona: Architecture, Heritage and Restoration], featuring the findings of re-



From the exhibition “The Art of Science. Jordi Sabater Pi”, at the Museum of the History of Catalonia.

search presented at an earlier conference on the architect Elias Rogent.

The University also coordinated the celebration of **Vallmitjana Year 2019**, devoted to the study and dissemination of the work of the brothers Agapit and Venanci Vallmitjana, the artists responsible for the most important parts of the Historic Building’s sculptural ornamentation. The project was co-organized with the Conciliar Seminary of Barcelona and Barcelona City Council, with the collaboration of more than twenty leading museums and art centres, including the Prado Museum, the National Art Museum of Catalonia (MNAC), the Barcelona Diocesan Museum, the Barcelona Maritime Museum, etc. The first event of the year was the conference “Els germans Vallmitjana i l’escultura moderna a Catalunya” [The Vallmitjana Brothers and Modern Sculpture in Catalonia]. Held at the Conciliar Seminary of Barcelona and in the Historic Building’s Aula Magna assembly hall, the event featured 20 speakers and drew 230 attendees. Guided tours of the master sculptors’ works in Barcelona will be offered until 2020, as well as workshops, activities, and exhibitions at the partner museums and art centres. Two city tours through Barcelona were offered to a total of 93 visitors, in addition to three workshops at the MNAC, the Barcelona Museum of Modernism



and the Víctor Balaguer Library Museum, in Vilanova, to a total of 32 participants. In addition, a website was created to compile the first virtual catalogue of the Vallmitjana brothers’ work.

In 2019, the University of Barcelona also participated in the events to mark the **bicentenary of the Prado Museum**, promoting several activities related to its painting collection. With 56 works divided between the Historic Building and the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, the University has the largest collection of paintings on loan from the Prado in Catalonia. In June, the University offered the first guided tour devoted exclusively to the Prado paintings at the Historic Building, for a total of 31 participants. Five more guided tours are planned before the end of the year, in addition to talks, studies and the restoration of the work *The Virgin Mary with Saint John and Mary Magdalene*, by Mateo Gilarte.

In the **area of heritage**, the UB signed a second addendum modifying the collaboration agreement with the Catalan Cultural Heritage Agency to renew the framework agreement to organize exhibitions of UB heritage at the Museum of Catalan History. It also signed a specific agreement with the same agency to organize the exhibition “L’art de la ciència. Jordi

Sabater Pi” [The Art of Science: Jordi Sabater Pi], also at the Museum of Catalan History.

• Culture and society

In the area of **cultural activities**, the **32nd Season of Music** brought a series of 18 concerts to the Historic Building’s Paranymph 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 Charles Gounod’s *St. Cecilia Mass*, accompanied by three soloists. Total attendance reached 6,250 over the nine months of events.

The University also hosted the **9th Season of Contemporary Dance**, entitled “Dansa contemporània i música” [Contemporary Dance and Music]. The three sessions featured a variety of leading specialists in the field, who discussed the content of the season using audiovisual aids.

The **Els Vespres de la UB** [UB Evenings] have carved out a place for themselves in the city’s cultural agenda. With the aim of introducing up-and-coming musical groups to a broader public and opening the University to the city of Barcelona, the third edition of the winter version of “Els Vespres” was held in February, in the Paranymph hall, while the 13th edition of the summer festival was held in the Ferran Soldevila Garden. In all, ten concerts were held, showcasing



The UB Christmas concert.

a variety of styles and genres. They were attended by more than six thousand people and were widely covered in the media.

The **Theatre Workshop** had two groups, with 14 and 18 students, respectively. At the Christmas event, it put on *Contes per a nens i nenes políticament incorrectes* [Politically Incorrect Bedtime Stories], and in May and June, it offered two performances in the Aula Magna assembly hall of the Faculty of Geography and History: *La fiesta en Paz*, by Aleix Duarri, and *The Importance of Being Earnest*, by Oscar Wilde.

This year, the University launched the new website **Soc cultura** [I am culture], a dynamic tool and new communication channel for announcing cultural activities, such as the Season of Music, exhibitions and guided tours. The website also includes a link to the Virtual Museum.

Over the academic year, the University’s **Virtual Museum** showcased 11 temporary exhibitions, corresponding to the exhibitions organized by the various campuses, as well as those held in the Josep Uclés



The exhibition “Enric Sió, a Cartoonist who Broke the Mould”, at the Josep Uclés Gallery.

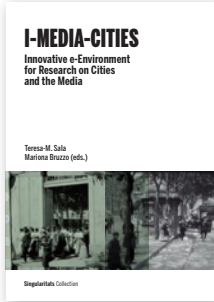
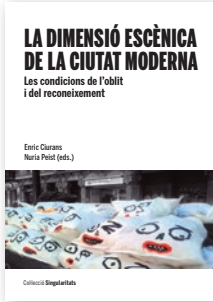
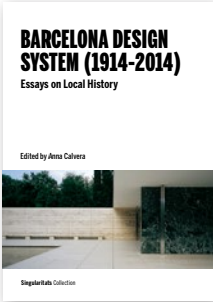
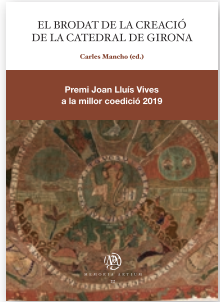


The exhibition “Wei Xiaorong, Contemporary Chinese Painting”, at the Josep Uclés Gallery.

exhibition space at the El Carme Cultural Centre in Badalona. It also offered two virtual exhibitions and posted six news items on other cultural activities taking place at the UB.

The CRAI organized 53 physical exhibitions and 44 virtual ones. It also collaborated on 53 exhibitions organized by other institutions. Highlights include the permanent exhibition “El llibre antic” [The An-

Space	Exhibition
Historic Building	“Pompeu Fabra i la Universitat. ‘Si la llengua fallava, fallava tot’”
	“Explorant el fred. Projecte ‘Antàrtida a Ibèria’”
	“Les matemàtiques com a motor poètic”
	“Beneït és el fruit: la guerra sagrada als ventres irlandesos”
	“De l’ombra a la llum”
Faculty of Pharmacy and Food Sciences	“Women of Mathematics throughout Europe: a Gallery of Portraits”
	“Tipus, éssers i barruts”
	“Quan no n’hi ha prou per repartir. Pensar matemàticament”
Faculty of Chemistry	“Descobreix la col·lecció de taules periòdiques de la Facultat” (museumization project)
Catalan History Museum	“L’art de la ciència. Jordi Sabater Pi”
Josep Uclés exhibition space	“Herència. Homenatge a Jordi Cuyàs”
	“Anar i tornar a Brossa”
	“Enric Sió, el dibuixant que va trencar motlles”
	“Forjadors de la Festa”
	“Wei Xiaorong, pintura xinesa contemporània”



Edicions de la UB has received several prizes and wide recognition, including the Seal of Quality in Academic Publishing for its Singularitats collection.

cient Book] at the CRAI’s Baldiri i Reixac building, organized by the Restoration Workshop staff.

The UB has organized or participated in a total of 16 **exhibitions**, eight of which were held in various areas of the Historic Building. The Josep Uclés exhibition space hosted five exhibitions, along with a series of supplementary activities.

The University of Barcelona’s **communication strategy** is essential to making sure that all the University’s activities are understandable and accessible. To this end, the University has implemented the **UB Communication Strategy Plan** (360° Communication), which is based on three main pillars: awareness in communication; a creative and innovative communication strategy; and the feeling of belonging to the University of Barcelona. The UB was mentioned in more than 70,000 news items. It produced 208 videos for UBTV and 71 for YouTube, as well as 21 photo essays and audiovisual material for the Saló de l’Ensenyament education fair and in relation to the Research, Innovation, and Improvement of Teaching and Learning programme.

To ensure consistency in the University’s public image, the University’s **Graphic style guide** was revised. The University also controlled and monitored proper use of the UB brand in the various internal and external me-

dia, as well as management of brand assignments to companies or organizations linked to the institution.

The UB Store, located in the lobby of the Historic Building, has established itself as the main sales outlet for University of Barcelona **merchandise**. With regard to the network of external merchandise retailers, a new outlet has been added, and the shop’s website has received more than 17,500 visits.

Edicions de la Universitat de Barcelona has published more than 200 new titles, in print and digital formats, including institutional books, teaching manuals, informative works, scientific journals, and monographs resulting from the research of the university’s teaching staff. With the Singularitats collection, directed by Teresa-M. Sala, the publisher obtained the Seal of Quality in Academic Publishing (CEA-APQ) (with special mention for internationality) promoted by the Union of Spanish University Publishers (UNE) and endorsed by the National Agency for Quality Assessment and Accreditation (ANECA) and the Spanish Foundation for Science and Technology (FECYT). This seal sits alongside those already obtained for its Bioethics collection and Instrumenta collection. Similarly, Edicions de la UB received the 2019 National University Publishing Prize for best scientific publication (for *La ciencia en la literatura*, by Xavier Duran), and the 2019 Joan Lluís Vives Prizes for best publica-

1,414

A COMMITMENT TO SOCIETY

students enrolled in programmes at the University of Experience

tion (*Obra completa Ramon Vidal de Besalú*, curated by Anton M. Espadaler), best co-publication (*El Brodat de la Creació de la catedral de Girona*, by Carles Mancho), and best book on natural and applied sciences (*El naufragi dels records*, by Jaume Folch). In terms of the projection of University of Barcelona publications, Edicions has participated in 15 national and international fairs, including the Setmana del Llibre en Català, the Feria del Libro de Madrid, Liber International Book Fair, Guadalajara International Book Fair (Mexico), and Frankfurter Buchmesse. It has also organized some 45 book presentations in collaboration with various bookshops and institutions.

The ninth year of the **University of Experience**, the UB's learning initiative for over-55s of any educational background, attracted 1,414 students this year,



The DOCfield Barcelona documentary photography festival arrives at the Historic Building.

including 777 new students. Most of the enrolled students were between the ages of 55 and 65. A total of 14 programmes were offered, including a new programme in Economics and a doubling of the Psychology course, with the participation of 415 lecturers.

In all, the University of Experience delivered 32 courses and continued to organize complementary activities, such as courses in French and English for specific purposes, theatre and physical activity. The UB also took part in the 21st edition of the Saló de la Gent Gran de Catalunya senior fair and the first Trobada d'Aules Sènior [Classrooms for Seniors Meeting] organized by the Vives University Network at the University of Andorra.

Additionally, the University created **Ateneu-UB** to allow lecturers who so wish to maintain their relationship with the University. The new meeting space can be used for reflection and debate, to hold events, launch books, present research, maintain cross-disciplinary contact with multiple fields of knowledge, advise, where appropriate, on internal issues affecting the UB, publish opinions on local and international issues, and meet with students and active lecturers seeking advice on their work and research. The Management Committee has been working since April to draft the Ateneu's regulations and prepare a series of activities, among other things.

The **UB Solidarity Foundation** maintains its focus on social action, development cooperation, vol-

2,095

VOLUNTEERING

volunteers from the UB community

unteering and the promotion of human rights and a culture of peace, sometimes in collaboration with other institutions. 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 various organizations for the social and professional integration of people belonging to groups at risk of exclusion or in situations of special hardship.

In the area of cooperation, the University is carrying out projects on water management, improving local governance and grassroots involvement in Senegal, 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 together with the Institute of Professional Development announced the Fourteenth Award for Peace Research for high school research projects. 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 victims of human rights violations throughout Europe and the struggles for democracy and freedom that have been waged in Europe over the past 100 years. Another especially important highlight is the support



The UB welcomes partnerships in its refugee support programme.

programme for refugees and people from conflict zones, which was included in the European inHERE project's Good Practice Catalogue and for which the University of Barcelona received the Magisterio prize.

UB Volunteering is an initiative managed by the UB Solidarity Foundation intended to **encourage members of the university community to volunteer at third-sector organizations** with the aim of building a more committed and socially responsible university. Volunteers have worked with various non-profit organizations to help improve quality of life for disadvantaged populations. By holding events and campaigns throughout the year, UB Volunteers succeeded in collecting donations totalling 9,892 euros, as well as school material and books, toys and food. UB Volunteers worked with 51 organizations and carried out 75 activities, drawing on the participation of 2,095 volunteers in total.



Sant Jordi 2019

The UB held the fourth edition of its **Solidarity Hamper** programme, which involved raffling two hampers filled with donated gifts from participating organizations and with UB services with a total value of 6,670 euros. The 2018 edition raised a total of 5,314 euros, 13.45% more than the previous edition. The proceeds went to Obra Social Sant Joan de Déu, which works to improve the diagnosis and rehabilitation of children with cerebral palsy.

In addition, the CRAI continues to collaborate with the Catalan Ministry of Justice on **projects to benefit the community**: five people collaborated with the CRAI libraries in 2018. This unit also participated in the Recycle Culture campaign on St. George's Day and has actively collaborated with 59 social organizations, such as the Catalan Down's Syndrome Founda-



tion and Doctors without Borders, and 82 professional organizations, such as the Official Association of Librarians of Catalonia and the League of European Research Universities.

Throughout 2018, 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 120 offers and receives 4,000 visits a month on average.

With a current membership of 7,695, the objective of **UB Alumni** is to establish a stable relationship between the University of Barcelona and former students, creating a context for common services, knowledge exchange, professional relationships, opportunities, professional growth and shared benefits. Over the academic year, UB Alumni organized 74 activities relating to several areas of knowledge. The events were attended by 1,480 individuals, including 1,036 UB Alumni members. In the area of job offers, 1,370 companies used the UB Alumni platform, posting 2,123 positions. Also, 18 career activities were held and 2,347 new graduates made use of the professional development service. Lastly, UB Alumni once again ran the advertising campaign “Enhorabona! Ja ets Alumni” [Congratulations! You're an alumnus!] to raise awareness of its activities among recent graduates.





