

UNIVERSITIES OF CATALONIA

The area of university excellence in southern Europe



A university for everyone that promotes a bettering in their social status

The proportion of students in higher education whose parents do not have university education is 40% in Catalonia, the highest figure in OECD countries. In 1973, 37% of students in public universities were women. In 2011, women accounted for 53%.

The success of lifelong learning

In 2004, 75% of university graduates continued their studies at Catalan public universities. 40% of the lifelong learning offer in Spain is done at these universities.

High employability of university graduates and satisfaction with the courses chosen

The employment level of university graduates is around 80%, almost 30% above the total of the population. In 2011, 73% of degree holders said they felt satisfied with the degrees they had followed and that they would repeat the course.

Quality, efficient research

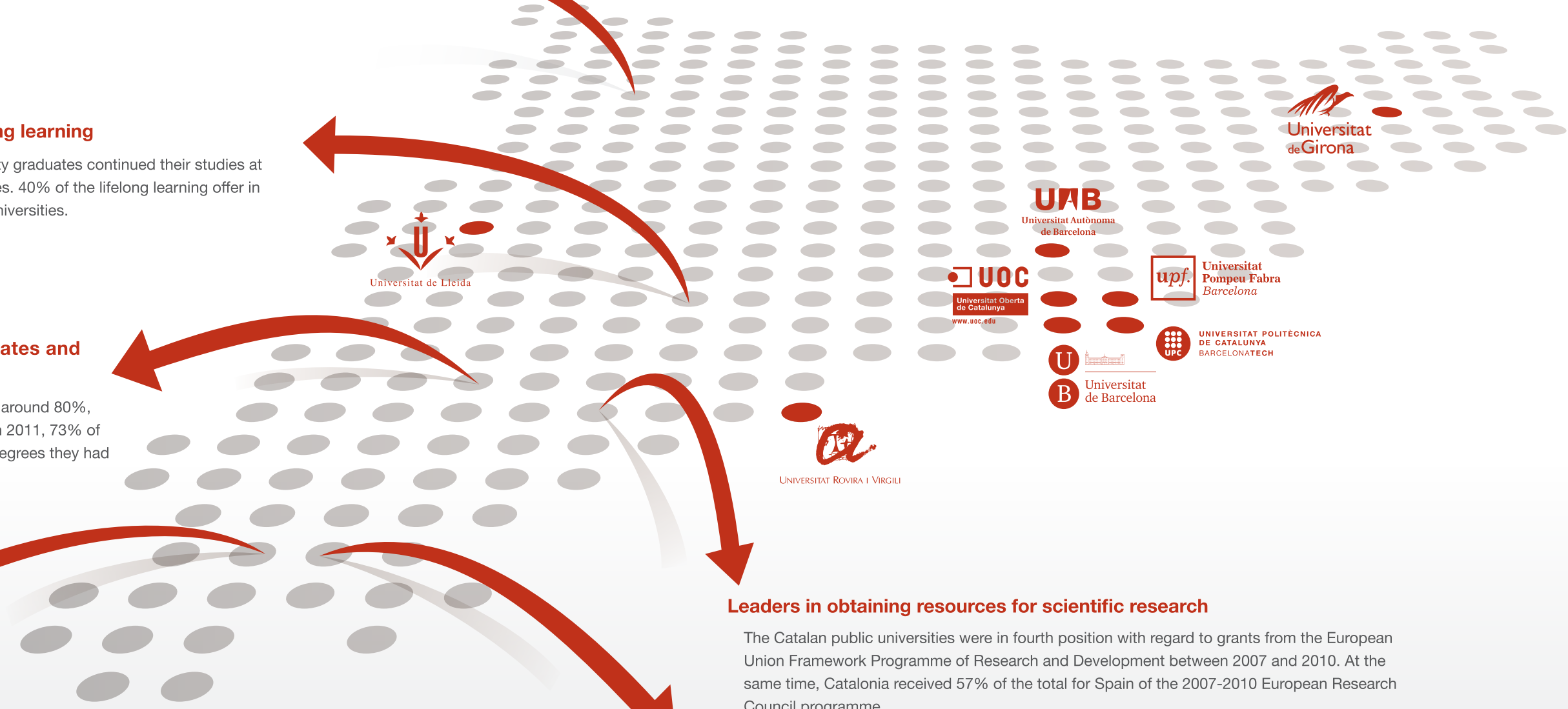
Catalan public universities have a scientific impact of 34% more than the world average, in front of Germany, France and Finland, and above the EU-15 average. The efficiency of this impact, in keeping with resources, places it above the European average and is comparable to countries such as Belgium, Germany and the Netherlands.

Leaders in obtaining resources for scientific research

The Catalan public universities were in fourth position with regard to grants from the European Union Framework Programme of Research and Development between 2007 and 2010. At the same time, Catalonia received 57% of the total for Spain of the 2007-2010 European Research Council programme.

Groups and research centres par excellence

The Catalan public universities have 816 consolidated research groups and have fuelled most of the research centres promoted by the Government of Catalonia. They also closely participate in university hospitals' research.



PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES OF CATALONIA

As a united, multicultural society in the south of Europe, Catalonia has its own personality, culture and language, as well as an internationally recognised historic and cultural heritage. Catalan society is known for its hospitality, its working spirit and its open-mindedness to the world. Barcelona, the cosmopolitan and multicultural capital of Catalonia, has become an international reference in creativity and quality of life.

Catalonia is an economic driving force in the south of Europe. Industry has always been one of its most entrepreneurial and innovative activities, with a basic structure of small and medium enterprises. There is an active presence of large multinational companies, particularly in the food, automobile, telecommunications and biomedical sectors and there are business schools that are recognised worldwide. Due to its high economic growth and its historic entrepreneurial spirit, Catalonia is currently one of the most dynamic European regions.

SYSTEM DATA

Students
224,438

Teaching and research staff
15,375

Consolidated research groups
816



Universities of Catalonia bring together the eight public universities of Catalonia. It is a system made up of innovative universities that boost synergies and joint projects in training, research and knowledge transfer. The Universities of Catalonia cover the entire Catalan territory.

UNIVERSITY EDUCATION

Universities of Catalonia are home to one of the largest university communities in the south of Europe, made up of more than 220,000 students, over 15,000 teachers and more than 14,000 administration professionals, distributed among the eight public universities. The Universities of Catalonia have a wide and varied offer of degree and postgraduate programmes, as well as lifelong learning programmes, which comply with accreditation and international quality systems attracting a growing number of European students and those from other countries every year.

RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

Catalonia is one of the regions of Spain which invests most in research and innovation, with a growing tendency over recent years. The central pillar of the Catalan science and technology system is made up of the universities, accompanied by a large number of excellent research centres, science parks, university hospitals, technology centres and business R&D departments. The research activity carried out in the universities and the entire Catalan science and technology system is one of the most dynamic and innovative ones in the south of Europe. All the public Catalan universities have been distinguished by the Spanish government with the mention of International Campus of Excellence thanks to their leading projects in research and innovation.

UNIVERSITY AND SCIENTIFIC INFRASTRUCTURES

Catalonia has excellent scientific and technological infrastructures of a national and international scope. Particularly worthy of mentioning are the CERCA research institutes, the ALBA Synchrotron Light Facility, the Barcelona Supercomputing Center, the Consorci de Biblioteques Universitàries de Catalunya (CBUC) and the Centre de Supercomputació de Catalunya (CESCA), as well as all the science parks and technological platforms. Catalonia also promotes diverse strategic sectors, which particularly include the Bioregió de Catalunya (BioCat), based on the research and innovation potential of the hospitals, universities and companies in the chemical and pharmaceutical sectors.

CATALAN ASSOCIATION OF PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES

The Catalan Association of Public Universities (ACUP) was created in 2002 on the initiative of the universities of Barcelona (UB), Autònoma de Barcelona (UAB), Politècnica de Catalunya (UPC), Pompeu Fabra (UPF), Girona (UdG), Lleida (UdL), Rovira i Virgili (URV) and Oberta de Catalunya (UOC). Its main objective is to be the essential voice of Catalan public universities and to combine efforts to promote initiatives, programmes and joint projects to improve the university system and to make it a driving force behind social, cultural and economic development.

The ACUP offers continuity to the slogan “Autonomy, Catalan identity and modernity” which presided over the Catalan University Congresses held between 1903 and 1918. These ideals and hopes are still valid and continue inspiring the desire of the Catalan public universities to collaborate. An autonomy that responds to work and responsibility, which is what leads the universities to come together to make joint proposals for the good of the country’s progress. From an in-depth knowledge of the university history in Catalonia, the universities wish to work for the future. The fact that the Catalan public universities have created an association makes their desire to collaborate evident, as a single voice, in all matters in which unanimity is possible. A collaboration between them and with the public administration, to work in depth on the cultural trajectory of Catalonia.

In recent years, the ACUP has intensified its activity and public presence, acquiring an experience which, today, makes it a reference university association on the European scene. This can be found in the considerable volume of relations and projects that are carried out at an international level. Based on creating a joint strategy that aims to position Catalonia as a reference university area in the south of Europe, the Association has created a series of activities for improving the member universities and for the entire university system in its different tasks: training, research, knowledge transfer to society and internal management.

The ACUP works on numerous programmes and projects under five main policy areas.

STRATEGY AND INSTITUTIONAL RELATIONS

Analysis and design of policies for the public Catalan university system in collaboration with other institutions and organisations. The ACUP holds the institutional relations with the university and research policy stakeholders in Catalonia and throughout Spain.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Promoting international relations with countries, regions, university systems and similar organisations around the world as well as international visibility of the public Catalan universities.

UNIVERSITY MANAGEMENT

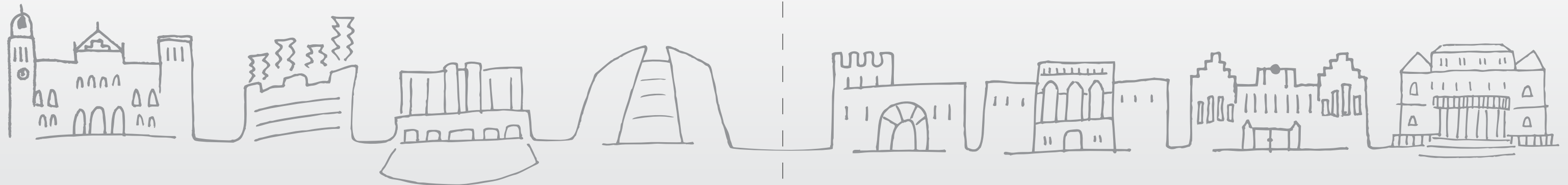
Spearheading initiatives and projects for the improvement and innovation of university management, both in the public Catalan university system as well as in each of the member universities.

SOCIETY-UNIVERSITY RELATIONS

Promoting programmes and projects with a holistic scope to bring universities and society closer together in the interest of social, cultural, economic and technological progress.

MONITORING AND STUDIES

Preparation and coordination of studies, reports and statistics on university matters in the main areas of activity of the universities (training, research, knowledge transfer and university management) and in collaboration with other organisations and countries.



GENERAL INFORMATION

Year of foundation

1450

Undergraduate students
(first and second cycle)

46,449

Postgraduate students
(Master and PhD)

10,118

Academic and research staff

5,312

Undergraduate programmes

66

Master

140

PhD programmes

73

Faculties and schools

19

Departments

106

Research centres

30

Officially recognised research groups

243

INSTITUTIONAL INTRODUCTION

The Universitat de Barcelona (UB) is the public Catalan university with the largest number of students and the broadest educational offering. In addition, it is the main university research centre in Spain and one of the most important in Europe, both on account of the number of research programmes it develops and the excellence achieved in this field. UB holds a notable position, worldwide and at European and Spanish levels, in the most important rankings based on different indicators and geographical areas.

Closely linked to the history of Barcelona and Catalonia, UB combines tradition with teaching innovation and excellence. It is an urban, open, cosmopolitan university, like the city that hosts it. Its campuses extend UB's reach to all corners of Barcelona city, so the interdependent relationship between the university and the city is nourished. Since 2010, UB has been member of the prestigious League of European Research Universities (LERU). To date, UB has been the only Spanish university invited to take part in this highly notable organization.

