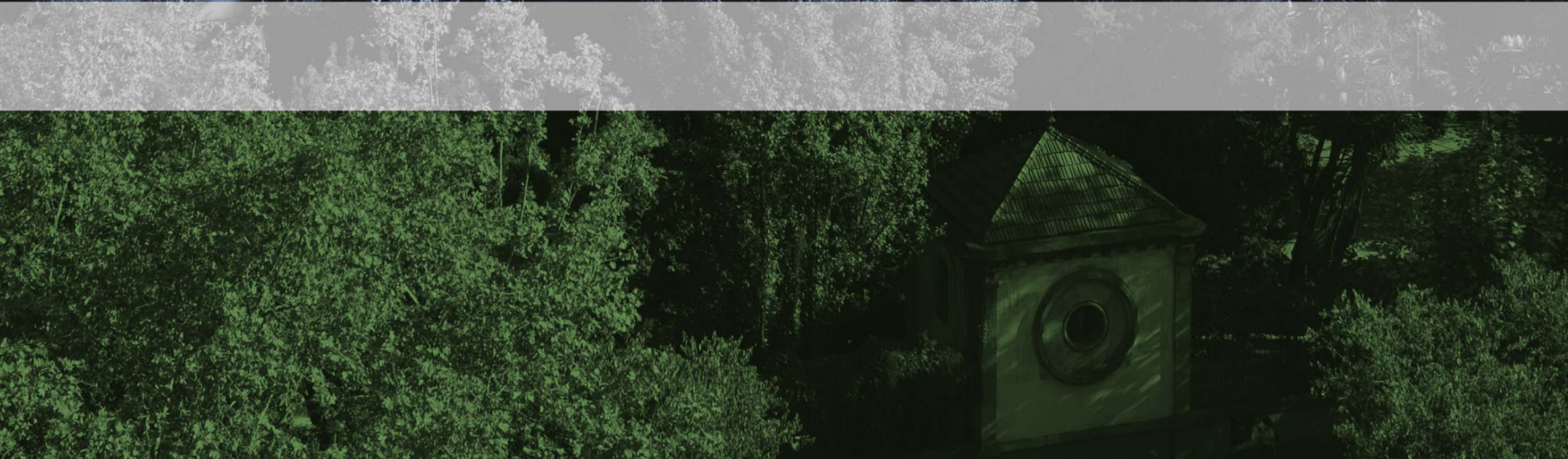




UNIVERSITAT DE
BARCELONA

Report 2020-2021

University of Barcelona



Report
2020-2021
University of Barcelona

Edited by:
Secretaria General
Universitat de Barcelona

Rector:
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I would like to present the University of Barcelona's Report on the academic year 2020-2021, where you will find a summary of our institution's most relevant projects, data and activities in the areas of teaching, research, knowledge transfer, internationalization, equality and culture. The Report is an exercise in transparency and commitment to wider society, to which we are ultimately accountable. It enables us to reflect on much of the work carried out over the year by all members of the UB community.

The rigour with which we carry out the tasks entrusted to us as a public higher education institution, the knowledge we transmit and the values we defend are the foundations we build on to undertake new projects and respond to the rapidly changing scenario that has come to characterise our recent times. As the Report shows, our objectives in undertaking these projects are guided by a European and global outlook and a series of core values that include sustainability, gender equality, non-discrimination, pluralism, and the defence of Catalan language and heritage.

Our commitment to these values and to society is reflected in the activities described in this document and the exhaustive quantitative and qualitative data provided. The many activities highlighted in the Report make our institution and community a benchmark for science in Catalonia and throughout Europe.

With this document we invite you to accompany us along the path we have walked over the course of the year. While this path continues to be marked by the COVID-19 pandemic, the year has been a success and has lived up to the demands we place on ourselves, thanks to the efforts of the entire UB community. The content of the Report is a testament to these efforts, for which we are eternally grateful. This document, as indeed the success of the University as a whole, is possible only thanks to the talent and commitment of our entire community.

Joan Guàrdia Olmos
Rector of the University of Barcelona



UNIVERSITAT DE BARCELONA



The University of Barcelona

UB identity ●

Structure and basic figures ●

Geographical distribution: campuses and faculties ●

• UB identity



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

- **Historic and urban.** Founded in 1450, the UB is closely linked to the city of Barcelona and its history. Its six campuses are spread across the city and act as hubs of activity in each of their locations. Moreover, these deep roots in the community extend across the metropolitan area (with schools and faculties in Badalona, Santa Coloma de Gramenet and Hospital-et de Llobregat, among others) and much of the surrounding region.