2

A University at the forefront of education

Course offering

Additional academic opportunities

Student support

Teaching innovation, assessment and improvement



“The University is a place where we grow, where we learn, professionally, personally and academically. This overall growth is the UB seal.”

Amelia Tey, Teaching staff, Department of Theory and History of Education

• Course offering

In the academic year 2018-2019, the UB offered 74 **bachelor's degrees** and received 14,701 **first-preference applications** for 11,128 places, putting the demand ratio for places at 1.3. The highest numbers of first-preference applications were received for Medicine at the Medicine Campus – Hospital Clínic August Pi i Sunyer (1,299), Business Administration and Management (934), Psychology (813) and Law (554). A total of 42,165 bachelor's degree students (including the UB-specific degree in Private Investigation) enrolled at UB faculties and schools, including 10,319 new students and 4,584 at UB-affiliated centres.

A total of 157 **university master's degrees** were offered, with 5,635 students enrolled, and an additional 1,802 at UB-affiliated schools. The most popular master's programmes were Secondary and Upper Secondary Education, Vocational Training and Foreign Language Teaching (430), Legal Practice (338), Women, Gender and Citizenship (169), General Health Psychology (142) and Advanced Medical Skills (142). Of the total number of students enrolled, including those at

affiliated centres, 3,244 (44%) were international students, mainly from Latin America, China and – within Europe – Italy. Teaching in foreign languages was also strengthened, particularly for master's degree courses, in which 17% of the instruction was in English.

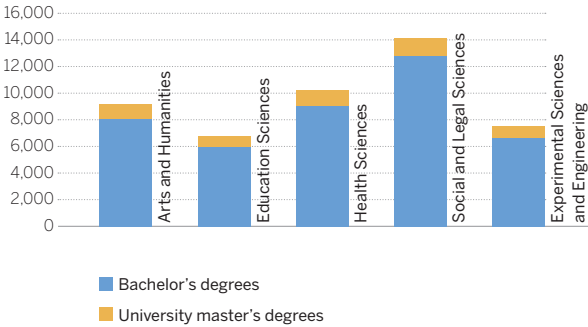
A total of 7,167 bachelor's degree students and 43 UB-specific degree students graduated from UB faculties, while 3,530 university master's degrees were awarded. In addition, **special** academic achievement awards went to 125 bachelor's degree students and 102 master's degree students (for courses completed in the academic year 2017-2018).

The **accreditation** process entails an internal evaluation (a self-report prepared by the heads of each faculty), a site visit by an external evaluation committee appointed by AQU Catalunya, and final accreditation by the Spanish Universities Council. In 2018, the process involved seven self-reports prepared by faculties seeking accreditation of qualifications, followed by the corresponding committee visits.

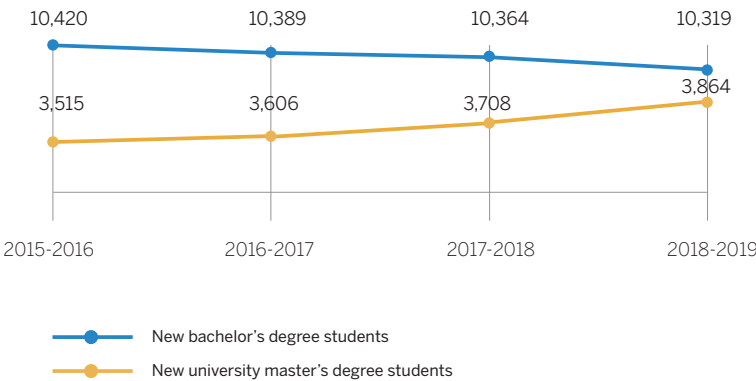
In all, 85% of the bachelor's degrees currently offered at the UB (57 out of 67) have already completed an accreditation process (14 'with excellence'). Likewise, 84% of

46,749 TRAINING students in 74 bachelor's degrees (including UB-affiliated centres)

Bachelor's and university master's degree students



New bachelor's and university master's degree students



Postgraduate students

Area	Master's degrees	Specialization and postgraduate courses	Expert courses	Advanced university courses	University extension courses
Arts and Humanities	85	73	31	148	182
Social and Legal Sciences	880	354	215	86	160
Experimental Sciences and Engineering	87	35	30	94	159
Health Sciences	2,117	371	467	247	107
Education Sciences	138	74	67	125	38
Institute of Professional Development	122	150	7	—	—
Institute of Lifelong Learning (IL3-UB)	1,698	1,073	44	81	28
Affiliated centres	190	73	5	—	274
Total	5,317	2,203	866	781	948
% Women	73.6	76.3	65.7	58.3	51.8



master's degrees (96 out of 114) have thus far completed an accreditation process (28 'with excellence').

The University has begun the process to certify, in the academic year 2019-2020, the implementation of the internal quality assurance (IQA) systems of the faculties of Economics and Business, Chemistry and Law, in accordance with AQU Catalunya standards. With this certification, the faculties will obtain institutional accreditation, which entails the accreditation of all bachelor's and university master's degrees offered at the faculty for a renewable period of five years.

In the area of lifelong learning, the UB also offered 215 **specialization courses and postgraduate programmes**, 350 **master's programmes**, 139 **expert courses**, and 101 **advanced university courses**, which were taken by 2,203, 5,317, 866 and 781 students, respectively. The high number of international students (29.8% of the total) underscores the strong degree of internationalization that continues to characterize postgraduate studies. The UB's **university extension programme** offered 97 courses, with 948 students enrolled. A total of three master's programmes, one specialization diploma, four expert courses, one advanced university course and one university extension diploma 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. The campaigns sought to attract university master's degree students and to publicize the course

offering in the Els Juliols summer school (boasting a website with new features), at the School of Modern Languages (EIM, where the message was 'Improve and prove your level'), at the Institute of Hispanic Studies (teaching Spanish to international students) and in the Gaudir UB programme. Advertisements appeared in a variety of generalist and specialist educational media (press, digital media and billboards) and the campaigns were also run internally, both online and offline. Thanks to collaboration agreements signed with various media outlets, advertisements ran at no cost to the UB, enabling the campaigns to reach a wide audience.

The UB has also continued to support the deployment of the **UB Virtual Campus** application, which enables students to use a variety of services on their mobile devices.

The University of Barcelona strengthened its **institutional welcome messages** at the start of the academic year with an e-mail addressed to incoming secondary school graduates and a face-to-face welcome action at the faculties in which students were asked to write down their hopes and goals for the new academic year. These messages were then compiled in a mural exhibited in the Historic Building with the hashtag #SocUB.

With the aim of encouraging students to participate in university life, in November, the University launched a marketing campaign for the **13th UB Folder Design Contest**. A total of 83 designs were submitted. The winning entry was *Pasión UB* [UB Passion], by Florencia Mosich.

44% A COMMITMENT TO INTERNATIONALIZATION
of university master's students are international



Press ●●●●●●●

The exhibition 'L'art de la ciència. Jordi Sabater Pi' [The art of science: Jordi Sabater Pi], currently on display in the lobby of the Museum of Catalan History, features scientific drawings by Jordi Sabater Pi (1922-2009), a University of Barcelona emeritus professor.

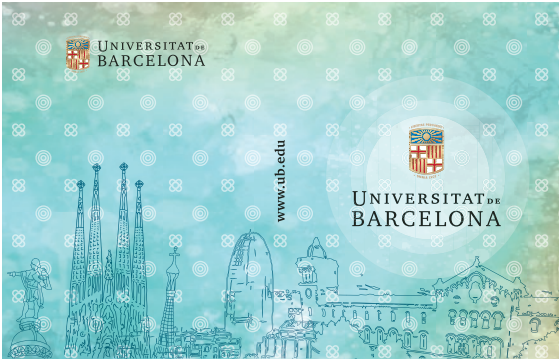
El Nacional, 6 April 2019

International students¹

Studies	% International students	
Bachelor's degrees	6.4	(3,011)
University master's degrees	43.6	(3,244)
Doctoral studies	32.0	(1,500)
Master's degrees	29.4	(1,562)
Specialization and postgraduate courses	28.2	(622)
Expert courses	16.7	(145)
Advanced university courses	32.8	(256)
University extension courses	24.1	(228)
Total	(10,568)	

Total number of foreign students in parentheses.
¹ Includes students at affiliated centres, the Institute of Professional Development and the Institute for Lifelong Learning.





• Other academic opportunities

The **School of Modern Languages** (EIM), Catalonia's first university language school, now has a wide network of accredited centres (in 17 cities) that provide quality language instruction to 5,496 students. Additionally, this academic year, the EIM became an examination centre for the official GOETHE and DALF certificates of German and French, respectively, and held the first test to certify teaching and research staff to deliver instruction in English, with 96% of the candidates earning the certification.

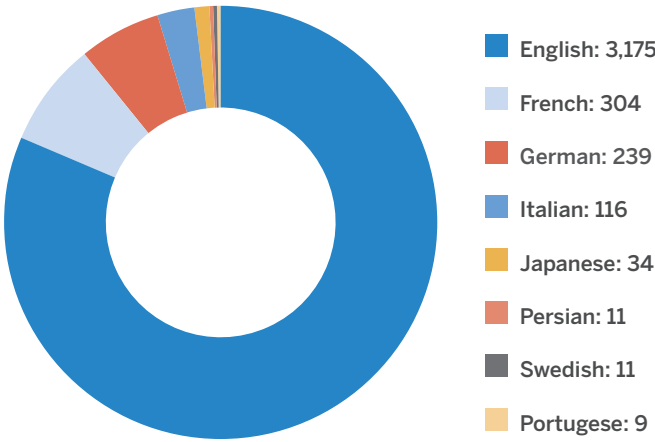
A total of 3,899 students and 59 teachers participated in the courses offered in eight languages (English,

French, German, Italian, Japanese, Persian, Portuguese and Swedish). Over the year, 17 calls were held for language certificates, and 1,013 individuals signed up for official examinations.

With a tradition that goes back over 60 years, the **Institute of Hispanic Studies** provides education in Spanish language and culture to visiting students. Throughout the academic year 2018-2019, the Institute organized and delivered practical courses in Spanish language and culture (e.g., conversation, writing, pronunciation, etc.) to enable students to obtain diplomas and accreditations. The Institute also offered intensive Spanish courses for students taking part in the Erasmus programme and through an agreement with the Polytechnic University of Catalonia.



Students enrolled in courses at the EIM



8 OUR COMMITMENT TO LANGUAGE LEARNING

foreign languages at the School of Modern Languages (EIM)

In conjunction with the Cervantes Institute, the Institute of Hispanic Studies also held ten sittings for the exam in Spanish constitutional and sociocultural knowledge (CCSE exam), which is required to obtain Spanish nationality, and six sittings for the exams to obtain a Diploma in Spanish as a Foreign Language (DELE exams). The Institute offers preparation courses for DELE levels B1, B2, C1 and C2. Over the past academic year, a total of 1,684 students enrolled in the various courses in Spanish language and culture, 1,043 individuals sat DELE exams and 534 individuals took the CCSE exam.

In addition, the Institute of Hispanic Studies offers placements to students of the university master's degree in Spanish as a Foreign Language in Professional Environments, while also editing specialist texts and translating them into Spanish and providing training to visiting teaching and administrative staff.

In the summer, the UB held the 23rd annual **Els Juliols**, programme. A total of 1,205 students enrolled in 53 summer courses led by 375 instructors. Drawing on the collaboration of a wide array of local governments, organizations and foundations, the courses took place in several municipalities: Barcelona, Sant Joan Despí, Esplugues de Llobregat, Cornellà de Llobregat, Vilafranca del Penedès, Terrassa, Alella, Santa Coloma de Gramenet and Viladecans. The programme included the 12th edition of the **Women's Summer University**, organized in collaboration with the Cornellà City Council's Information and Resource Centre for Women.



1,301

A COMMITMENT TO SOCIETY
students at the University of Experience in 13 programmes

The **Gaudir UB** programme, based in Barcelona and Sant Joan Despí, took place again this year. In total, 2,889 students enrolled in 142 courses over three terms. Also participating were 333 instructors and specialists.

Catalan language courses provided by the UB’s Language Services were offered as year-long, single-term and intensive summer courses, including the online programme parla.cat of the Government of Catalonia, 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. In total, 88 courses took place and 1,101 students enrolled. In addition, 18 workshops were held to improve the quality of writing in the final projects for bachelor’s degrees and master’s degrees. For the second year in a row, training to obtain a certificate in Catalan legal language was offered in the context of the Catalan Interuniversity Commission for Language Training and Certification (CIFALC).

Also for a second edition, at the instigation of the Catalan Ministry of Education and in collaboration with the CRAI libraries, the Catalan language area was maintained on the Mundet Campus. The aim of this space is to improve the spoken and written Catalan language skills of students enrolled in the bachelor’s degrees in Teacher of Early Childhood Education and in Teacher of Primary Education. The centre offered individual advice and guidance and organized 29 workshops in spoken and written Catalan.

To bolster the language learning of UB staff, administrative and service staff were provided with specific language courses and tests on their knowledge of the Catalan language. Courses were also offered for teaching and research staff, with 111 staff members registering to sit exams linked to civil servant and contract positions. A total of 65 of these staff members earned accreditation.

Students enrolled in lifelong learning courses (IL3)

Type of course	Open courses		Corporate solutions	
	Students	Courses	Students	Courses
Distance	26	6	–	–
Online	9,498	306	638	14
Face-to-face	2,230	222	1,445	75
Blended learning	685	46	915	40
Total	12,433	580	2,998	129

Students involved in other academic opportunities

	Students
School of Modern Languages	3,899
Hispanic Studies	1,684
Els Juliols summer courses	1,205
Gaudir UB courses	2,889
Catalan courses (Language Services)	1.101



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 1,240 language learners from different sectors of the university community made use of the system. The UB’s self-access language centres promoted a variety of informal learning activities, such as peer conversation groups (with 981 student participants). Other offerings included the self-learning groups, with 49 students, and the Enjoy English activity, in which English was used in recreational contexts and attracted 65 participants.