TEACHING

The Universitat de Barcelona offers a wide range of courses adapted to society's needs and demands; that leads the University to the avant-garde in areas as varied as technology and art. UB offers to its more than 70,000 students EHEA bachelor's degree courses, master's degrees and doctoral programmes, both distance and face-to-face learning courses. Moreover, aware of the importance of lifelong learning, it proposes the broadest and most multidisciplinary offer of lifelong learning courses in Catalonia, by means of the Institute of Lifelong Learning (IL3-UB). To support teaching and research, the Learning and Research Resources Centre (CRAI) of UB has a network of libraries with 609,016 sq. m and 1,719,634 monographs. In addition, UB gives priority to all the aspects that make up university life, even if they are not purely academic. The University makes sure that it provides all members of the university community with access to information and support services and promotes the organization and participation in cultural and sporting activities and solidarity actions.



RESEARCH

The Universitat de Barcelona is the leading research university in Spain. According to the Third European Report on Science and Technology Indicators, UB is the second-ranked Spanish institution, after the Spanish National Research Council (CSIC), in terms of volume of publications. Besides, UB continues to be the Spanish top university according to the ranking SIR Iber 2014 HE.

The Universitat of Barcelona is made up of more than 5,000 researchers, technicians and scholarship holders. Most of them are members of its 243 consolidated research groups, 14 singular groups and 22 emergent groups recognized by the Generalitat de Catalunya. In 2012, it obtained 420 research activities in competitive calls, 20 European projects and more than 400 research projects and collaboration agreements with companies, with an overall income of 58 million euros. Furthermore, UB is organised into research centres and institutes and participates in national and international centres of reference and networks. It houses the Parc Científic de Barcelona (Barcelona Science Park, PCB) —where the Institut de Recerca Biomèdica (Institute for Research in Biomedicine IRB), the Institut de Bioenginyeria de Catalunya (Institute for Bioengineering of Catalonia, IBEC) and the Centre Nacional d'Anàlisi Genòmica (National Centre for Genome Analysis, CNAG) are located. UB also participates in the Institut d'Investigacions Biomèdiques August Pi i Sunyer (August Pi i Sunyer Institute of Biomedical Research, IDIBAPS) and the Institut d'Investigació Biomèdica de Bellvitge (Bellvitge Biomedical Research Institute, IDIBELL). Finally, the UB Science and Technology Centres (CCiTUB) are a research infrastructure facility at the University with the main goal to support research and innovation in the areas of chemistry, materials sciences and biosciences and supports more than 400 companies.

INTERNATIONALISATION

The Universitat de Barcelona develops significant international activity as it participates in programmes of academic exchange, international cooperation and solidarity projects and international research programmes. UB strives to incorporate this international dimension into its activity. Currently, the University has 10,000 foreign visitors from 126 countries. The international action of the Universitat de Barcelona covers the following pillars: international mobility of students, teaching and research staff, and administration and service staff; training in an international context; organising international scientific partnerships to promote international research and mobility; university cooperation with developing countries; and UB collaboration with international networks, for instance LERU and the Coimbra Group, an association of long-established European multidisciplinary universities of high international standard. Moreover, the headquarters of the Permanent Secretariat of the Arab-Euro Conference on Higher Education (AECHE), a network which gathers the Association of Arab Universities (AARU), the European University Association (EUA) and their respective members, are based at UB. Finally, the Universitat de Barcelona has three academic offices in the University of Sao Paulo (Brazil), Nova Southeastern University (Florida, USA) and the University of Shanghai (China).

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UAB

Universitat Autònoma
de Barcelona

GENERAL INFORMATION

Year of foundation

1968

Undergraduate students
(first and second cycle)

28,509

Postgraduate students
(Master and PhD)

5,735

Academic and research staff

3,629

Undergraduate programmes

81

Master

84

PhD programmes

67

Faculties and schools

14

Departments

57

Research centres

27

Officially recognised research groups

220

UAB UNIVERSITAT AUTÒNOMA DE BARCELONA

INSTITUTIONAL INTRODUCTION

The Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (UAB) is a leading university in Europe which offers top-quality, diversified, multidisciplinary, flexible teaching. It is also internationally renowned for the quality and innovative character of its research. UAB holds a leading position in the most prestigious and influent international university rankings. In recent years, this award has been favored by the growing impact of the research, the constant improvement of the quality of teaching and the ability to attract international talent. This progress has been decisive in going forward to leading positions among Spanish universities in the two main university rankings: the QS World University Ranking and the Times Higher Education World University Ranking. According to QS top 50 under 50 Ranking 2013/14, which includes universities founded less than 50 years ago, the UAB ranks 9th in the world ranking, 2nd at European level, and is the first-ranked Spanish university. In the Ranking Times Higher Education (THE) Top 100 under 50 2012-2013 that includes the top 100 universities founded within the last 50 years, the UAB is listed as 22th in the world, 11th in Europe and 1st in Spain.

Its main campus is in a very beautiful natural setting, with a complete infrastructure created exclusively for university life, which concentrates services and academic, research, cultural and social activities: a genuine city of knowledge. Surrounded by green areas, it has its own university city in which almost 1,800 people live. Most of the faculties, institutes and services, as well as a significant scientific and technological cluster, are on this campus, in the hub of one of the main poles of industrial and technological development in the south of the Mediterranean.

In addition to its main campus, in Bellaterra (Cerdanyola del Vallès), it has the Sabadell Campus, which focuses on technology and business and the Health Sciences Campus in Barcelona, which is in diverse hospitals. Its scientific production is recognised in all the areas of knowledge, it has a plan based on alliances with R & D centres from the surrounding area, with nano science and biotechnology being its strategic lines of research. Because of all this, the UAB was one of the first universities to be recognised as an International Campus of Excellence.

TEACHING

The UAB offers top-quality, flexible teaching adapted to the demands of society, in areas as diverse as Arts and Humanities, Bioscience, Science, Health Sciences, Social Sciences and Engineering. It has a team of 3,500 lecturers dedicated to educating the more than 40,000 degree and postgraduate students. This combination of disciplines is one of the distinctive, excellent features of the Campus. It offers teaching characterised by its high practical component and it has collaboration agreements with companies and institutions that allow students to carry out work experience during their studies.

The quality of the education can be observed in the rate of insertion into the labour market of 90 to 100% in certain study areas. The recognition of this excellence is also seen in the quality programmes: 47 UAB doctorates have been given a mention of excellence by the Ministry of Education. One of the features that defines the UAB is its commitment to strengthen the relation between academic training and research activities.



RESEARCH

The UAB is leader in PhD thesis production in Catalonia (2010-11 academic year) and ranks first among Spanish universities in the area of coordinated projects under the European 7th Framework Programme. The UAB includes numerous research groups, departments, institutes and centres, many of which were created in collaboration with important scientific institutions, and all of which conduct a large amount of activities. Research is also carried out in the five UAB-affiliated hospitals, three of which have been awarded the Carlos III Health Institute's seal of excellence.