- **Universally renowned.** The UB is renowned throughout Spain and the rest of the world as a benchmark for education, science and thought, as reflected by its position in the foremost international rankings and its intense participation in international networks. Its dynamic, critical, constructive, plural and human spirit is placed at the service of society, where it strives to defend values of freedom, democracy, justice, equality and solidarity.

- **Ethical and transparent.** The UB employs a model of good governance and comprehensive, efficient management for the allocation of resources which bolsters its accountability and underpins its institutional and social leadership in the Catalan university system and beyond. A decentralized, approachable, dynamic and transparent model that sees digitalization as an opportunity for progress and transformation.

- **Generalist and multidisciplinary.** The University offers a broad selection of bachelor's degrees, master's degrees and research projects covering the many disciplines that make up the principal branches of: arts and humanities, social sciences, health sciences, experimental sciences and engineering. Cooperation and collaboration within and among each of these disciplines is the key to the University's leading role in opening up the frontiers of knowledge.

- **Sustainable.** The UB is committed to and constantly reviews its efforts to support the 17 United Nations

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in all its areas of activity. It works to eradicate poverty, protect the planet and ensure respect for human rights.

- **Inclusive.** The UB promotes and defends the equality of all people, especially the most vulnerable, and respects and protects the diversity and real inclusion of all groups, beginning with the eradication of all types of gender discrimination. This objective also involves ensuring the well-being of and care for people with regard to every aspect of their working conditions.

- **Committed to quality teaching.** The UB's community of more than 5,000 lecturers pursues the shared goals of excellence and innovation in teaching. Each year, the demand for places exceeds availability by 30%, and student performance rates are currently 89% for bachelor's degrees and 93% for master's degrees.

- **Research-intensive.** The UB is the only Spanish member of the League of European Research Universities (LERU) and its researchers are cited in the most prestigious scientific publications. The research conducted at the UB and its facilities, such as the Barcelona Science Park and the Bosch i Gimpera Foundation, is carried out in close collaboration with leading actors in science, business and technology working at the forefront of innovation.

- **Entrepreneurial and innovative.** The University of Barcelona actively promotes business creation and provides funding, guidance and training resources for entrepreneurs. The UB prioritizes public impact in all its knowledge management endeavours and fosters innovative activities and projects that generate value for society.

- **Catalan and international.** The University of Barcelona is a key institution in the Catalan university system and a crucial actor in the management of knowledge in Catalonia. It not only contributes to the use and prestige of its own language, Catalan, it is also involved in ensuring the progress of the country by engaging in international research and teaching and thus broadening cooperation and dialogue, especially with the rest of Europe and Latin America.

Structure and basic figures



FOLLOWERS ON SOCIAL NETWORKS

65,400 on Twitter

44,600 on Instagram

210,600 on Facebook

Structure

- 16 faculties
- 10 affiliated centres
- 60 departments
- 1 training and research unit
- 37 UB research structures
- 17 research structures with UB participation
- 677,787 m² of constructed area

Course offering

- 73 bachelor's degrees
- 15 dual study pathways
- 169 university master's degrees
- 46 doctoral programmes
- 976 postgraduate courses
- 766 lifelong learning courses (IL3)

Students

- 41,540 bachelor's degree students
- 4,776 university master's degree students
- 21,372 postgraduate students
- 7,319 bachelor's degree graduates
- 2,742 university master's degree graduates
- 11,604 company placements

Teaching quality

- 79 consolidated teaching innovation groups
- 100 active teaching innovation projects
- 78.9% of teaching and research staff receiving training at the IDP-ICE
- 428 lecturers with positive evaluations in the teaching assessment process

Doctoral studies

- 4,816 trainee researchers
- 754 doctoral theses read
- 14 industrial doctoral projects
- 19 joint supervision agreements signed

Research

- €139,837,093 research funding secured
- 958 active research projects
- 5 projects awarded by the European Research Council
- 7,112 scientific publications
- 231 postdoctoral researchers
- 572 trainee predoctoral researchers
- 488 research technicians and assistants

Transfer activities

- 720 Bosch i Gimpera Foundation contracts
- 73 patent applications
- 4 newly founded technology-based companies
- 515 Bosch i Gimpera Foundation researchers
- 124 Bosch i Gimpera Foundation research technicians and assistants

Internationalization

- 781 UB students in mobility programmes
- 554 international students at the UB as part of mobility programmes
- 3,578 agreements with universities and other institutions outside Spain
- 79 active Erasmus+ programmes

People

- 5,963 teaching and research staff
- 3,949 full-time-equivalent teaching and research staff
- 2,387 administrative and service staff
- 695 interns in services and faculties