As part of the UB’s welcome programme for mobility students, 80 international students and 90 local students took part in the UB’s Language Exchange. In addition, 11 meetings of the Language Coffees conversation sessions were organized, for informal chats in Catalan, English, French, German, Italian and Spanish. There were also ten cultural welcome activities, drawing on the participation of 130 students during 2018-2019. In terms of the mobility of UB students, 28 information sessions for language welcome programmes were held at the different UB faculties.

The **Institute for Lifelong Learning (IL3-UB)** expanded its training offering with new programmes in the field of healthcare and communication, such as the specialization course in Implementation of Programmes to Optimize Use of Antimicrobial Agents (PROA), the expert course in Toxicological Assess-



ment in the Chemical-Pharmaceutical Industry, the master’s degree in Nursing Care for Hospitalized Patients and the postgraduate course in Digital Communication Strategy.

The Office for International Projects of the Institute encourages public-private collaboration for social innovation projects in training and dissemination. As a result of its development, the Institute has managed to lead several projects and participate in several others. Special mention should be made of the IL3-led European project All@Once, which aims to train primary school teachers on how to transmit healthy habits to children between the ages of three and six in the areas of physical, emotional, mental and social health.



A University at the forefront
of education

The University of Barcelona
presents its educational offering
at the Saló de la Enseñanza
education fair.

• Student support

Information and orientation activities

The Student Support Service (SAE) 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 **course offering**, the UB participated in the Saló de l'Ensenyament education fair and the Saló Futura fair, for master's degrees and postgraduate programmes. For this edition, it designed a new stand spanning 180 sq m, 60 sq m larger than in previous years, enabling it to increase the number of information desks to 35 and staff them with one hundred information agents. The UB also participated in the Aula Madrid education fair and Unitour, which brought university orientation fairs to a variety of cities, and attended fairs organized by the federation of parents' associations of free schools in Catalonia, which were held in cities across Catalonia, Andorra and the Balearic Islands. A total of 25 higher education fairs were attended. Additionally, the University participated in the roll-out of the first edition of UNIferia, a virtual fair organized by the Conference of Rectors of Spanish Universities (CRUE). The fair took place on 1-5 April and had a total of 7,989 registered users.

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 15,989 students at 277 secondary schools (including schools in Ibiza). The activity Apropa't a la UB included 13 talks given to 574 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 4,689 visiting secondary 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 related to secondary school research projects, such as the UB-Ferran Adrià Award with Gallina Blanca (Faculty of Pharmacy and Food Science), with 25 projects submitted, the Crystallization Contest (Faculty of Geology), or the Xavier Domingo Award (Faculty of Chemistry), with 19 submissions.

This year saw the fourth **Secondary School Debate League**, coordinated by the Vives University Network. Some 24 secondary schools registered to participate in the local phase.

In addition, the University created new **media**, such as the video *Per què la UB* [Why the UB] and several videos in different formats to promote the bachelor's degree programmes in general and the engineering degrees in particular. It also launched the **new version of the Futurs Estudiants [Future Students] website**, which aims to be a modern, agile and up-to-date medium addressed to prospective students and secondary schools.

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

Press ●●●●●●●●

The University of Barcelona has developed a conversational robot to provide migrants with practical information about registration certificates, applying for nationality, access to public healthcare, the education system and residence permits.

La Vanguardia, 17 January 2019

tion'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. The UB also signed an agreement with several private residence halls and, in September 2019, added the Aleu University Residence Hall to its own accommodation offer. The new facility can accommodate more than 500 students.

In total, 41,234 **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 20,217,182 visits over the course of the academic year.

Besides, the application for mobile devices **UB Virtual Campus** enables UB students to enter and



15,167

FEINA UB PROGRAMME

students completed work placements

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.

In addition, the **CRAI libraries** provide students with all the resources they need to facilitate learning and study throughout their time at the UB. Over the past academic year, bachelor's students have borrowed 292,702 documents, and 9,163 bachelor's students have participated in training courses on information resources.

Career advice and employment

Several **career guidance programmes** designed to provide advice on decision-making, career orientation and skills development have reached a total of 10,558 students. Most activities were framed within the fourth collaboration agreement between the Catalan Ministry of Economy and Knowledge and the Catalan universities to promote better labour market outcomes for young students and university graduates.

Skills training for students and new graduates featured 42 face-to-face training courses and four online courses available through the UB's Virtual Campus. In total, 1,209 students took part, with 374 completing the virtual courses on job search strategies, personal branding and Web 2.0 tools for job seekers.

The University organized the third **Busca Feina a l'Administració Pública** [Look for a job in public service] conference intended to provide information on the system for joining Catalonia's various government bodies and agencies and how they work. Eight government bodies collaborated on the initiative, with 128 students signing up.

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 1,002 students who have visited it, 510 received advice and made use of the available resources, 284 attended the 16 monographic sessions held, and 208 participated in 28 workshops focusing on writing CVs and preparing for job interviews.

The UB's team of advisors carried out a total of 272 **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.

With a view to providing personalized advice to students from programmes offered at the faculties of Education and Psychology, the SAE held the sixth edition of the **El SAE s'apropa a Mundet** [The SAE comes to Mundet Campus] programme, enabling it to provide 78 guidance sessions. Likewise, it held the



“Teamwork between people who are different from each other —old and young, from different disciplines, whether sciences or humanities— enriches learning.”

Jana Lu, first-year student of Catalan Philology

especializada” [Orientation processes with specialized technical service] at the 20th Meeting of University Information and Orientation Services, held at the University of Malaga.

In addition, through the **Feina UB** job programme, the University has collaborated on several fairs and business forums, such as the 3rd Talent in Biomedical Engineering Forum, the 1st Forum for Pharmaceutical and Healthcare Companies and the 14th Science and Engineering Companies Fair, in which the faculties of Physics, Chemistry, Earth Sciences, Mathematics and Computer Science and Biology participated.

In the case of **external academic placements**, 12,461 students completed 15,167 periods with companies and institutions, of which 10,721 were curricular placements and 4,446 were extra-curricular. Development continued on the new GIPE application for the integrated management of placements.

In the field of employment promotion, this past year also witnessed the third call for the **ONCE Founda-**

first edition of **El SAE s'apropa al Campus de l'Alimentació** [The SAE comes to the Food Science Campus] at the Faculty of Pharmacy and Food Science on the Torribera Campus, enabling it to provide guidance to 32 students.

The University also collaborated with the UB Solidarity Foundation to design workshops on writing CVs and preparing for job interviews targeted at students participating in the programme for refugees and people from conflict zones.

In addition, the SAE coordinated a total of 238 **career guidance activities for the UB's various faculties** and affiliated centres, which involved 7,837 students in all. The SAE meets the specific needs of each faculty and school through welcome sessions, career guidance programmes (throughout undergraduate life) and business fairs. For the fourth 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 the University Information and Orientation Services. It likewise presented the talk “Procesos de orientación con atención técnica





tion-CRUE Placement Grants, under which financial aid was awarded to six students with a certified degree of disability equal to or greater than 33%, and the Government of Catalonia’s **Programa Odisseu** [Odysseus Programme], under which nine UB students received grants to complete work placements at rural companies. In addition, 104 students from Spanish and international schools and universities completed a **placement** at a UB centre.

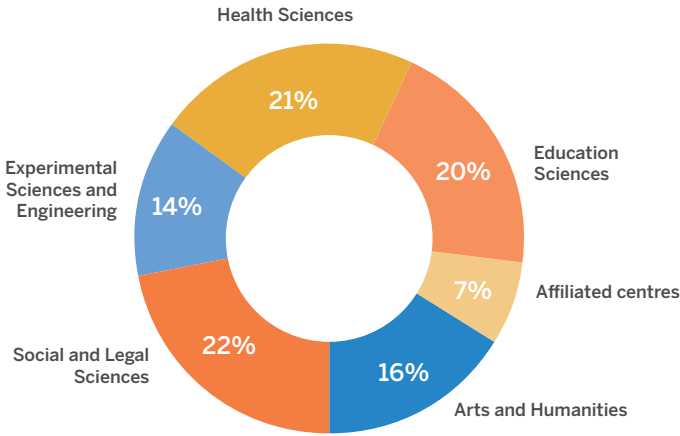
With regard to participation in interuniversity **working groups**, the University of Barcelona, in conjunction with the University of Salamanca, has coordinated the Career Guidance and Skills subgroup of the CRUE group on Employment, to enhance students’ employability through projects and studies. It has also been a member of the Working Commission for Employability.

Support for diversity

The **Integration Programmes Unit** serves students with specific educational needs and carries out a variety of actions to make the UB an increasingly inclusive university. For example, it has given support to 726 students with disabilities enrolled on the various study programmes, as well as 187 students who, despite not having a certified disability, qualify for the UB’s programmes.

Over the academic year, the University undertook 2,076 **advisory actions** and/or interventions (1,266

General and mobility grants for bachelor’s degrees and university master’s degrees, by branch of knowledge



with students, 456 with teaching and research or academic and service staff, and 235 externally, mainly in interuniversity or association contexts) and has designed or revised 109 new individualized study plans.

In the area of **physical support**, it has loaned support devices to 18 students, added two phonendoscopes for future health professions with hearing impairments to its device bank, and purchased the necessary devices for a work station for students with visual impairments.

With regard to **personal support**, it has coordinated the collaboration of 22 support students, offered



1,452 hours of Sign Language interpreting to three students with hearing impairments, published a new call for financial assistance for students with reduced mobility requiring the assistance of other people, and covered 150 hours of personal assistance for the completion of work placements at hospitals.

This year, the University signed an **agreement** with the Asperger’s Association of Catalonia to launch the Meetup Workshops series, aimed at students on the autism spectrum, and it has continued to promote **training and awareness-raising spaces** through conferences and workshops.

Lastly, it has promoted the **employability** of students with specific needs, collaborating through Feina UB on the processing of specific placement grants for students with disabilities jointly offered by the ONCE Foundation and the CRUE, and participating in the working groups of interuniversity networks dedicated to diversity services (University and Disability in Catalonia and Services for People with Disabilities at Universities), among other initiatives.

Grants and financial aid

Over the past academic year, 19,605 applications were received for **general and mobility grants for bachelor’s and university master’s degrees**. A total of 11,660 grants were awarded with a total value of 27,889,919 euros.

Total value of general and mobility grants for bachelor’s degrees and university master’s degrees, by type

Tuition fee exemption	11,272,263
Minimum variable amount	72,960
Fixed amount (residence-linked)	1,984,500
Fixed amount (income-linked)	4,318,400
Variable amount	10,063,871
Excellence grant	187,925
Total	27,899,919

bkUB programme. Grants awarded by type

Study grants for extraordinary circumstances	23
Equity grant supplement	36
Repeating subjects	106
University master’s student grant	24
Third-language study grant	172
Total	361

Additionally, 14,021 applications for means-tested **equity grants** were received and 10,356 grants were awarded. These grants reduce enrolment fees for students by 10% to 80% depending on which of six means-based categories applies.

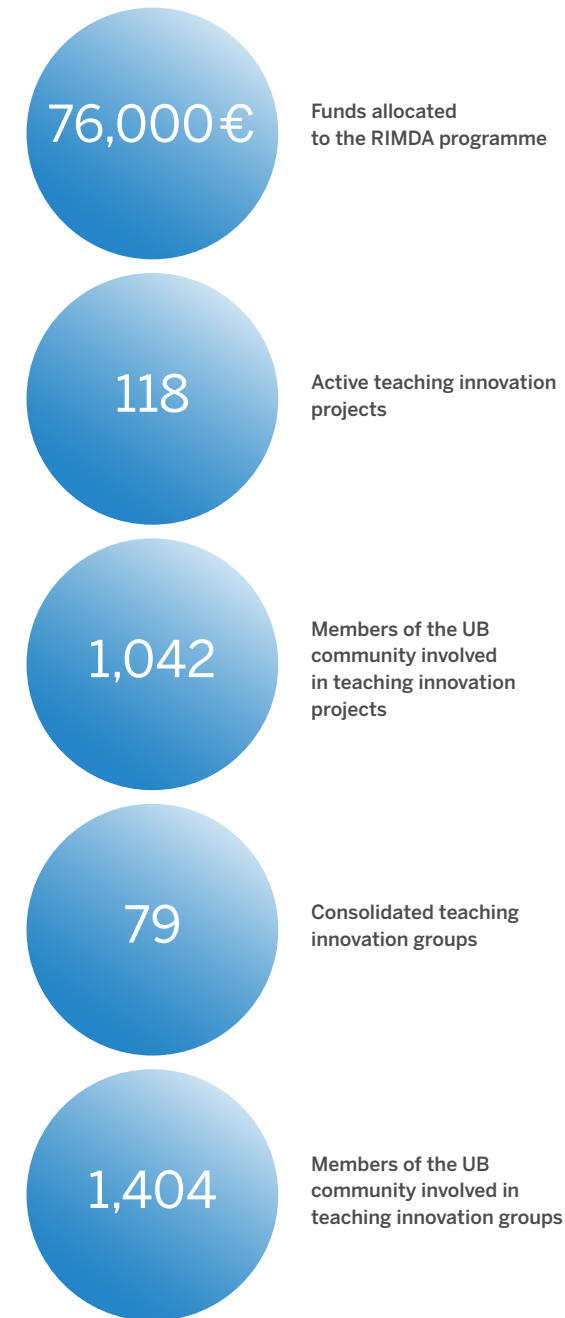
Lastly, the **University of Barcelona’s bkUB** programme encompasses a series of measures aimed at ensuring that financial difficulties do not prevent anyone from studying at the University. Within the framework of this programme, over 13,000 bachelor’s degree students took advantage of flexible payment options and 361 grants were awarded.