The UAB promotes innovation, employability and entrepreneurship. It strives to foster research and transfer in all areas of knowledge and works closely together with the surrounding business and industrial community, as well as with scientific centres such as the Alba Synchrotron Light Facility, located five minutes away from the campus.

INTERNATIONALISATION

The internationalisation of teaching and research is one of the UAB's fundamental goals. The international dimension of the UAB can be seen by the number of students from abroad enrolled, especially in master's degrees (45%) and PhD programmes (40%).

This internationalisation is being driven by the increase in undergraduate and master's degree programmes offered in other languages (mainly English). There are over 40 master's degrees taught 100% in English. The degrees in Business Management and Administration, as well as Primary Education, are offered in English, and many other degrees offer subjects in English.

The UAB actively encourages participation in mobility programmes and works to attract students from abroad. Its most important projects are Erasmus Mundus, Comenius, Leonardo Da Vinci and Erasmus K2. It also has specific programmes which welcome and aid international students once they arrive to the UAB. Under the Erasmus programme, the UAB has 1,008 bilateral agreements with more than 500 universities in Europe. It is also the Spanish university with the largest number of Chinese students enrolled in its PhD programmes.



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UPC

UNIVERSITAT POLITÈCNICA DE CATALUNYA - BARCELONATECH

GENERAL INFORMATION

Year of foundation

1971

Undergraduate students
(first and second cycle)

28,804

Postgraduate students
(Master and PhD)

5,090

Academic and research staff

2,431

Undergraduate programmes

68

Master

65

PhD programmes

51

Faculties and schools

17

Departments

42

Research centres

16

Officially recognised research groups

197

INSTITUTIONAL INTRODUCTION

The UPC is the leading university in the areas of engineering, architecture and sciences. The Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya - BarcelonaTech (UPC) is a public research institution in higher education which offers top-quality studies in the areas of engineering, architecture and sciences.

From intellectual rigour, a critical spirit, transversality in knowledge, innovation in teaching and entrepreneurialism, the UPC forms people and professionals who are competent with abilities and skills to face present and future challenges. The activities at its campuses and teaching centres make the UPC a point of reference in teaching and top-quality research and, in complicity with the productive fabric, it is a key driving force behind economic and social change, which emphasises research, and transfers technology and knowledge to society.

The UPC has scientific and technological infrastructures which it offers to research groups and centres, researchers and students, professionals and companies and it is a member of diverse excellent university networks through which it maintains a special relationship with scientific and educational institutions from all over the world. Along these lines, the university has secured its international presence in 129 countries on all the continents, whether by means of research projects with double qualification agreements or by means of students and teaching staff mobility programmes.

Recognised with two International Campus of Excellence awards, the UPC is a prestigious, reference university in the areas in which it works, in particular in the area of energy.

TEACHING

The UPC is a university which organises its teaching offer around the engineering, architecture and science areas of knowledge. During the 2011-2012 academic year, it offers a total of 69 degrees and 61 master's programmes. Its academic offer also includes 19 double qualifications and 46 doctorate programmes. With regard to lifelong learning programmes (UPC master's and postgraduate courses), it offers 363 programmes. All in all, it offers students a stimulating academic environment that favours their intellectual development and their entrepreneurial ability, as can be seen by the numerous research projects in which it participates or the grants and international awards it obtains. As it is a university with a strong technical component, the teaching staff at the UPC are characterised by constant care to the needs of the entrepreneurial environment and to technological changes. The international component is another of the differentiating features of its teaching that enriches the double qualification international agreements that the university currently has with some of the most prestigious higher education institutions in the world.

People who qualify from the UPC also enjoy a high level of insertion into the labour market, both nationally as well as internationally.

RESEARCH

The Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya - BarcelonaTech (UPC) is a research university that is committed to innovation and talent.

Due to the dimension and content of its projects, the UPC has become a leading university in the research area which actively collaborates with companies and institutions, nationally as well as internationally. The university offers services, develops projects and provides solutions that are made available to the productive fabric with the key support of top level scientific and technological infrastructures which are directed by highly qualified professionals.

The transfer of the results of the research, innovation and promotion of an entrepreneurial vocation among the people that make up the UPC community are some of the most relevant assets of the institution. From the Centre d'Innovació i Tecnologia (CIT UPC) (Innovation and Technology Centre), the university promotes economic and social development and the competitiveness of companies through offering technological and scientific services. These differentiating features make the Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya a leading institution in the creation of spin-off companies, in encouraging new patents and in obtaining European projects in the areas of knowledge in which it works.



INTERNATIONALISATION

The UPC offers international studies through 97 double qualification agreements with prestigious universities from all over the world. With regard to the master's courses that it offers, 13 are part of the Erasmus Mundi programme and 23 are in English. It heads international research and innovation projects — particularly European projects such as the Kic Innoenergy— and is part of the main educational and international research networks, such as CLUSTER which brings together the most prestigious technological universities in Europe.

It is a particularly active institution with regard to the participation of the members of its community in mobility programmes as well as in projects and development cooperation actions.

With well established roots in Europe as well as in Latin America, the UPC has also opened new channels of collaboration with prestigious universities in Asia and in particular, in countries such as China — where it will soon set up a campus— and in Pakistan.

The UPC is also the seat of five UNESCO chairs, which are genuine bridges established between academic circles, society and local communities and which are aimed at strengthening cooperation and offering support to higher education in developing countries.

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GENERAL INFORMATION

Year of foundation

1990

Undergraduate students
(first and second cycle)

11,969

Postgraduate students
(Master and PhD)

5,235

Academic and research staff

558 (FTE)

Undergraduate programmes

21

Master

25

PhD programmes

9

Faculties and schools

8

Departments

8

Research centres

7

Officially recognised research groups

63

INSTITUTIONAL INTRODUCTION

The UPF is a young, public, modern university, created in 1990 with the aim of becoming a university of reference in Europe. Distinguished by the Ministry of Education as a Campus of International Excellence (CEI), the UPF's indicators for teaching, research and internationalisation back its position as a centre of reference within the Spanish and European system. In recent years, the UPF has started to appear in rankings of international prestige, such as the Times Higher Education or the one drawn up by the University of Shanghai. The teaching and research activity at the UPF revolves around human beings. The university organises its studies around three areas of knowledge that are closely connected and which correspond to the three campuses that the university has in Barcelona: Social Sciences and Humanities at the Ciutadella Campus; health and life sciences at the Mar Campus; science and information and communication technologies at the Poble Nou Campus. At the same time, to encourage research and transfer activities and to give them the greatest international visibility, the university is developing the Parc de Recerca UPF (Research Park) in the areas of social and human sciences, communication and information technologies. In the areas of health and life sciences, the UPF channels its research through the Parc de Recerca Biomèdica de Barcelona (PRBB) (Barcelona Biomedical Research Park), one of the largest biomedical centres in the south of Europe, found on the Mar Campus.