Sex

- 63.9% women bachelor's degree students
- 57.6% women trainee researchers
- 47.1% women members of teaching and research staff
- 29.4% women full professors
- 63.5% women members of administrative and service staff

Budget

- €425,150,663 total budget
- 73% of total income from public transfers
- 27% of total income from self-finance
- 91% current costs

Services

- 16 libraries
- 1,804,108 monographs and print journals
- 3,170 UB Sports users
- 7,365 UB Alumni members
- 1,445 job offers registered in the Job Bank

Society

- 7,334 direct beneficiaries of the actions of the UB Solidarity Foundation
- 45% reduction in water consumption (2016-2020)
- 60 participants in the Support Programme of the University of Barcelona for refugees and people from conflict areas.
- 4 international development cooperation projects
- 14 University of Experience programmes

Culture

- 17 collections in the Virtual Museum
- 6 concerts in the Els Vespres de la UB series
- 4 exhibitions in the Josep Uclés exhibition space

Position in the foremost international rankings



In the press ●●●●●●

The University of Barcelona has improved fifteen positions in the prestigious QS World University Rankings this year, rising from 183rd to 168th place out of 1,600 institutions worldwide.

El Punt Avui, 9 June 2021

POSITION IN THE QS WORLD UNIVERSITY RANKINGS BY SUBJECT

- 86 Arts and humanities
- 149 Engineering and technology
- 65 Life sciences and medicine
- 81 Natural sciences
- 149 Social sciences and business management