The Spanish Ministry of Education and Professional Training awarded 116 **departmental collaboration grants**, with a total value of 232,000 euros; 551 **collaboration grants for UB services and units**, with a total value of 1,981,438 euros; 209 **UB** faculty col-

Grants and financial aid awarded

Grants awarded	Number	Amount (€)
General and mobility grants	11,660	27,899,919
Departmental collaboration	116	232,000
Collaboration with UB services	551	1,981,438
Collaboration with UB faculties/schools	209	646,489
Financial aid	Number	Amount (€)
DRAC programme	23	5,778
Mobility programme	465	110,600
Ibero-America grants (Banco Santander)	29	87,000
Els Juliols grants	30	2,235
bkUB programme	361	–
Equity grant	10,356	–

Teaching improvement and innovation



laboration grants, with a total value of 646,489 euros; and 23 grants for the Vives University Network’s **DRAC programme**, with a total value of 5,778 euros.

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. An additional 29 Banco Santander (**Becas Iberoamérica**) international mobility grants provided a total of 87,000 euros in funding to support students who participated in various international exchange programmes. Also, 30 grants worth 74.50 euros each were awarded to people enrolled in **Els Juliols** courses.

Within the framework of the **SICUE national mobility programme**, the UB signed bilateral agreements with 52 universities in Spain. Participating in the programme were 148 UB students and 372 students from Spanish universities.

Teaching innovation, assessment and improvement

Teaching quality is one of the University of Barcelona’s priority objectives. The **Teaching and Learning Research, Innovation and Improvement (RIMDA) 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, 55 **new teaching innovation** proposals were submitted (for total funding of 76,000 euros), and 33 received approval, bringing the current total to 118 **active teaching innovation projects**. Of the new and ongoing projects, 17 received direct funding and all have had access to financial assistance to publicize their results and have received support for the creation of learning materials. In total, 1,042 members of the university community (teaching and research staff, administrative and service staff, and collaborating staff) have been directly involved in active teaching innovation projects.

In the area of institutional projects for the **promotion of teaching quality**, in addition to the needs and concerns detected by the teaching staff of the Faculty of Economics and Business, the Faculty of Chemistry and the Faculty of Medicine of the Clínic August Pi i Sunyer Campus, several specific lines of teaching innovation were established: flipped classroom (just-in-time teaching and team-based learning), gamification, problem-based learning, project-based learning,

7.35

AVERAGE STUDENT SATISFACTION
in **bachelor's degrees**

case studies, business simulators, skills-based assessment, e-Portfolio, Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE), formative simulation, role playing and Mini_CEX.

The groups of teachers involved in innovation activities receive training and guidance from specialists within the framework of the UB's RIMDA teaching quality programme. Innovative teaching-learning processes are documented with a view to publication in high-impact journals in the field of higher education.

As for the UB's **teaching innovation groups**, accreditation was maintained by 79 consolidated groups and by 19 groups recognized as 'not consolidated'. Specific financial assistance and support staff continued to go to the consolidated groups with the highest scores, while funds were again made available for the dissemination of innovation actions by all groups. In total, 1,404 members of the university community (teaching and research staff, administrative and service staff, and support staff) were engaged in the various activities of the recognized teaching innovation groups.

In the fifth annual awards process, the Board of Trustees gave out two awards for **distinction in teaching quality**: one, in the group category, went to the teaching innovation group focusing on economic, political and social history, led by Dr Yolanda Blasco Martel, of the Department of Economic History, Institutions and Policy and World Economy. The other, in the individual category, went to Drs Maria Pilar Aparicio Chueca, of the Faculty of Economics and Business and member of the Department of Business, and Marta Sancho Planas, of the Faculty of Geography and History and member of the Department of History and Archeology.

In the academic year 2018-2019, the UB reaffirmed its commitment to **massive open online courses (MOOCs)** through the Coursera platform, offering ten such courses that attracted nearly 22,000 students and resulted in the issuing of nearly 700 certificates.

Over the past academic year, the sixteenth formal **assessment of teaching activity** was carried out. In

7.84

SCORE FOR TEACHING STAFF
in **university master's degrees**

total, 80.9% of eligible teaching staff participated, and 93.9% of participants received positive evaluations. The call was the first that could be completed entirely online. Participating teachers were able to manage the process via a specific teacher assessment app (ADP) that can be accessed from the Carpeta Docent [Teacher's Folder].

Participating teaching staff were asked to complete a satisfaction survey on the assessment process. Respondents gave an average score of 7.29 out of 10. Highlights include the high scores given for the two items linked to communication (8.61 and 8.24) and the two items linked to the website and the online application for the assessment of teaching activity (7.90 and 7.76, respectively).

Students are encouraged to take part in **opinion surveys** from their first day on campus right up to graduation. In the past year, surveys of incoming students achieved a participation rate of 48.7% among bachelor's degree students and 38.4% among university master's degree students. Among the respondents, 84.8% and 77.1%, respectively, stated that they would not prefer to be studying at another Catalan university. Surveys on bachelor's and university master's degree subjects and teaching staff received invaluable support from the mobile application, and extensive efforts were taken to encourage student participation. Over the two semesters, 218,402 responses were submitted online, with a participation rate of 27.4% for bachelor's degrees and 37.3% for university master's degrees. In total, 16,652 reports were produced.

The average score on the question 'In general, I am satisfied with the teaching activity carried out by the lecturer in this subject' was 7.35 for bachelor's students and 7.84 for university master's students. Students also responded to a survey on UB services and facilities, with a participation rate of 29.3%, giving an overall score of 7 out of 10, and recent graduates were asked to rate their satisfaction with the studies they had completed. Notably, 80% would re-

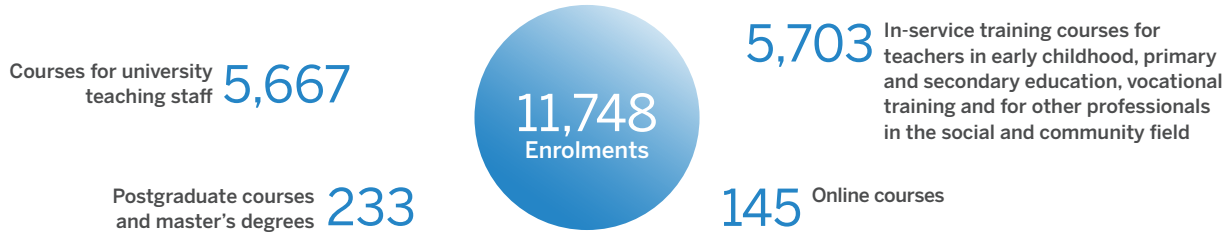
• Satisfaction and opinion surveys

- New bachelor's degree students
- New university master's degree students
- Student satisfaction with degrees
- Student satisfaction with services and facilities
- Bachelor's degree graduates
- Master's degree graduates
- Students at the School of Modern Languages
- Gaudir UB students
- Els Juliols students
- University of Experience students
- Postgraduate students
- Teaching staff satisfaction with the teaching assessment process
- Teaching staff satisfaction with bachelor's and master's degrees





Activities offered by the Institute of Professional Development



peat their UB master’s degree and 72% would attend the UB again for bachelor’s studies.

In addition, **other surveys** were distributed to collect students’ views on the Els Juliols summer courses, courses given by the School of Modern Languages, the University of Experience and Gaudir UB. Students in UB-specific postgraduate courses were also consulted to obtain their views on subjects and instructors.

Likewise, to provide the proof required for the accreditation of bachelor’s degree and university master’s degree studies, the teaching staff delivering the instruction for the relevant degree programmes were surveyed.

The functions of the **Institute for Professional Development (IDP-ICE)**, founded in 1969 as the Insti-

tute of Education Sciences, include analysing 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. In total 369 educators participated in training activities organized by the IDP-ICE, and the number of enrolled students was 11,748 (73% women).

The **Learning and Research Resources Centre (CRAI)** is made up of 16 libraries, the Centre for Research on Plant Biodiversity, the Digitization Centre, the Restoration Workshop, the Cervera Storehouse and seven cross-university units that facilitate access to and disseminate information resources, as well as collaborating on learning and knowledge creation.



Since 2011, the CRAI has been working to implement a process management model in order to achieve recognition for excellence. After successfully becoming the first Catalan university library to obtain the EFQM 400+ European Seal of Excellence in 2016, the CRAI proceeded to obtain the EFQM 500+ European Seal of Excellence in March 2018.

The **CRAI Teaching Unit** has coordinated the institutional project of migrating the Virtual Campus to the cloud, adapting the teaching platform to a mobile-friendly design and incorporating accessibility and usability improvements, among other things. The TACTIC space has reviewed the information and communication technology tools applied to teaching and learning and active methodologies, focusing on those recommended by the UB. It has also published articles on recommended resources and tips for using certain tools, as well as video tutorials for self-learning, which are available on the CRAI website and the Teaching Unit’s YouTube channel. In addition, the CRAI has continued to implement projects to create new teaching materials and has reviewed and approved publications submitted by teaching staff to the digital repository’s teaching collections. It also delivered training sessions on teaching tools and resources and, in coordination with the UB’s teaching resource points, responded to nearly 5,500 user queries, most of which were about the Virtual Campus.





3

A University in the vanguard of research

Promotion, funding and internationalization of research

Research and scientific output

Technology and knowledge transfer and innovation

Doctoral studies

Dissemination of scientific culture



“In the area of research, we can be very satisfied. In most rankings, which are based on a combination of research, teaching and knowledge transfer, the UB’s research performs very well.”

Francesc Cardellach, Former Dean of the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences and Chair at the Department of Medicine

• Promotion, funding and internationalization of research

The aims of the UB’s policies in the area of research are to promote a quality **research-intensive university**, to consolidate its standing at the head of Spain’s university research community, to bolster the UB’s rise to the leading positions among fellow European universities, and to extend its international reach. The main **lines of action** have succeeded in having a direct impact on researchers, research structures and the capacity to attract funding for research projects.

The UB firmly believes that its teaching and research staff are its greatest research asset. At a time of generational turnover, it aims to ensure that its departments are able to recruit and retain the best internal and external talent.

The UB has submitted a remarkable 24 proposals to the 2018 call for the **Ramón y Cajal programme**. To make the UB’s job and research offer more attrac-

tive, the programme’s contribution has been doubled and the selected researchers will have tenure-track lecturer status. In 2018, 15 researchers from the previous call for the programme joined the University, significantly more than the average of previous years.

Also in 2018, two of the positions proposed by the UB as part of the **Beatriz Galindo programme** were selected. The University continues to participate actively in all competitive calls in the field of human resources and, within the framework of the UB-100 Strategy, each year creates strategic chairs to enable internal promotion in certain areas.

Through the **ICREA** Foundation, the University also hired two new lecturers, bringing the total number of researchers funded through that excellence programme to more than 40. Additionally, the UB strives to ensure that other types of contracted staff, such as researchers hired under projects managed by the Bosch i Gimpera Foundation or the European Research Council, are fully integrated into its departments.

With regard to the European human resource policy requirements resulting from the **recognition of HR Excellence in Research**, the University has contin-



ued to implement the action plan for the 2017-2020 period, which provides for various actions aimed at implementing best practices in this area. Some of the most important actions carried out to date include a broad survey of all stakeholders, from trainee pre-doctoral researchers (R1) to senior researchers (R4), welcome sessions for new researchers, and the preparation of changes to recruitment procedures in order to meet selection criteria and follow open, transparent, merit-based protocols, as set forth in the European Charter for Researchers.

With regard to **national calls** for research funding, in 2018, several proposals were submitted to calls by **Spanish Ministry of Science, Universities and Innovation**. The results for the Ministry of Economy and Enterprise’s 2017 call, which were announced in 2018, were similar to those of previous years, with overall funding of 13.1 million euros, 112 funded projects and a success rate of 54%. Funding has remained quite stable, although the percentage of candidate projects to ultimately secure funding has fallen slightly.

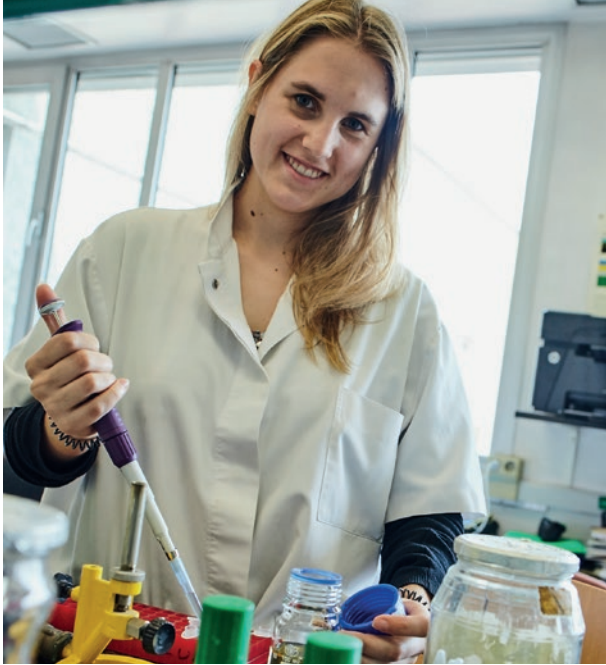
Over the course of 2018, the projects awarded funding through the 2017 La Marató de TV3 telethon were announced. With 13 members of the University participating in the projects, the UB is involved in 36% of the funded projects. UB researchers also did very well in the La Caixa Foundation’s Junior Leader, Health Research and CaixaImpulse programmes.

As part of the European Commission’s **Horizon 2020 programme**, the UB obtained 22 research projects at



a value of over 14 million euros, even though the number of calls during 2018 was scarce. University members also participated in the European Research Council’s calls for individual projects, with seven projects receiving a total of nearly 11 million euros in funding. Specifically, in the most recent call for Consolidator Grants, for staff in the process of consolidating their research independence, 50% of UB submissions received funding, with two grants being awarded. In the area of joint projects, particular success was recorded in the social sciences and humanities, with six projects awarded a total of 1.2 million euros. The University also participates in the Marie Curie networks through two projects, one of which is led by the UB and received more than half a million euros in funding.