TEACHING

Since its beginnings, the UPF has offered integral teaching aimed at the student. Currently there are numerous indicators that accredit the success of this model, such as the high demand for studying at the UPF or the high percentage of success, satisfaction and insertion into the labour market of students and graduates. The UPF is the top Spanish university in the ranking of the Times Higher Education (2013) and the leading Spanish university in teaching and research productivity according to the U-Ranking (BBVA Foundation and Ivie, 2014). It also has the highest performance rate in the Spanish system: 90% (2012-2013 academic year), 87% of graduates from the UPF work and 93% of graduates would choose this university again, according to the AQU Catalunya Report (2011).

RESEARCH

The UPF model is possible thanks to the high competitiveness of the lecturers and researchers at the university, which has always been committed to a policy of contracting teaching staff open to national and international talent. This choice is reflected in the excellent research indicators that the university has obtained, both with regard to the volume of income collected in the 7th Framework Programme (FP7) of the EU as well as the indicators for scientific production. At the same time, this strategy is starting to offer results in the form of patents and spin-off companies with international impact.

The UPF is in the top European 20 with regard to the number of Starting and Advanced Grants awarded by the European Research Council (ERC, 2013). The UPF is the top Spanish university with regard to the number of articles published in international collaboration and in the normalized impact of its scientific publications according to the Scimago Institutions Ranking (2013). It is also the second university in Spain in receiving European funds in terms of absolute values, according to the European Commission, within the 2007-2013 period. Those are remarkable results since the UPF just employs around the 1% of the total researchers in Spain. 64% of the theses were written and presented in English (2013).

INTERNATIONALISATION

The high international profile of the UPF is the sum of a strategy based on establishing a policy of alliances with a network of preferential members and attracting lecturers with international projection in their career. The university also promotes international experiences; it has included English into its teaching and aims to construct a multilingual campus with three working languages: Catalan, Spanish and English. The UPF is the top Spanish university in the "international teaching staff" indicator, according to the QS ranking (2013) and has agreements with 27 of the top 50 universities in the world, according to the Times Higher Education ranking (2013). It also enjoys strategic alliances with the Alianza 4 Universidades, Grup Maastricht and CASB, with the Ivy League. 36% of the master's students and 52% of the doctorate students are international (2012-2013).



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GENERAL INFORMATION

Year of foundation

1992

Undergraduate students
(first and second cycle)

13,682

Postgraduate students
(Master and PhD)

1,374

Academic and research staff

1,155

Undergraduate programmes

41

Master

41

PhD programmes

11

Faculties and schools

10

Departments

24

Research centres

11

Officially recognised research groups

42

INSTITUTIONAL INTRODUCTION

The University of Girona (UdG) is a young, dynamic and public university striving to become a benchmark university of the Mediterranean Arc through excellence in teaching, research and knowledge transfer. It is succeeding through a constant and enriching dialogue among a wide variety of knowledge areas ranging from the sciences to the arts, and including health and wellbeing, the social sciences, the humanities and technology.

The UdG is a homogeneous ensemble in which the relationship between teaching staff and students is agile, direct and individualised, with facilities that make the most of old civic and religious buildings as university centres and with a newly built campus set in a green area. The Science and Technology Park allows for a more dynamic relationship and improved knowledge transfer with the business world, the productive network of the country. These favourable circumstances are enhanced by the UdG's surroundings: a city that enjoys an intense cultural life and a developed economic region with broad European projection. Its designation as a Campus of International Excellence, granted to the Euro-Mediterranean Tourism and Water Campus (e-MTA), gives the UdG international influence and, at the same time, prepares it to face future challenges.

TEACHING

The UdG promotes the quality of its study programmes, both with regard to academic results as well as the efficiency of the qualifications. To secure this objective, the UdG watches over the academic progress of students and the suitable follow-up on the sequence of subjects programmed in the various study plans. In this respect, students receive individual attention. The Girona society actively participates in defining new qualifications, to be able to offer suitable training in order for students to successfully achieve the professional skills that the labour market demands. Therefore, the qualifications offered by the UdG are constantly updated. The entrepreneurial spirit is promoted at all levels, from work experience in companies through to the creation of spin-off and start-up companies.

The wide offer of degrees is complemented by an offer of master's courses that facilitate entrance into the labour market and that prepare students for doctorat studies. In this respect, the UdG has incorporated English as a teaching Language at master's/postgraduate level and for combining its own master's courses with inter-university ones. At the same time, the creation of the School of Doctoral Studies has enabled it to maintain the quality of training in research. This all favors the internationalisation of the postgraduate courses. For students, the UdG offers a wide range of services: from all the information needed to getting around the campus to a modern and fully equipped library and to learning languages; from participation in associations of a highly diverse nature to involvement in cultural and sporting activities, including renting bicycles or laptop computers.



RESEARCH

The research activity at the UdG is carried out through research groups linked to departments and research institutes. Academic Chairs are structures that also play an important role, as they promote study and research, and other structures such as observatories and laboratories are key players too. The research institutes themselves encourage research in the subjects in which the UdG strives to be unique, related to the Euro-Mediterranean Tourism and Water Campus: tourism, water, cultural heritage, chemistry, robotics, computing, health and food sciences. In addition, the CERCA Programme Centres with the participation of the UdG (ICRA, IdibGI, ICRPC) are a springboard for university research.

The organisation of the research also makes sure that excellence and internationalisation are guaranteed. In a parallel way, the UdG promotes the training of researchers through a plan of its own grants. The Parc Científic i Tecnològic (Science and Technology Park) concentrates the technological transfer and contributes to attracting, creating and developing highly innovative companies, spin-off and start-up companies, based on technologies and knowledge, and companies related to research and development. It also promotes interaction and relations between these agents and those of the surrounding area. The UdG Research Arc is the conceptual framework that includes all the research at the UdG in collaboration with the Science and Technology Park, the Academy of Humanities and Social Sciences, the social agents and companies.