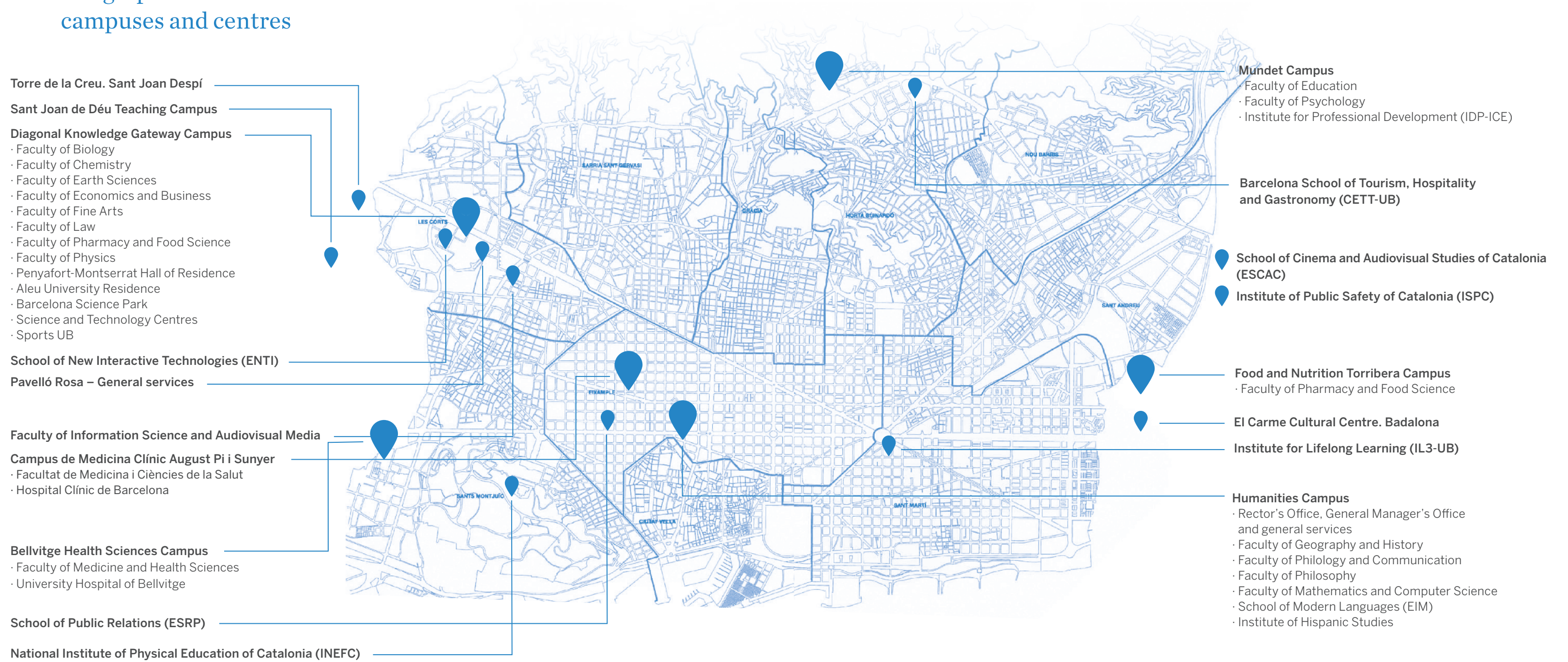
Faculties

	Bachelor's degrees	University master's degrees	Bachelor's degree students	University master's degree students	Permanent PDI	Non-permanent PDI
Biology	6	16	2,112	383	203	181
Chemistry	3	11	1,522	203	148	104
Earth Sciences	2	4	416	58	56	40
Economics and Business	5	18	6,781	536	260	351
Education	5	14	5,784	720	138	453
Fine Arts	3	5	1,474	80	60	154
Geography and History	5	12	2,734	568	134	148
Information and Audiovisual Media	2	5	599	88	30	47
Law	6	12	5,240	533	162	259
Mathematics and Computer Science	2	3	1,192	61	60	52
Medicine and Health sciences	6	12	4,388	390	286	125
Pharmacy and Pharmacy and Food Sciences	3	7	2,534	165	158	1,312
Philology and Communication	11	9	2,809	239	160	202
Philosophy	1	6	712	118	27	163
Physics	2	12	1,176	234	135	40
Psychology	1	9	2,067	400	107	125
Total	61	155	41,540	4,776	2,124	3,839

THE UNIVERSITY AND EMPLOYMENT

According to the seventh study of employment outcomes by the Catalan University System Quality Assurance Agency (AQU), carried out in 2020, 86% of University of Barcelona graduates apply the knowledge acquired during their studies in the workplace.

• Geographical distribution: campuses and centres



677,787sqm

OF CONSTRUCTED SURFACE
area across 6 urban campuses
and other buildings

105,179sqm

OF TEACHING FACILITIES
(classrooms, computer rooms and
teaching laboratories)

44,000sqm

OF RESEARCH LABORATORY
FACILITIES



1

A university engaged with society

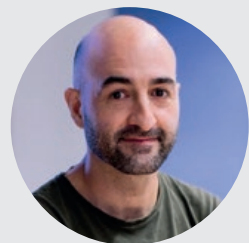
- Transparency, ethics and good governance
- Sustainability and quality of life
- Institutional and cultural activities
- Culture and society
- Entrepreneurship and transfer to society



M. Carme Junyent

Senior lecturer in the Department of Catalan and General Linguistics of the Faculty of Philology and Communication.

M. Carme Junyent is an expert on processes of minoritization and the languages of immigration. She is the founder and director of the Study Group of Endangered Languages (GELA) and the Group of Linguists for Diversity (GLiDi).



Jordi Díaz

Member of administrative and service staff at the Science and Technology Centres (CCiTUB) of the UB, and a lecturer in the Department of Materials Science and Physical Chemistry of the Faculty of Chemistry.

Jordi Díaz is science communicator at the CCiTUB, head of science communication at the Institute of Nanoscience and Nanotechnology (IN2UB) of the UB, and creator of the Nanodivulga project.

Carme Junyent and Jordi Díaz, joint winners of the Eighth Doctors' Senate and Board of Trustees Awards for best scientific and humanistic dissemination activities



Laura Cots replaces Genís Vives as the new secretary of the Student Council.

Transparency, ethics and good governance

With a history that goes back over 500 years, the University of Barcelona is deeply committed to serving society. As a champion of free thought, critical thinking and progress in all its areas of activity, the UB is also a guarantor of quality and innovation.

The University's regulations on ethics, integrity, transparency and good governance, which are regularly expanded and updated, ensure **open, accessible and participatory governance**.

As a step towards greater **transparency in management**, a process to promote increased openness and greater awareness of the University's management positions has been initiated, and the details of the rector's remuneration, diary and appointment can be viewed on the UB's Transparency Portal. In this regard, the UB's Faculty of Law is participating in a pilot project with the Anti-Fraud Office of Catalonia on ethical dilemmas in university management.

Efforts to ensure **good governance** and **regulatory quality** include consolidating the use of digital management mechanisms in the sessions of the UB's primary governing bodies, such as the Senate and the Governing Council. The mechanisms, which will be expanded to include all other governing bodies, facilitate document management and the provision of timely and constantly updated information.

In general terms, the **Regulation on Transparency, Access to Public Information and Good Governance** and the **Code of Ethics on Integrity and Good Practices** regulate the comprehensive and efficient management of resources, establish the best standards of behaviour and strengthen the accountability process.