In 2018, the **Science and Technology Centres of the University of Barcelona (CCiTUB)** completed their first 30 years of activity. In that time, they have become a national and international leader in research,



innovation and transfer. Throughout their history, the CCiTUB have worked with more than 1,350 public and private enterprises, had nearly 20,000 users and provided crucial services to all teaching staff and researchers at the University of Barcelona.

With regard to **research infrastructure**, the Office of the Vice-Rector for Research has published a call for grants to renew obsolete equipment aimed at UB centres and research institutes, for a minimum amount of one million euros, 50% co-funded by the University.

Additionally, the University increased funding for the **Research Contract Programme**, for UB faculties and research institutes, by 5%, targeting an increase of 25% by 2020. The UB also continued with the contract programme through which it awarded financial support to UB documentation centres, research centres and observatories.

In 2018, the University acquired a variety of equipment with co-funding granted in previous calls by the Spanish Ministry of Economy and Enterprise, for a total amount co-funded by the UB of more than 600,000 euros. The University further received nearly 200,000 euros in European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) funding under a new call for equipment and infrastructure funding published and decided by the Spanish Ministry of Science, Innovation and Universities in 2018.

Press ●●●●●●

The University of Barcelona is the top Spanish university in number of European patent applications filed (17) and ranks third among companies and institutions, according to the European Patent Office (EPO).

La Vanguardia, 13 March 2019

In 2018, the same ministry accredited the UB's Institute of Neurosciences and Institute of Theoretical and Computational Chemistry as **María de Maeztu units of excellence**. The two institutes thus joined other institutes at the UB that already hold the distinction: the Institute of Cosmos Sciences, which is a UB institute, and the Barcelona Graduate School of Mathematics, in which the UB participates through the Institute of Mathematics (IMUB). The distinction entails additional funding to implement the institutes' strategic research plans and for training, recruiting and hiring talent.

In relation to research that requires animal experimentation, the technical and administrative structure of the **Animal Experimentation Ethics Committee (CEEa)** has been strengthened. Additionally, the **University of Barcelona Code of ethics on integrity and best practices** recognizes the European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity, adopted by the European Federation of Academies of Sciences and Humanities.



The UB continues to be the only Spanish university represented in the **League of European Research Universities (LERU)**, which brings together Europe's 23 finest research-intensive universities across 12 different countries. UB representatives have participated in 22 of LERU's 30 expert groups, including policy, thematic, ad hoc and network groups. In all, the UB has attended 42 LERU working meetings and collaborated in the preparation of nine analysis and position papers, including the following, which were co-authored by UB representatives: *Open Science and its role in universities: a roadmap for cultural change*, *The Dual Use Regulation – Specific Concerns from the Academic Sector* and *Inclusion of Digital Sequence Information in the Nagoya Protocol would Significantly Impede University Research*. To make the UB representatives' participation in the LERU groups more cohesive, a meeting was held to analyse the benefits and return for the UB of belonging to the league. The meeting's conclusions will be included in the self-assessment report that LERU has asked all members to submit, as a retrospective exercise and to inform proposals to improve how the network functions.

In addition, the UB has consolidated its participation in the **Eurolife** network, which is a consortium of nine European institutions dedicated to research and teaching in the field of medicine and biomedicine. A highlight of the network's current initiatives is the mobility call for bachelor's and master's degree students and postdoctoral researchers at universities in the network. In July 2018, the Leiden University Medical Centre organized the second edition of

Staff engaged in research

Teaching staff engaged in research*	2,240
Senior researchers	73
Senior ICREA	39
Ramón y Cajal	32
Others	2
Junior researchers	52
Junior doctors	8
Beatriu de Pinós	12
Juan de la Cierva	32
Postdoctoral researchers	69
Teaching and research grants (ADR) (UB)	18
Grants for Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions	7
Project-specific, other calls or no grant	44
Trainee predoctoral researchers	574
Research staff training grants (FI) (GC)	99
Research staff training grants (FPI) (MICIU)	163
University teaching staff training grants (FPU) (MECD)	130
Trainee research staff grants (APIF) (UB)	131
Grants for Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions	15
Grants through La Caixa contracts	7
Project-specific, other calls or no grant	29
Research technicians	215
Research assistants	251
Bosch i Gimpera Foundation researchers	327
Bosch i Gimpera Foundation research technicians and assistants	147

* Academic staff engaged in competitive and non-competitive research groups



the Eurolife Summer School: ‘Molecular Mechanisms in Cancer – Translating Discoveries into Personalized Therapies’ and in December, the Eurolife Winter School: ‘Structure and Function of Genomes in Homeostasis and Disease’, with the participation of eight young UB researchers.

To develop the **UB’s Research Information System**, work has continued on the SIRA Project to improve and modernize the current model, which encompasses the GREC system, Curricul@, the Research Projects Manager (GPR) and the system focusing on the management of research opportunities. The aims of the SIRA Project are to establish a comprehensive research management system with a flexible framework that is scalable by the user (managers, researchers and research groups).

• Research and scientific output

Competitive research funding secured by the 16 UB faculties and schools and 17 institutes amounted to 55,638,929 euros, including national and European projects and grants, for a total of 779 research activities.

The UB signed 34 European projects as part of the **2020 Horizon Framework Programme of the European Commission** for a total of 8,532,672 euros. The total value of the UB’s remaining European projects amounted to 472,368 euros.

The UB also signed 46 research **agreements** with a combined value of 758,853 euros.

As for **calls for internal grants**, the University awarded 23 grants under the 2018 Research Activity Intensification Programme, for a total of 115,000 euros.

Regarding **research structures** for the promotion and coordination of research, in 2018 the UB had 15 of its own research institutes, two university institutes, five 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 five inter-university institutes.

Under the National Agreement on Research and Innovation and the new Research and Innovation Plan, in the 2017 call for grants —the results of which were published in 2018— the map of **research groups** consists of 251 consolidated research groups, ten pre-consolidated research groups and nine emerging groups. Additionally, 15 interinstitutional groups managed by the UB were recognized, and the University participates in another 12 recognized groups managed by other institutions.

According to the data collected in the Web of Science (WoS) portal run by Clarivate Analytics, the **scientific output of UB researchers** stood at 5,707 scientific publications: 4,660 figured in the Science Citation Index Expanded, 343 in the Social Sciences Citation Index, 607 in the Emerging Sources Citation Index, and 97 in the Arts & Humanities Citation Index.



• Research institutions and centres

UB research institutes

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

University research institutes

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

Research centres

- ADHUC: Research Centre in Theory, Gender and Sexuality
- Barcelona Institute of Analytic Philosophy (BIAP)

- Centre for Research in Information, Communication and Culture (CRICC)
- Centre for Sociolinguistics and Communication Research (CUSC)
- POLIS Research Centre: Art, City, Sustainability

Research institutes with UB participation

- AgriGenomics Research Centre (CRAG)
- August Pi i Sunyer Institute for Biomedical Research (IDIBAPS)
- Barcelona Institute of Economics (IEB)
- Bellvitge Institute for Biomedical Research (IDIBELL)
- Catalonia Institute of Energy Research (IREC)
- Centre for Ecological Research and Forestry Applications (CREAF)
- Institute for Bioengineering of Catalonia (IBEC)
- Institute of Biomedical Research (IRB)
- Josep Carreras Leukaemia Research Institute (IJC)
- Sant Joan de Déu Research Institute (IRSJD)

Interuniversity institutes

- Barcelona Graduate School of Mathematics (BGSMath)
- Barcelona Institute of International Studies (IBEI)
- Barcelona Institute for Global Health (ISGlobal)
- Institute for Space Studies of Catalonia (IEEC)
- Inter-University Institute of Women’s Studies and Gender Research (IIEDG)

RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER
€134,448,032
secured for research and technology transfer in competitive and non-competitive calls

5,707 SCIENTIFIC OUTPUT
scientific publications indexed on the Web of Science portal run by Clarivate Analytics

Research funding secured through competitive calls

Type	Number	Amount (€)
Projects	270	32,711,913
Complementary actions	5	84,900
Grants and financial aid	503	22,650,457
Infrastructure projects	1	191,659
Total	779	55,638,929

Origin	Activities	Amount (€)
Regional government	396	11,219,819
National government	273	29,771,622
Local government	1	6,289
Foreign government	2	45,404
Other	4	221,900
European Commission	45	9,005,040
Private sector: NPIs* and business	17	979,465
Public sector: NPIs*	41	4,389,389
Total general	779	55,638,929

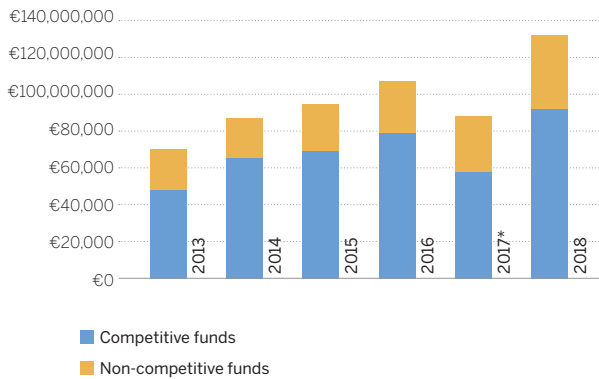
* NPIs: Private not-for-profit institutions.

Income from Research and Technology and Knowledge Transfer

Item	2018
Projects	3,711,913
Complementary actions	84,900
Grants for human resources	12,377,588
Other grants	10,272,869
FBG contracts	13,658,182
UB research agreements	758,853
Infrastructures	191,659
CCiTUB services	3,445,368
Funding secured by UB researchers at institutions with UB participation*	60,946,701
Total	134,448,032

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

Funds of research captured



* For 2017, excluding calls of the Ministry of Economy, Industry and Competitiveness.

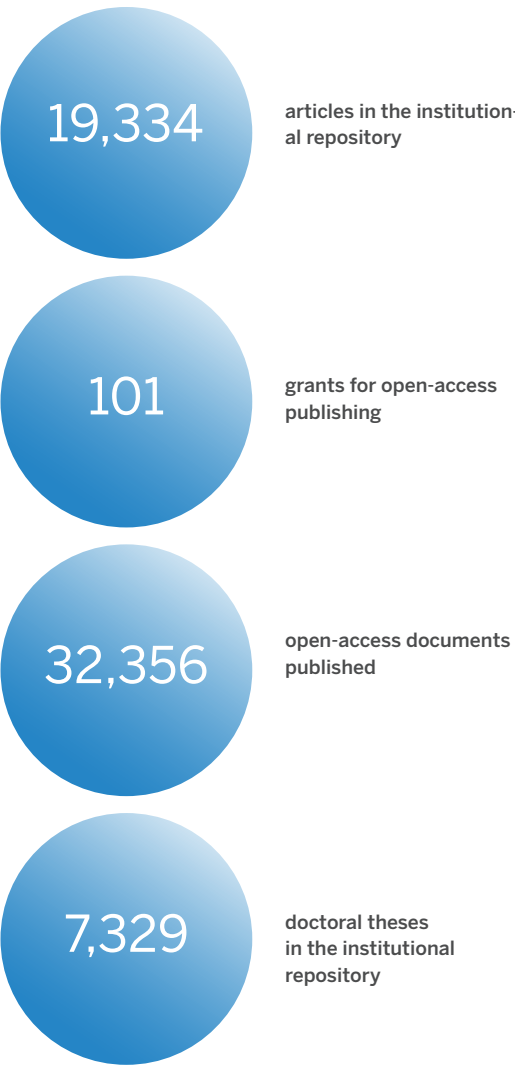
The **CRAI Research Unit** validates researchers’ papers and publishes them in the **UB’s digital repository**, where they are available in open-access format. Over 2018, 3,879 documents were added to the research collection. These were mainly research papers, but they also included working papers, contributions to conferences, and book chapters. In addition, the CRAI Research Unit manages grants to support publishing in open-access journals, resulting in the publication of 101 papers in the past year. Along the same lines, the **CRAI Projects Unit** manages the **UB’s scientific journals portal**, which hosts 44 UB journals and provides links to any other publications solely or jointly published by the University.

In addition, the CRAI Research Unit takes part in the LERU group on information and open-access policies. In 2018, the group developed a road map for universities to embrace open-science principles and practices.

The **Barcelona Science Park (PCB)** promotes innovation and knowledge transfer by focusing on the relationship between the University, public research organizations and businesses. In 2018, a total of 107 organizations were **users** of the PCB. Of these, 82 were companies, six were research centres and 19 were non-profit entities, UB units and groups and various PCB services. Between all of the entities together, the user population stood at 2,749 people.

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

Open access





total leased area is 24,483 sq m, of which 15,947 sq m are laboratories and 8,536 sq m are offices.

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. The radioactivity unit and the special reactions unit, together with the technology platforms (Proteomics and Combinatorial Chemistry), the experimental toxicology and ecotoxicology unit and the animal facilities have produced ten scientific publications, six poster communications and three presentations.

Twenty-six **networking activities** were held for companies located in the PCB, talks were hosted on subjects of interest to the PCB community, and a number of social activities were organized. In total, 2,660 participants attended.

In addition, the PCB collaborated in a variety of local, national and international fairs in the ‘bio’ sector, such as the ISBA Annual Conference, the Transfiere Forum, the 12th Iberian Meeting of Science and Technology Parks, the BIO International Conven-

tion, BioSpain, the Barcelona Industry Week, the 16th International Conference of the Spanish Association of Science and Technology Parks and the 11th Annual Conference of Biomedical Research Technological Platforms. The PCB also welcomed some 15 international delegations from Europe, Asia, Latin America, and the United States.

In the area of **communication**, the PCB produced 1,141 hits in the general and specialized press and on sector websites. Also appearing were 145 online news items about organizations in the PCB community or about the PCB itself.