INTERNATIONALISATION

The UdG identifies internationalisation as a key strategic line for the future of the University and develops it in various areas: international teaching activity, mobility of students and teachers, internationalisation, development and cooperation. Within the framework of internationalisation, the UdG is strongly working to attract foreign students.

The UdG is integrated into teaching and research cooperation structures in the south of Europe as the Euro-Mediterranean Tourism and Water Campus which holds the distinction of International Campus of Excellence (e-MTA Campus). It allows cross-border and regional cooperation to be promoted amongst research centres and universities in the south of France and the Balearic Islands. The UdG wants to explore new fields of internationalisation of strategic importance such as Cultural Heritage and Migration.

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Universitat de Lleida

GENERAL INFORMATION

Year of foundation

1991

Undergraduate students
(first and second cycle)

8,779

Postgraduate students
(Master and PhD)

1,295

Academic and research staff

997

Undergraduate programmes

31

Master

41

PhD programmes

9

Faculties and schools

9

Departments

26

Research centres

5

Officially recognised research groups

49

UdL UNIVERSITAT DE LLEIDA

INSTITUTIONAL INTRODUCTION

The Universitat de Lleida (UdL) was created in 1300 and was the first university institution in Catalonia and one of the oldest ones in Europe. It was renovated in 1991 by the Generalitat of Catalonia with the aim of giving continuity to its illustrious past. Therefore, the UdL combines a long, fruitful university tradition with a young, dynamic structure which is firmly committed to training and quality research as well as to advanced teaching methods.

The mission of the Universitat de Lleida, as indicated in its strategic plan, is the generation, dissemination and application of knowledge. As a result of its links with its territorial productive area, the UdL enjoys a relevant positioning with regard to agricultural and forestry courses, which constitute the most notable commitment in its corporate strategic plan.

The UdL offers training activities aimed at undergraduates, postgraduates and professionals who wish to acquire, master or recycle their knowledge in different fields: science, health sciences, social and legal sciences, the management and practice of sport, humanities and technology. These activities are carried out by means of face-to-face courses, distance learning and a combination of the two, using the modern, functional, well equipped areas of the five different campuses, of the virtual campus and of the latest Wi-Fi technology. The UdL's qualifications, backed by the quality of the Catalan university system, allows students to acquire an advanced specialist and/or multidisciplinary training based on top-quality content prepared by experts in the subject and permanently updated. We would highlight the existence of research groups in the different areas with international recognition.

TEACHING

At the Universitat de Lleida (UdL), teaching and learning are the same thing. Its objectives, which are merged rather than shared, mean that the teaching development is excellent at all three levels: degrees, master's and doctorates. The university is known for its human dimension and it is committed to its territory, as well as offering teaching staff who are close to the students. Special attention is paid to the external work experience programmes of the degrees, as well as to the excellent master's courses and their specialisation and to continuous training programmes, as well as welcoming students and doctorate students from all over the world, making the UdL an ideal university centre for initial training as well as for lifelong learning.

RESEARCH

In its strategic plan, the Universitat de Lleida is firmly committed to research. The result of this effort is the fact that it currently has three centres in the CERCA network of the Generalitat of Catalonia: Agrotècnic (Agrotechnical) (focusing on agriculture and food research), the Centre Tecnològic Forestal de Catalunya (Forest Sciences Centre of Catalonia) (with the participation of the UdL and focused on managing forestry resources) and the Lleida Institut de Recerca Biomèdica (Biomedical Research Institute) (which focuses on basic and clinical research in the health area). These centres place the research activity of our university at a competitive level throughout the country. In addition, we have three active institutes that belong to the UdL: Institut Politècnic d'Innovació i Recerca en Sostenibilitat (INSPIRES) that is devoted to technology and energy research, Centre d'Estudis Jurídics Europeus i Mediació (CEJEM) that conducts research in law and conflict resolution, and the Institut de Recerca en Identitats i Societat (IRIS) with investigates on identity and society. We are now developing a new institute that should integrate the activity and CEJEM and IRIS plus other groups around the problems of social and territorial development.

In order to carry out all this activity, the university has different specialised campuses distributed throughout the city, integrated into its economic activity, which are a fundamental driving force of progress for the city and the region. The university also participates in the Campus of International Excellence of the Vall de l'Ebre (IBERUS) in such a way that its activities are co-ordinated with the Universities of Saragossa, Navarra and La Rioja, with an international projection in the cross-border campus with Pau and Toulouse. All this activity is translated into solid, top level training programmes, both with regard to degrees as well as master's and doctorates, with good participation from foreign students.

INTERNATIONALISATION

The UdL strives to give an international projection to the entire university community. To the students, by encouraging them to participate in the various academic mobility programmes, but also taking in a growing number of foreign students who make the various campuses of the UdL more international. To the teaching and research staff, by offering them international mobility with regard to teaching or research and by welcoming teaching staff from other university systems to achieve an internationalisation of the teaching given at the UdL. To the administration and services staff and to the processes that belong to each service, by proposing the possibility to enjoy stays in foreign universities and to welcome staff from other universities. With the aim of achieving an international projection of all the people who make up the UdL, in addition to the aspects concerning teaching, we strive to create awareness concerning development in the international area and we are therefore committed to an increasing amount of teaching being done in English. Finally, we aim to improve the UdL's international projection to include its immediate surrounding society.



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UNIVERSITAT ROVIRA I VIRGILI

URV UNIVERSITAT ROVIRA I VIRGILI

GENERAL INFORMATION

Year of foundation

1991

Undergraduate students
(first and second cycle)

11,886

Postgraduate students
(Master and PhD)

2,151

Academic and research staff

921

Undergraduate programmes

37

Master

46

PhD programmes

37

Faculties and schools

12

Departments

24

Research centres

14

Officially recognised research groups

59

INSTITUTIONAL INTRODUCTION

The URV was created in 1991 by the Catalan Parliament, based on existing university centres, thus recovering the 16th-century university of Tarragona.

From its first day of functioning it has had a very clear objective: to place knowledge at the service of society to contribute to the social and economic development of its surrounding area, a context which has been transformed with the passage of time.