The Code of Ethics is interpreted by the **UB Ethics Committee**, which provides guidance to members of the university community on their rights and obligations and on the exercise of their freedom and responsibility. All UB groups are committed to these standards and recommendations, which promote excellence in all of the various different facets of University operations and prevent issues of integrity in the personal exercise of their activities. The Code covers the areas of research, teaching, learning, publications, communication and management, among other aspects.

Advances have also been made in participation. The **Student Council** reformed the **UB's Student Organization Regulations**, which guarantee the real and effective participation of students in the University's decision-making processes.

In the area of **equality**, work was continued on the application of the **UB's Third Equality Plan**, approved in 2020, and actions were carried out in all



UB bodies engaged in social responsibility and ethics

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



The University of Barcelona celebrates International LGBTI+ Pride Day and International Women's Day.



An event paying tribute to the writer Montserrat Roig.



areas. Of special note was the implementation of Area 4, which seeks the inclusion of the gender perspective in teaching and in all areas of University activity. With this aim in mind, the *Guide for incorporating gender mainstreaming in teaching plans and subjects of the University of Barcelona* was published in collaboration with the Governing Council's Equality Committee, the Vice-Rector's Office for Teaching Policy, the Vice-Rector's Office for Academic Policy and Quality, the Vice-Rector's Office for Equality and Gender and the Equality Unit. The publication of the guide was accompanied by training actions undertaken by the

equality committees of several schools and faculties and the inclusion of a section offering resources for mainstreaming gender in university teaching on the Equality Unit's website. Negotiations are also under way on Area 3 on working conditions.

At the same time, the University has continued to participate in national and international **networks** to promote the exchange of information and the development of joint activities. Some of these include the Vives Network of Universities, the Network of Gender Equality Units for University Excellence, the LGBTIQ+ Inter-University Network, the Women and Science Commission of the Inter-University Council of Catalonia, the Equality Commission of the League of European Research Universities, the Iberoamerican Union of Universities, the Coimbra Group and the CHARM-EU project, led by the University of Barcelona.

The **Equality Unit** and the **equality committees of the schools and faculties** addressed all cases and complaints of harassment and sexist behaviour that UB community members have brought before the University, and eight courses have been offered with funding from the State Pact against Gender Violence, in addition to the course Teaching Innovation from the Perspective of Feminisms: Practice and Creation

of University Tools offered by the UB's Institute for Professional Development (IDP-ICE). In addition, the indicators for the submission of socio-demographic data at the UB were approved, with tickboxes for women, men and non-binary people as well as a blank field; and the process of reviewing and updating the Protocol for Prevention, Detection and Action against Sexual Harassment and Harassment Based on Gender, Gender Identity or Sexual Orientation, and Other Sexist Behaviour was initiated.

To increase the visibility of research with a gender perspective, the third edition of the **Clara Campoamor and Rosalind Franklin Awards** was held. The awards recognize the best bachelor's and master's degree final projects with a gender perspective. And, within the framework of the **"UB classrooms, named after women"** campaign, the Faculty of Economics and Business inaugurated a classroom named after Cristina Carrasco, an economist and retired UB lecturer of economic theory. The Faculty of Biology inaugurated the Lynn Margulis classroom, named after the American biologist and renowned expert in evolutionary biology.

The **UB Debates: Feminism(s)** series also continued this year with two debate sessions: "What does it mean to be a feminist? Legacies of the past and challenges

for the future" and "Violence against women", both of which were live streamed on the UB's YouTube channel.

Events were also organized to mark the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women; International Women's Day, with the main event paying tribute to the writer Montserrat Roig on the 75th anniversary of her birth and the organization of exhibitions; the International Day of Women and Girls in Science; the International Day against LGTBI-phobia; and International LGTBI Pride Day, which included a round table, the display, for the first time, of the pride flag on the façade of the Historic Building, and thematic exhibits.

The Equality Unit, in accordance with the Name Change Procedure for Transsexual and Transgender Members of the UB Community approved by the Governing Council in 2016, supported **trans people** requesting a change of name in their user records in the loan database. This year, 14 name changes were processed.

In the area of **mediation**, the UB reorganized the Support and Mediation Unit and continued to foster a culture of respect and humanization among its staff. The independent and autonomous **Ombuds Office** carried on with its task of ensuring the rights and



The UB joined the international "red bench" campaign for the elimination of violence against women.



45% A COMMITMENT TO THE ENVIRONMENT
reduction in water consumption since 2016

freedoms of UB students, teaching and research staff and administrative and service staff. In 2020-2021, the Office dealt with 143 cases and responded to 186 queries.