In addition, **scientific dissemination** and the promotion of **scientific careers** continues to be actively encouraged through the Research in Society programme, which drew on the participation of over 4,500 children and young people.

The **Science and Technology Centres (CCiTUB)** have continued their mission to support research and innovation in the fields of chemistry, materials science and the biosciences. At present, they cover

Science and Technology Centres	
Staff	164
Approximate value of scientific equipment	42,000,000 €
Total campus area	12,000 sq m
Users and clients	3,003
Income from services	4,507,481.62 €



more than 12,000 sq m of space spread over four UB campuses with highly qualified technical staff. They are active in the areas of nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) imaging, advanced microscopy, biomedicine, mass spectrometry, and elementary and molecular chemical analysis.

In the area of accreditation and certification, the CCiTUB obtained their ISO 9001:2000 recertification in March 2018. This covers public and private research support activities as well as the provision of analytical and technical services. In addition, the Self-Identification of Generic Drug Facilities, Sites and Organizations of the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) was renewed for one more year. This certifies the CCiTUB as a contract laboratory for FDA drug trials.

As part of the celebration marking their 30th anniversary, the CCiTUB launched a **Twitter** account, which has since tweeted some 300 times and gained 389 followers. Tweets have included 29 news items to report on and raise awareness of the CCiTUB’s technical, educational and management activities.

The CCiTUB’s **training activities** have underscored societal interest in innovation through knowledge and technology transfer, as well as in STEM techniques. In this regard, the 3rd Nanoscience and Nanotechnology Festival *10alamos9* has established itself as one of the most popular science activities in Spain in terms of participation. The festival took place in San Sebastian, Bergara, Bellaterra, Barcelona, Madrid, Valencia, and Saragossa and included

A University in the vanguard of research

a variety of activities, such as exhibitions, workshops, conferences, discussions and contests. One new feature deserving special attention was the conference ‘Nanoart: la trobada de l’art, la ciència i la tecnologia’ [Nanoart: the meeting of art, science and technology], which became a meeting point for artists and scientists. More than 1,000 attendees, more than 40 volunteers, and more than 40 speakers participated in the Barcelona segment of the festival, which included more than 30 workshops.

With the support of the Spanish Foundation for Science and Technology (FECyT) of the Spanish Ministry of Economy and Competitiveness, the CCiTUB created the **popular science app** Nanoroom, which uses augmented reality to showcase real and future applications of nanotechnologies in various fields of science, such as nanomedicine or nanomaterials. The initiative was conceived of by Dr Jordi Díaz and developed by the Obicex Foundation.

In 2018, the CCiTUB logged 7,527 users (of which 3,003 were **titular users**). Of these, 3,324 came from the University of Barcelona, 1,320 from the private sector and 2,833 from public institutions. The total income from services stood at 4,507,481.62 euros and the overall level of user satisfaction according to the annual survey was 8.24 out of 10.

With regard to their **participation in national and European networks and other projects**, two CCiTUB facilities have been included in the map of Spanish Singular Technological and Scientific Infrastructures



(ICTS from the Spanish). The University of Barcelona is thus one of just three universities in Spain recognized as having two such nodes and the only one in Catalonia. In addition to testifying to the facilities' value, the designation allows them to apply for exclusive funding. Specifically, the CCiTUB's nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) facilities and Transmission Electron Microscopy (TEM) Unit have been designated ICTSs.

The CCiTUB's Advanced Optic Microscopy Unit's technology also participates in the new Network of European Bioimage Analysts (NEUBIAS) project, which aims to establish a network of bioimage analysts in order to maximize the impact of advances in imaging technology in the life sciences and boost the productivity of European bioimaging-based research projects.

As for **equipment**, in 2018, the company Bruker assigned the use of next-generation NMR equipment to the CCiTUB, and they have installed one new mercury analyser and three high-photon-sensitivity automated spectral confocal laser-scanning microscopes, acquired with ERDF funding.

The CCiTUB signed 18 **agreements** with private companies and public institutions for the provision of services and quality control, and two agreements with private companies, through the Bosch i Gimpera Foundation.

In the area of **social engagement**, the CCiTUB was involved in a variety of activities, participating in a placement programme for students in advanced vo-

cational training and promoting the dissemination of nanotechnology and nanoscience.

The **Bioethics Committee** continued to evaluate and issue reports on the ethical aspects of research projects and doctoral theses submitted by UB researchers and doctoral students. The Committee also continued 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 projects submitted by the Barcelona Supercomputing Center. In 2019, the Committee signed a two-year agreement with La Caixa Foundation to advise on and assess the predoctoral grants awarded by La Caixa Foundation through the INPhINIT Programme, which draws on European Union funds. It likewise signed an agreement with the Catalan Medical Emergency System for the ethical assessment of doctoral theses submitted by its members.

Where its input was required, the Committee also conducted ethical assessments of doctoral theses read at the UB and provided advice and assistance to teaching staff supervising master's degree final projects, bachelor's degree final projects and placement reports.

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. With support from the Bioethics and



Law Observatory, the Bioethics Committee carried on as coordinator of the Spanish Network of Ethics Committees in Universities and Public Research Centres. The network held its eleventh meeting in November at the University of Córdoba.

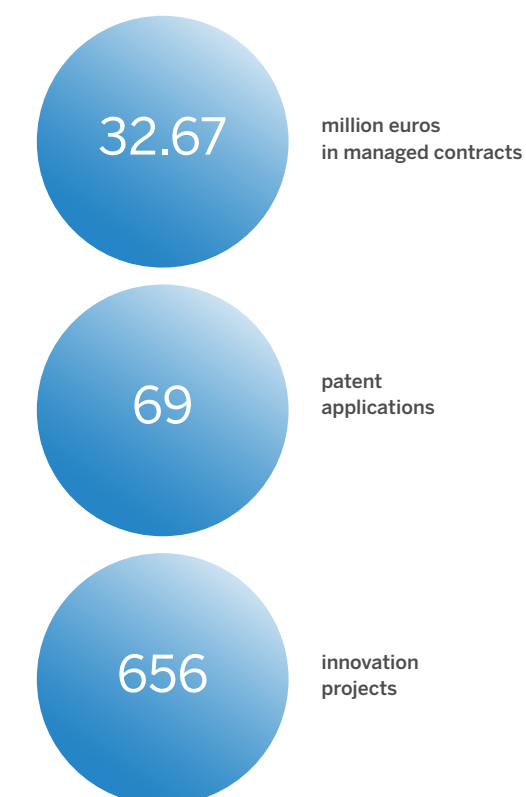
Technology and knowledge transfer and innovation

The mission of the **Bosch i Gimpera Foundation (FBG)** 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.

In 2018, 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 32,668,649 euros and a workforce of 852 people carried out tasks for the

research projects. The Health and Safety Service paid visits to 27 entities and conducted 19 workplace assessments.

Research and technology and knowledge transfer



18

ENTREPRENEURSHIP SUPPORT

business creation ideas received
and assessed

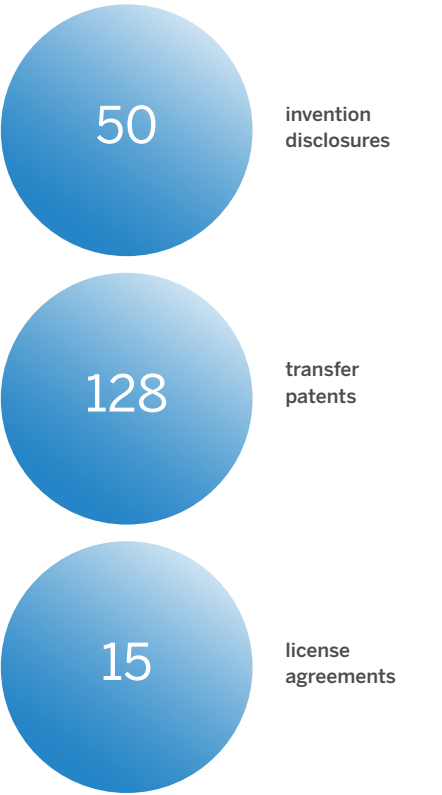
A total of 63 **grants** were obtained for the amount of 15.81 million euros: 43 from public and private institutions (4.23 million euros) and 20 for research projects funded by the European Commission (11.58 million euros). Of the European Commission grants, 13 were from the research framework programme (9.48 million euros) and seven were from other directorates-general (2.1 million euros).

In the area of **protection, valorization and patent licensing**, 15 license agreements and one option to license were signed. Over the year, the income from new and existing license agreements amounted to 321,109 euros. A total of 16 priority patent and 12 international patent applications were submitted and 41 patents entered the national phase in other countries. The leading sectors were biotechnology and health sciences, which represent 44% of patent applications.

Sums awarded for FBG research and technology and knowledge transfer in 2018

	Number	Amount (millions of euros)
Contract research	656	12.56
Contracts and agreements	446	10.83
Services rendered	210	1.73
Grants	63	15.81
European Commission research grants	20	11.58
Public and private grants	43	4.23
Total	719	28.37

Technologies, materials and licenses



2

BUSINESS CREATION

spin-offs created

Researchers submitted 50 invention proposals, which were assessed by the FBG. In addition, four software technologies were registered and seven joint ownership contracts were negotiated and signed with other institutions that had participated in the development of the technology that ultimately received protection.

According to the European Patent Office (EPO) report published in March 2019, the University of Barcelona is the top Spanish university in terms of European patent applications. This milestone coincides with the thirtieth anniversary of the first patents managed by the UB, first through the Patent Centre and, later, in collaboration with the Bosch i Gimpera Foundation. According to the EPO data, the University of Barcelona ranks third in terms of patent applications filed by companies and institutions. By sector, UB patent applications to the EPO can be broken down as follows: seven in the chemical and pharmaceutical sector, six in the electronics and sensors sector, three in the information and communication technology sector, and one in the optics and instrumentation sector. By faculty, the Faculty of Physics filed the most applications (7), followed by the Faculty of Pharmacy and Food Sciences (5), the Faculty of Psychology (3) and the Faculty of Chemistry (2).

In terms of **creating businesses and giving support to entrepreneurs** in 2018, two spin-offs were created (DBGen Ocular Genomics and ColorSensing) and advice was given on a total of 18 projects. By the end of 2018, the UB had 25 active spin-offs. With the support



of the FBG, the companies Bluephage, Impetux Optics and Iproteos obtained 1.55 million euros in private funding, including capital increases and convertible loans, and ColorSensing and Virtual Bodyworks obtained a Phase 1 grant under the SME Instrument programme. Highlights in this area include the 2018 ACCIÓ Investment Forum Prize in the area of health-care, awarded to Bluephage, and the prize given to ColorSensing in the first edition of the Incit'up Prize, awarded by the Foodservice Cluster of Catalonia.

Press ●●●●●●

Roger Mor, from the University of Barcelona’s Institute of Cosmos Sciences, is the lead author of a research paper, based on data from the Gaia satellite, on how and when the Milky Way was formed.

El Mundo, 13 May 2019



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.

As a founding member alongside the UB, the FBG plays an active role in the **UB Barcelona Entrepreneurship Institute (BIE)**. In 2018, the third call was held for the **Fund to Foster Innovation (F2I)**, which offered grants totalling 130,000 euros in two categories: the Valorization category offered 100,000 euros for proof-of-concept grants and the Mentor in Residence category offered 30,000 euros to bolster the creation of spin-offs by providing grants to hire mentors who can strengthen the entrepreneurial team.

Additionally, the **Social Innovation Laboratory** project was launched with the aim of promoting innovation in the social arena in collaboration with all stakeholders through the organization of conferences in the areas of the humanities and the social

sciences targeted at University of Barcelona research staff.

With a view to **promoting university-industry partnerships and galvanizing the innovation environment**, several activities were held in 2018, such as the UB-TECNIO conference and informational conferences on the research support services offered by the FBG. The FBG also continued to organize Science + Partners, the fourth edition of a programme in which businesspeople and investors give advice on projects undertaken by UB researchers in the field of health sciences. The FBG maintained contact with five 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 ca-

18

INDUSTRIAL DOCTORATE PROGRAMMES projects

pabilities of TECNIO-UB centres by attending various fairs and participating at bilateral meetings organized with companies. The second edition of the «De la Ciència al Mercat» [From Science to the Market] programme was held, aimed at encouraging technology and knowledge transfer; co-organized with the Autonomous University of Barcelona (UAB) and the Polytechnic University of Catalonia (UPC), it received the support of the Catalan Ministry of Business and Knowledge and was co-funded by the European Social Fund.

The FBG manages six out of eight **research networks** for the Government of Catalonia.

Doctoral studies ●

Over the course of the academic year, the UB offered **48 doctoral programmes** in experimental sciences and engineering, health sciences, social sciences, the arts and humanities, and education. The degree of cross-disciplinarity within the programmes means that many were linked to more than one branch of knowledge. Thirteen of the programmes were run jointly with other Spanish universities, and two were **Erasmus Mundus** programmes. At doctoral level, all programmes currently offered can be taken in English. A total of 4,690 **trainee researchers** en-

Grants for predoctoral trainee researchers, by source of grant

	Number of predoctoral contracts*	Financial aid for stays	
		Number	Amount (in euros)
University teaching staff training grants (FPU) (MECD)	130	22	96,891
Research staff training grants (FPI) (MICIU)	163	31	129,046
Research staff training grants (FI) (GC)	99	—	—
Trainee research staff grants (APIF) (UB)	126	17	49,348
Teaching and research grants (ADR) (UB)	5	—	—
Grants for Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions	15	—	—
Grants through La Caixa contracts	7	—	—
Project-specific, other calls or no grant	29	—	—
Total	574	70	275,285

* Active at 31 December 2018.
MECD: Spanish Ministry of Education, Culture and Sport
MICIU: Spanish Ministry of Science, Innovation and Universities
GC: Government of Catalonia



rolled in the doctoral programmes, of whom 32% were international students.