The social and cultural changes have opened the doors to a new setting and have made Europe and, progressively, the rest of the world, an area for compulsory interaction for our students and future workers. At the URV we train professionals using the European standardisation approaches, a key aspect for opening doors in a labour market without borders. We do all this thanks to a very broad offer of degree teaching in almost all the areas of knowledge and an offer of postgraduate and doctorate studies, specially developed in our strategic sub campuses: Chemistry and Energy, Nutrition and Health, Oenology, Tourism and Heritage and Culture; for which we have been recognised by the Ministry of Education as a International Excellent Campus, "Catalunya Sud". The data confirms that the URV is a university of reference thanks to the quality of the teaching, its commitment to lifelong learning and its excellence in research, development and innovation.

TEACHING

Our aim is to achieve maximum quality training, aimed at acquiring knowledge and competencies that guarantee success in joining the professional world. For this, we have designed updated teaching, introducing new teaching and learning methodologies in which the student is the centre of the academic activity.

The Universitat Rovira i Virgili offers a wide range of master's and postgraduate courses (49 master's programmes). To be able to provide a response to the social and business demand of experts and specialists in various areas of knowledge, we provide a wide offer of master's and postgraduate courses. The social and economic fabric are always undergoing change. Therefore, a professional needs a profile with knowledge in keeping with the latest innovations, able to master the most recent research and technology tools and ready to work in a global world.

The URV is a research university. Therefore, to fulfil this objective, it offers high quality, recognised DOCTORATE PROGRAMMES that allow it to train researchers in almost all areas of knowledge, ready to contribute to enriching a knowledge society.

The URV offers more than 80 university extension courses and more than 30 specialist courses. The aim is to facilitate updating knowledge and professional uniqueness. The extension courses, which aim to facilitate studies for people without university qualification, are aimed at professionals and at the public at large, independently of their academic qualifications and deal with areas as different as medicine or security in computer systems. The university specialisation courses are aimed at people with qualifications who wish to focus their activity on a specific area of knowledge, even though the offer is also very varied.

RESEARCH

The university is an institution with a leaning towards research and it works to potentiate all research activities among its members, placing special emphasis on strengthening the various groups and on the quality and magnitude of its scientific production. To achieve this, the university has complex structures which work together and in a coordinated way in this field, with the research groups as a basic unit. The activities of these groups can be developed in the framework of the departments, of the university research institutes (both scientific as well as technical) or of other centres. The main function of the institutes is to organise, develop and evaluate the basic and applied research programmes or those of artistic creation in the area of their competences. The research centres share these functions but the difference is that they can be created by the university.

INTERNATIONALISATION

The URV aims to train global citizens; therefore, it is developing its Strategic Internationalisation Plan to guarantee a better interaction of the university community with its international setting, both in research as well as in teaching, through the internationalisation of the staff and students. In other words, it aims to increment international visibility and impact while maintaining an identity deeply rooted in the territory, with the conviction that the international character of its activity also contributes in a decisive way to territorial development. From this strong territorial base, we have all the features of uniqueness and social economic strengthening of the academic activity that enable us, as a university and as a region, to occupy a notable place of our own in the global knowledge society.



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GENERAL INFORMATION

Year of foundation

1994

Undergraduate students
(first and second cycle)

39,031

Postgraduate students
(Master and PhD)

4,331

Academic and research staff

372

Collaborating lecturers

3,406

Undergraduate programmes

25

Master

46

PhD programmes

2

Research centres

2

Officially recognised research groups

14

INSTITUTIONAL INTRODUCTION

The Universitat Oberta de Catalunya (UOC, Open University of Catalonia) is a distinguished, innovative, online university whose model of education and use of technology has brought it international renown. A product of the knowledge society, it offers first-rate distance education and is a standard setter in terms of research and the application of information and communication technologies (ICTs) to education. The UOC's model of education revolves around the student's learning process and is characterised by flexibility, accessibility and cooperation. Students work at their own pace, manage their time as they see fit and plan their studies according to their interests and knowledge. They study whenever and wherever they wish, alongside other students from all over the world, with guidance from specialised teaching staff.

The UOC started its activity in the academic year 1995-1996, with 200 students studying in Catalan for officially recognised Educational Psychology and Business Science qualifications. The UOC community now comprises over 200,000 people, including 60,876 students from more than 80 countries, a teaching staff of 3,404, an administrative staff of 491 and almost 32,800 graduates. The UOC's Virtual Campus is available in Catalan and Spanish, and the University offers study programmes in both those languages, as well as in English and French, encompassing undergraduate, postgraduate and PhD courses, non-state-regulated education and in-company training for businesses and civil society organisations.

The UOC's mission is to do away with geographical and time-related restrictions so as to make high quality university education and lifelong learning accessible to all. It promotes an innovative form of education, a technological structure conducive to cooperative work, research into the information society and e-learning, and the dissemination of knowledge, for the benefit of Catalonia and the rest of the world.



TEACHING

The education model at the UOC, which is dynamic and flexible, has been one of the trademarks of the university since its creation. It is dynamic because it has evolved at the pace of the changes experienced by the university system and the knowledge society in which we live, but also by technological development. These technical advances have been linked to a transformation of the content of different study plans and the development of tools that facilitate and improve the learning process. The model revolves around the design of the learning system and of its resources and areas. It is a flexible model because students can study when they want and from anywhere in the world, but also from any device, such as a computer, a mobile phone or an iPod.

Focused on the activities that students need to do to learn and acquire the basic skills of the course or programme that they are following, it is based on three characteristic features: the accompaniment by means of which the UOC guarantees that the student will be accompanied throughout the learning process, thanks to the task of the lecturers, the collaborating teaching staff and the tutors; the collaboration by means of which the UOC encourages the student to work autonomously, but also as part of a team, by means of activities such as groups, online forums or collaborative work initiatives; and the attention to learning resources, so that students at the UOC can work with a very wide range of material: resources specifically designed for each course by experts in each subject, resources that the students themselves can create in blogs and wikis and open resources that are available on the network. Therefore, this model is aimed at areas such as multi-devices, 2.0 spaces, synchronous learning tools, the worlds of immersion or evaluation of skills. The evaluation of this learning process is integrated as part of the process. It is considered to be ongoing and educational.

INTERNATIONALISATION

The UOC champions the transmission and dissemination of knowledge and technology among educational organisations and institutions, locally and internationally alike. Accordingly, it is a member of various networks and cooperates with a number of others.