• Sustainability and quality of life

The UB remains fully committed to achieving the United Nations' 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The University's **Sustainable Development Committee** completed drafting the UB's **Agenda 2030**, an action plan for working towards the SDGs at the University. In addition, the second **Sustainability Report** was approved, which covers the social, economic and environmental impact of UB activities in the academic year 2019-2020 (or 2020) and includes the University's contributions towards achieving both the SDGs and the goals of the Agenda 2030. The report was drafted in line with the standards of the Global Reporting Initiative adapted to the university context.

The working group for the implementation strategy project of the Erasmus Charter includes an division for sustainability, inclusion and civic engagement, which has adopted a multidisciplinary approach to focus on two major areas of interest: sustainability and inclusion, and management and academic action. The division aims to implement new strategies and practices

that improve the mobility, civic engagement and international cooperation of the Erasmus programme.

In addition, the **CRAI Sustainability Plan** was presented this year, a project intended to consolidate good practices in environmental, economic and social sustainability issues that also responds to the University's commitment to the SDGs.

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. In 2020, these actions were disrupted by the state of emergency, lockdown and partial suspension of activity at the University.

In response to the COVID-19 situation, in the area of **workplace safety, industrial hygiene, ergonomics and applied psychosociology**, the actions of the Office of Safety, Health and Environment (OSSMA) focused on drawing up general and specific contingency plans; training and informing staff about the situation; verifying the possibility of working on-site; drafting documentation and signage for the return of students and employees to schools and faculties; preparing documentation to assess the risk of contagion and transmission; and training staff on risk prevention in remote work and determining the appropriate protective equipment, among other actions.

In the press ●●●●●●

The UB is once again among the top 100 universities in the world in the ranking published by the specialist publication Times Higher Education: THE Impact Rankings 2021. The ranking gauges the impact of universities on achieving the sustainable development goals (SDGs) set out by the United Nations. The UB is ranked 90th in the world and is particularly well-positioned in the quality education SDG, in which it comes in 10th of the 966 institutions analysed.

el Economista.es, 4 April 2021

temperature and indoor air quality; and activities related to the opening of a warehouse for chemical products and reagents, among other actions. The delivery of personal protective equipment and coordination tasks with external companies also continued.

In the **training section**, in 2020, 988 people took OSSMA courses, totalling 4,394 hours of training, and 439 people completed the new course on occupational risk prevention in a remote working context. The UB also continued to present its Welcome Plan for new research and research staff in the areas of health, safety, the environment and social care, a requirement for the HR Excellence in Research (HR Logo) distinction awarded by the European Commission.

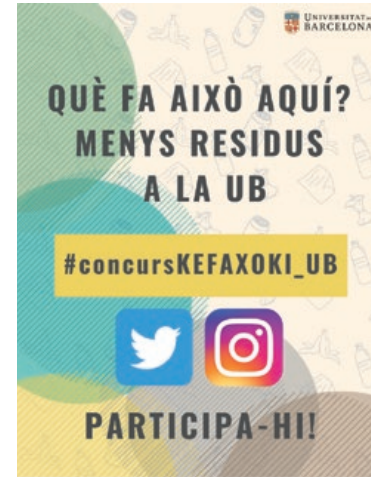
The **Medical Service** unit attended to and analysed requests from staff members belonging to high-risk groups in order to assess the viability of working on site. Programmes were also put in place to detect and monitor positive cases and close contacts among the entire University community.

Efforts towards occupational risk prevention continued during the first quarter of 2020 with individual and storage space risk assessments; reports on working conditions with measurements of sound pressure levels,

In the area of the **environment**, two environmental awareness and communication campaigns were launched in 2020, along with the new eco-advice line on the Twitter and Instagram channels. Among other actions, messages were posted on digital screens in the UB's faculties and schools and on social media networks as part of the #KeFaXoKi_UB project, and a contest called "What's this doing here? Less waste at the UB" was held.

In addition, a new evaluation was completed within the framework of the voluntary agreements programme for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, an initiative of Catalan Office for Climate Change of the Government of Catalonia. The results of the emissions inventory for 2019 showed an emission of 4,815 tonnes





of CO₂. The 2020 programme for measures and actions to reduce emissions was also presented.

Other noteworthy actions include participation in the Urban Mobility Challenge; the expansion of the Punt Bici UB network for bicycle self-repair, with the addition of new stations to bring the total to seven; the launch of the English version of the special waste section on the OSSMA website; and participation in the service learning projects of the sustainable development subject of the bachelor's degree in Environmental Sciences of the Faculty of Biology.