A total of 599 **doctoral theses** were defended, 90 of which received the **international doctorate certification**. In addition, the Governing Council awarded 108 **extraordinary doctoral prizes** and the UB also signed 14 **joint supervision agreements**.

Doctoral School

Throughout the academic year, the UB launched a series of transversal training activities called **Training Capsules**. They are aimed at all trainee researchers enrolled in a doctoral programme at the University of Barcelona and the purpose is to provide additional training independent of their research training.

Over the academic year, the University worked on the modification of the **Regulations for doctoral stud-**

ies at the University of Barcelona and the **Internal regulations of the Doctoral School**. The changes were approved by the Governing Council and will enter into force in the next academic year. Highlights include changes to the minimum academic performance rules, the possibility of submitting a thesis consisting of a compendium of publications, the possibility for a member of the thesis committee to attend the defence via video-conferencing, and the mainstreaming of the gender perspective throughout the document.

The **Industrial Doctorates Plan** seeks to increase the competitiveness and internationalization of Catalan 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 2018 call, the University of Barcelona embarked on 18 projects with different corporate partners, resulting in 18 collaboration agreements: 17 of these projects received joint funding and one received a specific grant.



“Striking the right balance between research and teaching is something we have to promote and we have to continue in this direction.”

Francesc Cardellach, Former Dean of the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences and Chair at the Department of Medicine

In addition, the Doctoral School took part in the **LERU Doctoral Summer School** entitled ‘Building Research Capacity and a Collaborative Global Community’, which was hosted by the University of Edinburgh and attended by two doctoral students representing the University of Barcelona.

As part of the **STEM project**, ongoing since 2014, doctoral students took part in out-of-school sessions for young people from 16 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, UPF and URV.

Over the course of the academic year, the fourth **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, 14 grants were awarded.

The University also published the call for **Erasmus+** grants for doctoral students to spend the second semester of the 2019-2020 academic year abroad. Some 32 countries participate in the programme, with which the University of Barcelona, through the Doctoral School, has signed mobility agreements for doctoral studies.



Dissemination of scientific culture

The Scientific Culture and Innovation Unit (UCC+i) carried out **scientific dissemination activities** in two overarching areas: support and publicity for 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 300 activities, which received 21,466 visits and an average of 34 visitors a day.

In the case of the unit’s own projects, highlights include **ArqueUB**, which focuses on two activities (‘Com vivien els veïns del Raval de segles passats’ [How residents of the Raval district lived in centuries past] and ‘Estades d’estudiants preuniversitaris’ [Pre-university student



More than 1,600 people attended the 5th UB Science Festival.

visits)), and the new project **La Caravana de la Ciència de la UB** [The UB Science Van], which hosts a series of day trips to key sites for the research conducted at the UB. The first trip, to the Collserola Natural Park, was held in July 2019, and was co-organized with the Faculty of Earth Sciences. Some 30 people participated.

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 an appealing and visual manner. The United Nations declared 2019 the International Year of the Periodic Table of Chemical Elements. To commemorate it, the University released the fifth chapter of the series ‘Desxifrant la taula periòdica’ [Decoding the Periodic Table]. The videos were viewed a total of 961,004 times.

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 19 collaborators across 11 faculties. Over the past academic year, they have given 55 talks around Catalonia, reaching over 2,000 people.

The **Fifth 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 51 workshops and practical demonstrations, in which nearly 150 researchers from 16 faculties took part. In total, 1,500 young children attended from 27 schools.

Through the **Crystallization at School Contest**, secondary school teachers receive training in university crystallography 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 Barcelona and Rovira i Virgili University. The eighth running of the contest was held in the past year, drawing on the participation of more than 1,900 children from all over Catalonia.

The second edition of the **Neuroart** contest, organized by the UB’s Institute of Neurosciences and Faculty of Fine Arts, encourages children and young people to create artistic representations of the nervous system (structure, functions and plasticity) with the aim of submerging them in the world of neurosciences. In the first stage of the contest, researchers from the Institute of Neurosciences visited the selected schools

to give talks and establish a conceptual foundation. From then on, students at the schools worked on the subject in groups and chose the work that best represented them for the contest. In the second edition of the contest, there were 19 participating schools and a total of 1,491 students. The final stage, with representatives from 17 schools, was held at the Barcelona Contemporary Culture Centre (CCCCB) and featured 33 creations by participating students.

As for activities targeting trainee researchers, the University participated in the final round of the **Tesis en 3 minuts** [Three-Minute Thesis or 3MT] contest, organized by the Coimbra Group, and in the final round of the **Tesis en 4 minuts** (Four-Minute Thesis or 4MT) contest organized by the Catalan Foundation for Research and Innovation. Both projects are intended to challenge doctoral students to explain their research quickly and simply, in terms that are easy for the general public to understand, and to encourage them to talk about the research they are working on.

Besides, the **Camins infinits** project connects school-children 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, 17 researchers representing ten faculties take part and, in the past academic year, they reached more than 1,000 students on 28 visits to primary and secondary schools.

Other highlights include participation in the **Science Space** at the national educational fair Saló de l’Ensen-



Geneticists Gemma Marfany and David Bueno, awarded for their outreach work.

yament, where the UB held workshops on geology, geography, legal culture, philology, particle physics and microscopy, and in the second edition of the **Youth Mobile Festival**, organized by the GSM Association as part of the Mobile World Congress, where the UB ran workshops on the ecology of rivers, quantum physics, flooding, virtual reality and materials science.

During the 2018-2019 academic year, 12 joint projects were launched between researchers from the UB and the Institut La Ribera secondary school in Montcada i Reixac in the framework of the second year of the Jaume Bofill Foundation’s **Magnet: Aliances per a l’èxit educatiu** [Magnet: Partnerships for educational success] project, which aims to support schools in the implementation of an innovation plan to improve teaching quality with the help of an institution of excellence.



4

An international University

International institutional activity

International community at the UB



“One of the University’s core pillars has to be attracting talent. The University must be able to attract international talent.”

José Vicente Olivera, Staff, Information and Logistics
Office, Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences
(Clinic Campus)

• International institutional activity

The University of Barcelona participates in **international interuniversity alliances** in order to promote, foster and enhance quality teaching and research by fostering, supporting and creating specific mobility and joint degree programmes, among other things. One such alliance is the UB-led **Charm-EU** (CHallenge-driven, Accessible, Research-based, Mobile European University), launched in January 2019, whose members include Trinity College Dublin, Utrecht University, the University of Montpellier, and Eötvös Loránd University in Budapest. Charm-EU was one of 17 European university alliances selected by the European Commission in June 2019 to receive 5 million euros in funding. Charm-EU’s mission is to produce citizens able to provide solutions to global challenges, mostly in the context of the SDGs. To this end, a course offering will be designed that will ultimately encompass the full range of university programmes and will be based on the European values of freedom, autonomy and respect for human

rights. The project was officially launched on 1 November 2019 at the University of Barcelona with several working sessions of the multi-university team, as well as the Assembly of Rectors, which also met with the partner organizations and students.

With regard to the tasks arising from its chairmanship of the **Conference of Spanish University Rectors (CRUE) Sector Committee on Internationalization and Cooperation**, the UB has participated in the working group on the internationalization of the Spanish university system, organized by the Spanish Secretary General for Universities. It also took part in the fifteen sectoral conferences held at the University of La Laguna on issues related to international strategy in China, refugee policies and emergency protocols.

In the Mediterranean region, the UB has retained the vice-presidency of the **Mediterranean Universities Union**, where it has promoted international and interinstitutional projects in the context of the Erasmus+ programme. It has also participated in numerous working groups on a wide range of issues, such as water and nutrition, refugees and virtual exchanges, and, for the third consecutive year, has sup-

ported the professionalization of students as members of the jury for the Venice International Film Festival at the Venice Biennale. Through the **Alliance Montpellier-Barcelona Plus (AMB+)**, the UB has become a member of the Montpellier University of Excellence (MUSE) International Advisory Board. Within the framework of the funding for MUSE, the UB and the University of Montpellier have launched short-term mobility exchanges for students and teaching and research staff as part of the EXPLORE programme, as well as interinstitutional research projects in the areas of agriculture, the environment and health. They have also submitted a proposal to the European Union for a joint Marie Skłodowska-Curie-COFUND grant programme. Also in the Mediterranean, the **Northern Mediterranean Transnational Campus**, made up of the University of Barcelona, Aix-Marseille University, the Autonomous University of Madrid and the University of Rome-La Sapienza offered a monographic course at La Sapienza on archaeology with the participation of UB teaching staff and students.

In the context of the **European University Foundation**, in October, the University of Barcelona, in collaboration with the Catalan Association of Public Universities (ACUP), organized the Erasmus Going Digital conference and workshops, which were attended by 180 people. Speakers included Rehana Schwinninger-Ladak, Head of Interactive Technologies for the European Commission, and several representatives of the Erasmus Student Network.



The CHARM European University alliance is born, an interdisciplinary and challenge-based European university.

The UB strengthened its relations with universities in **Latin America** through the mobility grant programmes of the Carolina Foundation, Banco Santander and the Coimbra Group’s Latin America Working Group, and through exchanges between UB and University of São Paulo (USP) researchers. The University of Barcelona collaborates with USP as an international strategic partner in the **PrInt Programme**, run by the Coordinating Agency for Senior Staff Training (CAPES), linked to the Brazilian Ministry of Education. Within the framework of the **Ibero-American Universities Union (UIU)**, made up of the University of Barcelona, the National Autonomous University of Mexico, the University of Buenos Aires, the University of São Paulo and Complutense University of Madrid, the UB teaching staff and students participated in the Hispano-Portuguese Studies course in São Paulo, where the UIU’s expert committees on Ethics and University and on Gender and Equality also met. Additionally, the Faculty of Law participated in the 2nd International Congress of Ibero-American Supreme and Constitutional



Courts in Mexico, and UB researchers participated in 17 UIU-funded research projects, which have received a total of 200,000 euros in funding.

As for **international agreements**, the UB signed 88 agreements over the academic year, mainly with Brazil, Chile, Mexico, Italy, Argentina and the United States. By type, they included 24 framework and general agreements, 17 international mobility exchange agreements, 11 co-supervision agreements, ten research agreements and six academic cooperation agreements.

Through the Interuniversity Council of Catalonia, the UB participated in a number of important **international fairs**, including the Asia-Pacific Association for International Education fair, in Kuala Lumpur, where it held 28 meetings; the Association of International Educators fair, in Washington DC, where it held 18 meetings, mainly with American universities; and the European Association of International Education (EAIE) fair, in Geneva, where it held 24 formal meetings and made informal contact with numerous universities from around the world.

In 2019, Barcelona was selected to host the international conference of the EAIE, the most important

higher education association in Europe. The event will take place in September 2020 and is expected to draw around 6,000 participants from more than 95 countries.

Additionally, the Office of the Vice-Rector for Outreach and Internationalization assembled a University of Barcelona delegation made up of the vice deans for international relations of the various faculties, which has visited eight Chinese universities: East China Normal University, Tongji University, Fudan University, Zhejiang University, the Beijing Institute of Technology, Beihang University, Beijing Normal University and Renmin University. These visits have strengthened relations between the UB and the Chinese universities, and international mobility exchanges are expected to increase significantly in the coming years.

Erasmus Without Paper

The **Erasmus Without Paper (EWP) project**, linked to the Erasmus programme, aims to set up a European electronic network for higher education institutions to exchange student data. Initially, it will only include data related to international mobility in the context of the Erasmus+ programme.

AGREEMENTS SIGNED WITH
116
of the best 200 universities in the world,
according to the *Times Higher Education* ranking

Press ●●●●●●

The University of Barcelona is the only Spanish university among the top 200 universities worldwide, according to the latest edition of the prestigious Shanghai ranking [...]. But that is not the only international ranking that the campus leads among Spanish universities.

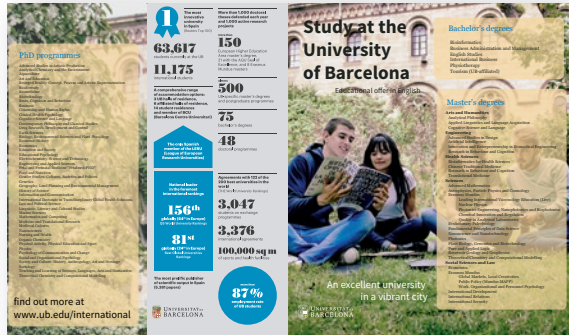
ABC, 16 August 2019

To this end, the UB has reinforced the workforce responsible for international matters with 11 new members, to provide support to the faculties and Office of Mobility and International Programmes in their efforts to improve and implement the EWP project. The project will significantly improve international mobility for students in Europe. The main goal is to replace paper-based workflows with digital ones, facilitating the exchange of data instead of documents.

The University of Barcelona regards its participation in the actions for the project as a strategic action to improve the procedures for international mobility exchange management. The Erasmus+ 2021-2027 programme will come into force in 2021 and will incorporate tools developed within the framework of the EWP project.