Additionally, the UOC works alongside different universities from all over the world through agreements and projects.

European initiatives:

- EADTU (European Association of Distance Teaching Universities)
A network comprising Europe's online and distance education universities. It works in areas such as higher education policies, mobility and e-learning.

Worldwide initiatives:

- ICDE (International Council for Open and Distance Education)
An organisation recognised by UNESCO. Its work encompasses flexible and blended learning and e-learning.

RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

The UOC's research, innovation and transfer activity is carried out by 400 researchers organised into 45 research groups linked to a department or to one of the University's two research centres: the Internet Interdisciplinary Institute (IN3) and the eLearn Center (eLC). Of these, 14 groups have been recognised as emergent or consolidated groups by the Government of Catalonia in the last application round in 2009.

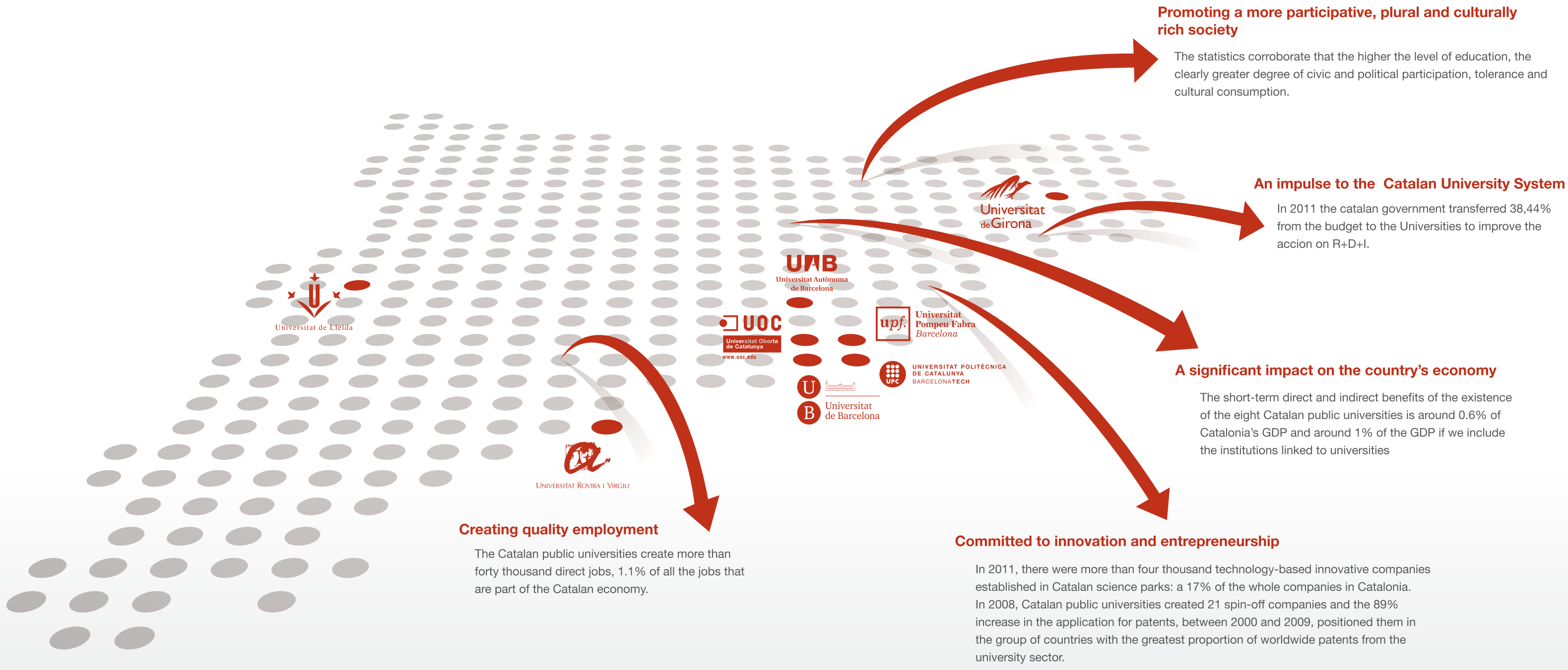
There are researchers who carry out initiatives on an individual basis, fellows or visiting professors of recognised prestige and researchers on pre-doctorate stays, who enjoy stays for a determined length of time. Researchers participate in research projects, three doctorate programmes in Education and ICTs, Network and Information Technologies and about the Information and Knowledge Society.

It has also two research centres. The eLearn Center (eLC) is the UOC's e-learning research, innovation and training centre. Inspired by a network research model, the eLC facilitates the work and collaboration of teams, professionals and institutions from inside and outside the UOC to create more innovative ways of understanding and experiencing e-learning. The network of experts corresponds to the needs and requirements of virtual education, promotes innovative learning models and methodologies and improves the quality of e-learning. The Internet Interdisciplinary Institute (IN3) is a UOC research institute specialising in research on the network society and the knowledge economy, as well as studying network technologies and specific software areas. The IN3 offers the PhD programme on the information and knowledge society. Every year, the institute welcomes visiting lecturers, research fellows and visiting scholars.



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Promoting a more participative, plural and culturally rich society

The statistics corroborate that the higher the level of education, the clearly greater degree of civic and political participation, tolerance and cultural consumption.

An impulse to the Catalan University System

In 2011 the catalan government transferred 38,44% from the budget to the Universities to improve the accion on R+D+I.

A significant impact on the country's economy

The short-term direct and indirect benefits of the existence of the eight Catalan public universities is around 0.6% of Catalonia's GDP and around 1% of the GDP if we include the institutions linked to universities

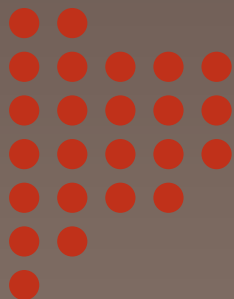
Committed to innovation and entrepreneurship

In 2011, there were more than four thousand technology-based innovative companies established in Catalan science parks: a 17% of the whole companies in Catalonia. In 2008, Catalan public universities created 21 spin-off companies and the 89% increase in the application for patents, between 2000 and 2009, positioned them in the group of countries with the greatest proportion of worldwide patents from the university sector.

Creating quality employment

The Catalan public universities create more than forty thousand direct jobs, 1.1% of all the jobs that are part of the Catalan economy.





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NOTE: Unless otherwise stated, all data corresponds to the academic year 2012-2013.