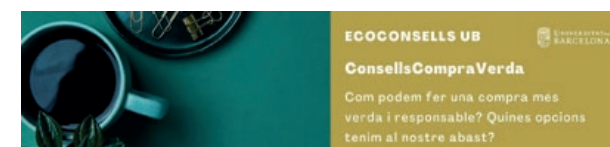
A number of **social care** projects and actions were also undertaken. They included publishing information on public resources that the Government of Catalonia and other public agencies make available to all citizens, and monthly health advice and recommendations for healthy habits through the Business Solidarity Programme of the Spanish Association Against Cancer.

The year 2020 also saw the publication of the first UB calendar featuring inspirational messages to improve the workplace environment. A Christmas toy collection campaign was also held, adapted to the pandemic situation through the online collection of financial donations, which were used by the Red Cross to purchase new toys for low-resource families.

Through **UB Saludable**, the University fosters actions to promote, create and raise awareness of habits for a healthy lifestyle by promoting a healthy diet, physical activity and emotional well-being.

With the aim of caring for the mental and emotional health of the members of the UB community, several courses have been offered on emotional awareness, meditation, nutrition and physical activity. The EAT-LANCET Commission's **Planetary Diet** has also been implemented in three faculties, which involves, among other things, offering certain foods and seasonal products, purchasing local products and donating food to NGOs for redistribution.

In addition, through networking and collaborating with other Catalan universities on various projects and topics, like addiction, joint actions have been



97 A COMMITMENT TO SPORT

medals won in the Catalan University Championships

organized on days designated to recognize different issues that affect people and the planet. And, within the framework of the Catalan Network of Healthy Universities, a survey was conducted among the entire university community on health and lifestyles. Awards were also established for the best bachelor's and master's degree final projects on healthy habits, whose call submissions will open in the 2021-2022 academic year, and the first pilot for introducing the concept of health among university bachelor's degree competences was created. The UB also collaborated with the Catalan Interuniversity Commission in relation to the Agenda 2030.

To encourage participation in **sport and recreation**, the University offers 100,000 m² of facilities dedicated to promoting a healthy lifestyle and fostering a sense of belonging to the UB community.

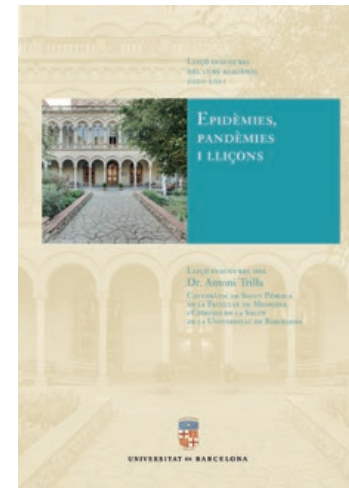
UB Sports focuses its actions on achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, where sports activity can have a significant impact. This objective is pursued by organizing healthy sports activities and sustainable sporting events, participating in projects aimed at improving education of vulnerable people and groups, developing programmes for groups with special needs, promoting women's sport and sports training for girls and women, establishing sports co-operation programmes at the local and international level, and working with other entities to disseminate the SDGs.

UB Sports also manages Lligues Universitàries de Barcelona, an amateur university sports competition,

which unfortunately had to be cancelled this year due to the pandemic.

The UB is also represented in **university sporting competitions** held in Catalonia, Spain and Europe. However, in 2020 the had to limit its participation to the Catalan University Championships, to which it





Antoni Trilla, professor of Public Health, gives the opening lecture for academic year 2020-2021.



Joan Elias passes the University of Barcelona rector's staff to Joan Guàrdia.



The new rector's team.

Institutional and cultural activities

Within the framework of the UB's **institutional activities**, the academic year 2020-2021 was kicked off with an **inaugural lecture** entitled "Epidèmies, pandèmies i lliçons" [Epidemics, pandemics and lessons], given by Dr Antoni Trilla, professor of Public Health and Dean of the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences.

The first **election for Rector of the University of Barcelona** that made use of electronic voting took place in December 2020, resulting in the designation of Dr Joan Guardia, professor of Psychology, as the new rector with 54.28% of the weighted vote in the second round. More than 54,000 people from the various university groups were called to vote; 13,668 voted, corresponding to 25.13% of those eligible.

The **Doctors' Senate**, which currently has 1,377 members, awarded its **24th Doctors' Senate Award** to Dr Roger Oria Fernández from the Department of Biomedicine of the Faculty of Medicine and Health

Sciences for his work entitled "Cell sensing of the extracellular environment: Roles of matrix rigidity, ligand density, and ligand distribution". The **8th Doctors' Senate and Board of Trustees Awards for best scientific and humanistic dissemination activities** was awarded to Dr Jordi Díaz Marcos, a technician in the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, and to Dr Maria Carme Junyent Figueras, lecturer in the Department of Catalan Philology and General Linguistics.