International networks and associations

- Coimbra Group
- Confucius Institute in Barcelona (ICB)
- Emprendia Network
- EUROLIFE Network of European Universities in Life Sciences
- Euromed Permanent University Forum (EPUF)
- European Association for International Education (EAIE)
- European Marine Sciences Network (EuroMarine)
- European University Association (EUA)
- European University Continuing Education Network (EUCEN)
- European University Foundation (EUF)
- Francophonie University Association (AUF)
- Ibero-American University Association for Postgraduate Studies (AUIP)
- International Association of Universities (IAU)
- Interuniversity Centre for Development (CINDA)
- Latin America and Europe Continuing Education Network (RECLA)
- League of European Research Universities (LERU)
- Mediterranean Universities Union (UNIMED)
- PEACE programme
- Pyrenees-Mediterranean Euroregion (Eurocampus)
- TÉTHYS Consortium of Euro-Mediterranean Universities
- Tordesillas Group
- United Nations Academic Impact (UNAI)
- Universia
- Vives University Network (XVU)



• International community at the UB

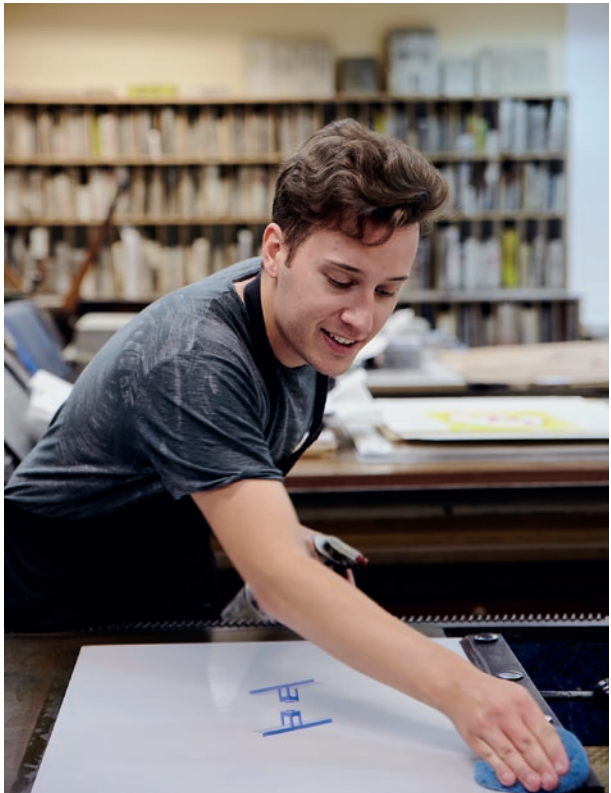
In the academic year 2018-2019, the UB welcomed an **international community** of nearly 12,000 students from 140 countries. They accounted for 32% of doctoral students, more than 44% of master's degree students, 6% of bachelor's degree students and 28% of postgraduate students.

The academic offering featured six bachelor's degrees taught entirely in English (Bioinformatics, Business Administration and Management, English Studies, International Business, Physiotherapy and Tourism), three of which are taught in UB-affiliated centres, and 283 bachelor's degree subjects (7.3% of the total). Also taught entirely in English were 24 university master's degrees (including six Erasmus Mundus programmes) and all 48 current doctoral programmes (including two Erasmus Mundus programmes), involving 14 cases of joint thesis supervision. Of the theses, 39% have been published in English.

Student mobility

The University of Barcelona manages a variety of student mobility programmes, including Erasmus+, which enables stays in and outside the EU, a programme run by the Interuniversity Centre for Development (CINDA) and the Study Abroad programme.

The **Erasmus+** mobility programme continued to provide the most important framework for international mobility at the UB in terms of both study exchanges and placements: the number of UB students studying elsewhere in the EU stood at 1,064, while 124 completed placements. In addition, the UB hosted 1,285 international students, of which 84 completed traineeship mobility exchanges. With regard



to exchanges with countries outside the European Union, 12 UB students studied abroad and 36 university students from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Canada, Jordan, Morocco, Palestine, Russia, Syria, Ukraine and China came to the UB.

In addition to Erasmus mobility, the UB signs **bilateral agreements** with universities in countries that are not EU member states or partner countries. Through the UB's 176 active bilateral agreements (general, for the entire UB, or specific, between faculties), the University hosted 208 incoming students in the past academic year and 155 UB students went abroad. In addition, in the context of bilateral agreements with members of the Coimbra Group, the UB hosted five students and, through the CINDA programme involving universities in Spain, Italy, Portugal and Latin America, five UB students went abroad and 12 international students came to the UB.

As a result of the actions undertaken under the institutional internationalization strategy, five new bilateral mobility agreements were signed with Chinese universities and five with Latin American universities (in Argentina, Mexico and Peru).

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 the Spanish Service for the Internationalization of Education (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 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 361 UB students already benefiting from some mobility programme. Banco Santander's Ibero-America Grants programme has benefited 29 students undertaking mobility periods in Latin America through bilateral agreements or the CINDA programme. Lastly, the UB hosted three doctoral students from Latin American universities on grants from the Carolina Foundation as well as two master's degree students

A COMMITMENT TO INTERNATIONALIZATION

12,456 international students from 140 countries

from Senegal and Morocco, who received funding from the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID) of the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

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 268 students, from universities in the United States and China (the Beijing Foreign Studies University); and **individual applications**, through which 69 students from around the world came to study at the UB and two UB students completed study periods abroad.

Ongoing Study Abroad programmes include ones with the University of California, the University of Illinois, Beijing Normal University, Brethren Colleges Abroad, Dartmouth College, the Council on International Educational Exchange, Knox College, the Consortium for Advanced Studies Abroad and Beijing Foreign Studies University.

The UB also welcomed 342 students who were the recipients of a grant awarded by some organization in their home country. Of the total, 180 pursued a university master’s degree, 144 were trainee researchers and 18 enrolled in a UB-specific postgraduate course.

In addition, 70 trainee researchers were the recipients of grants for limited stays, including FPU grants

for trainee teaching staff, FPI grants to train researchers and APIF grants for trainee researchers.

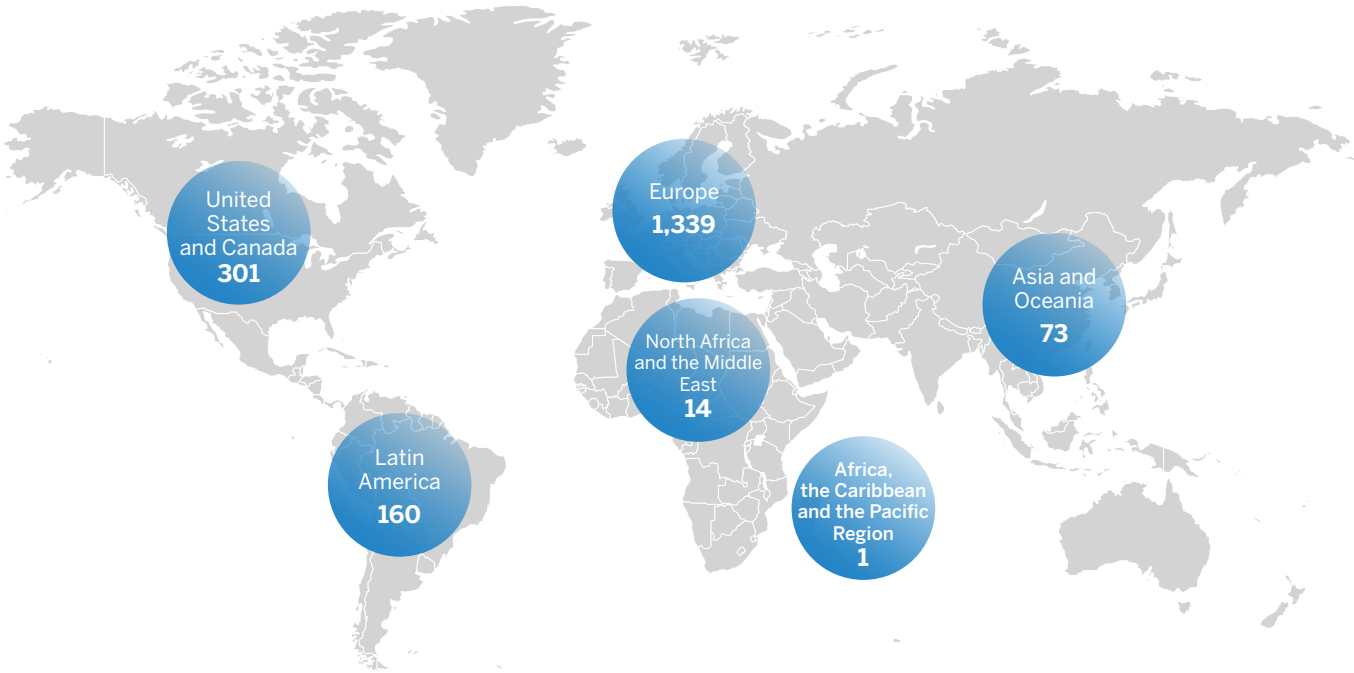
Study permits processed for non-EU students

In the academic year 2018-2019, the University began the application process for study permits for non-EU students seeking to complete a mobility stay in Spain through an intra-European programme or agreement. Over the academic year, 19 permits were processed.

UB student mobility by programme

Programme	UB students	International students
Erasmus+ in the EU: study	1,064	1,201
Erasmus+ in the EU: placement	124	84
Erasmus+ outside the EU: study	12	36
Bilateral agreements	155	208
Coimbra Group	3	5
Interuniversity Centre for Development (CINDA)	5	12
Study Abroad	–	268
Carolina Foundation	–	3
AECID	–	2
Individual applications	2	69
Total	1,365	1,888

International exchange students, by country of origin



Staff mobility

In total, 92 members of the UB’s **teaching and research staff** completed mobility periods abroad, mainly within the framework of the **Erasmus+** programme. In addition, 15 mobility periods under the Erasmus+ programme were completed outside the EU, involving universities in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Canada, Jordan, Palestine, Russia, Ukraine and China.

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 24 mobility periods undertaken by UB teaching staff to initiate or consolidate projects involving international collabo-



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INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIVENESS

capacity-building projects



ration. Similarly, the Ibero-America research grants offered by Banco Santander funded three mobility periods at Latin American universities (in Brazil and Chile).

In total, 237 teachers from abroad completed periods at the University of Barcelona. With the aim of

Summary of mobility and other stays by UB students and staff

Teaching and research staff (PDI)	
Mobility programmes	95
Sabbaticals	35
Ibero-American Universities Union grants	5
Administrative and service staff (PAS)	
Mobility programmes	44
Bachelor's and master's degree students	
Mobility programmes	1,365
SICUE mobility programme	148
Confucius Institute grants	13
Trainee researchers	
Joint supervision	14
Academic study periods	70

attracting internationally renowned teaching staff, funding was provided for nine of these stays, which were the result of invitations extended by UB teachers. Researchers from Cameroon and Senegal were hosted at the UB through the Coimbra Group, which organizes stays for young teaching staff and researchers from Africa. Arrangements were formally completed for stays at the UB involving 52 teachers from abroad.

As for the **mobility of administrative and service staff**, 44 UB staff members completed periods under

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INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIVENESS

Strategic Partnership projects

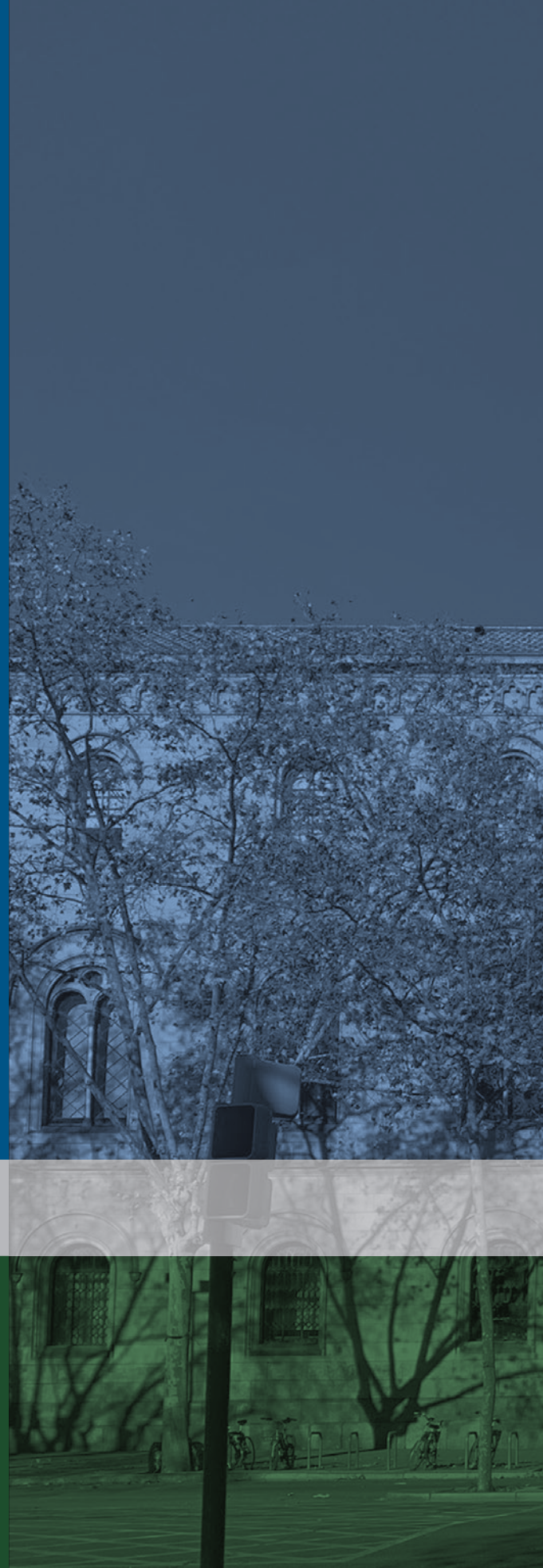
the Erasmus+ programme, while the UB welcomed 30 staff members from other universities, from both within and outside the European Union. Of these, 19 participated in the Staff Week on staff mobility and the organization of international relations offices and the new challenges they face.

International academic cooperation projects

The Erasmus+ programme not only finances mobility programmes and placements, but also provides funding for highly competitive projects in the transfer of academic knowledge under the programme's K2 actions. In this context, the UB took part in 47 international academic cooperation projects, involving 60 other countries for a total value of more than two and a half million euros. Of these projects, 13 are coordinated by the UB.

Highlights include 24 capacity-building projects, which seek to support the modernization, accessibility and internationalization of higher education in non-EU Partner Countries, and 22 Strategic Partnership projects, which are transnational efforts to develop and transfer innovative practices and to foster cooperation, peer learning and the exchange of experiences in the fields of education, training and youth at the European level.





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