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Welcome to the University of Catalonia

 **Generalitat de Catalunya**
Government of Catalonia

Catalonia

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



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



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



Castellers, or human towers. © Pepe Encinas

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



Borja Mosaic. © Francisco Sánchez



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

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



Ebre Delta. © Richard Martin



Pyrenees. © Marc Garriga

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

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



University of Barcelona (UB)

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



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History

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

Campus

UB has different campuses distributed throughout the city of Barcelona: the Humanities Campus, the Health Sciences Campus in Bellvitge, the Diagonal Knowledge Portal Campus, the August Pi i Sunyer Campus of Medicine/Clinical Medicine, the Mundet-University of Barcelona Campus and the Torribera Food Campus. This layout gives the university an urban feel, open and cosmopolitan like the city of Barcelona itself.

Teaching

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

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

Research

UB is a leader in research, both in terms of the number of research programs and the excellence achieved in this area. Its potential means it has assumed most of the responsibility for the scientific, technical, intellectual and cultural progress of Catalonia, and its researchers are referenced in the most prestigious international scientific publications.

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

Innovation

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

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

Internationalization

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

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

University community

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



Pompeu Fabra University (UPF)

Pompeu Fabra University (UPF) is one of the youngest university institutions in Catalonia, and, in this short time, it has been able to situate itself within the Spanish and Catalan system as a center of reference both in teaching and research. In the next few years, UPF aims to consolidate this model, based on proximity to the student, quality teaching and internationally projected research, which has enabled the university to become a center for creation and knowledge transfer, attracting talent from across southern Europe.



www.upf.edu

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History

UPF is a young, public and modern university, created in 1990 with the mission of becoming a university of reference in Europe. It is named in honor of Pompeu Fabra, who dedicated his life to the study and standardization of the Catalan language.

Campus

UPF structures its courses of study around three branches of knowledge that are closely connected and which correspond to the three campuses of the university: Social and Human Sciences, on the Ciutadella Campus; Health and Life Sciences, on the Mar Campus; Information and Communication Technologies and Sciences, on the Poblenou Campus.

Teaching

Since its beginnings, UPF has offered comprehensive training, in touch with students and structured into semesters. Today there are numerous indicators attesting to the success of this model, such as the high demand for admission to the UPF or the high percentage of success, satisfaction and employment among students and graduates.

This system ensures the attainment of good academic results, because students are always up to date in their studies—they don't have to sit an exam in June on subject matter dealt with in November. Classes are small, so that students are in close contact with the professor and receive individualized attention that promotes learning and advancement in their studies. This model also influences the development of professional skills and puts students in contact with the world of work through external internships.

Research

UPF promotes research of excellence that has an international impact, made possible through the highly competitive researchers at the university, which has always advocated a contracting policy for teaching staff that is open to national and international talent. The fruit of this dedication can be seen in such indicators as the amount of revenue gained in competitive calls for applications—particularly in the European scope—or the scientific production of researchers.

To enhance research and transfer activities and provide them with greater international visibility, UPF is creating the UPF Research Park, which will work in the fields of the social and human sciences, communication and information technologies. In the field of the health and life sciences, UPF channels its research

through the Barcelona Biomedical Research Park (PRBB), one of the largest biomedical hubs in southern Europe, located on the Mar Campus.

Innovation

UPF is firmly committed to the transfer of knowledge and the positive exploitation of research, channeled through the Research Parks and Innovation Unit and other initiatives such as the Promotion and Business Program and the Business Chairs.

In addition, in 2011, UPF launched the Almogàvers Business Factory, which houses the UPF Business Shuttle Think Tanks, with eight businesses that have their origins in UPF research.

Internationalization

The high international profile of the university is the sum of a strategy centered on the establishment of a policy of partnerships with a network of preferred partners and the recruitment of professors with careers in the international sphere. The university also promotes mobility abroad, incorporating English in the teaching offer and encouraging the construction of a multilingual campus with three dominant languages: Catalan, Spanish and English.

As a highly internationalized university, UPF maintains a high percentage of mobility among its students and welcomes a great number of international students, especially in postgraduate studies.

University community

In addition to the teaching and research facilities, UPF makes available to the university community the Campus Global Intranet, which allows class notes, internships and grades to be consulted; a laptop loan program (accessible at any of the university libraries); wireless connection on practically the entire campus; a language learning program; and a job placement office, among other services. Recently, the university began taking part in different social networks, such as Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn or YouTube.