The jury for the 16th edition of the annual **Board of Trustees Awards** awarded the José Manuel Blecua Prize to Dr Alfonso Hernández Vivanco and the Ramon Margalef Prize to Dr Sergio Ruiz Carmona. In the 13th edition of the prizes awarded jointly with the Bosch i Gimpera Foundation, the Antoni Caparrós Prize went to Dr David Gallardo Pujol for the project "Desarrollo del *assessment a medida*, basado en la metodología True Fit®" [Developing customized assessment based on True Fit® method], the Senén Vilaró Prize for the best innovative company was awarded to Bluephage SL, and the University of Barcelona Distinction for companies and institutions with a history of collaboration in R&D&I projects went to Repsol SA and its group of companies.

Notable **awards and distinctions** received by members of the university community during the 2020-2021 academic year include:

Award or distinction	Award winner
The Ramón Menéndez Pidal National Research Award in the area of human sciences	Susana Narotzky
The Gregorio Marañón National Research Award in the area of medicine	Elías Campo
Guido Stampacchia Gold Medal	Xavier Ros Oton
The Associació Pro Drets Humans d'Espanya Human Rights Award	Iñaki Rivera
The Ferran Soldevila Prize for Biography, Memoires and Historical Studies	Josep M. Torras i Ribé (emeritus professor)
The Mireia Tapiador Prize for the Promotion of Sport, a part of the Women and Sport Prize	Merche Ríos
Joan Fuster Essay Prize	Àlex Matas



Some of the posters exhibited in the Pavelló de la República.

The **36th Ferran Soldevila Prize**, organized by the Fundació Congrés de Cultura Catalana, was awarded in the Historic Building's Ferran Soldevila Garden in honour of the 50th anniversary of the death of this key figure in historiography.

In addition, several UB lecturers were recipients of the **2021 Sant Jordi Awards** of the Institut d'Estudis Catalans, a testament to the University of Barcelona's excellence in research. Similarly, the researcher Abir Monastiri was distinguished by the **Arab Women Organization** for her work to combat the coronavirus, and Licia Verde, ICREA researcher at the Institute of Cosmos Sciences of the University of Barcelona (ICCUB), received the **Rei Jaume I Award for basic research** from the Rei Jaume I Foundation.

In addition, Antoni Trilla, professor of Public Health at the University of Barcelona and Dean of the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, was appointed a new member of the **Royal Academy of Medicine of Catalonia**; professor of Ethics Norbert Bilbeny was appointed a member of the **Royal Academy of Moral and Political Sciences**; professor of Geography Javier Martín Vide was one of the sixteen experts appointed to form the new **Barcelona Climate Emergency Group** established by the Barcelona City Council; and **Manel Esteller**, professor of Genetics, was elected a member of the **European Academy of Sciences**.

Two works published by Edicions UB won prizes in the third **Joan Lluís Vives Awards** for university publishing, organized by the Vives University Network, in the categories of best book on science and technology and best inter-network co-publication. Additionally, the work entitled *Maternidad y gestación en venta. Fabricar bebés en la era neoliberal* [Motherhood and pregnancy for sale: Manufacturing babies in the neoliberal era], written by Miguel Ángel Torres Quiroga and published in Edicions UB's Bioethics Collection, won the **National University Publishing Award** for the best monograph in health sciences, awarded by the Union of Spanish University Publishers.



An event was also held at Paranymp Hall to pay **homage to UB Professor of Catalan Literature Josep Murgades**, during which the lecturer delivered his final lesson, now included in the book entitled *Esbós d'escrits que ja mai no escriuré* [Drafts of texts I will never write], published by Edicions UB.

Between June and July, some twenty **graduation ceremonies** were held, some of them for the previous year's graduating classes whose events had to be postponed due to the pandemic. The **guided tour service** in the University's Historic Building was not offered during the 2020-2021 academic year and, also because of the pandemic, the series **Debates UB: Catalonia and Spain** was moved to a virtual format. The pandemic also made it necessary to cancel the **event to honour administrative and service staff for 25 years of dedication to the UB**; the awardees nevertheless received a gift by post.

The year saw changes to some of the UB's **facilities** as well. Work began on the new buildings on the Torribera Food and Nutrition Campus, and some of the departments in the Faculties of Biology and Chemistry were renovated. The laboratories of the Department of Pharmaceutical Chemistry in the Faculty of Pharmacy and Food Sciences also underwent major remodelling, and work was done to improve safety in the buildings and in the works under way in the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences. Major actions were also undertaken to replace large equip-

ment, such as generators and cooling towers, and the roofs of the Faculty of Economics and Business and the Mundet Campus were repaired.

During 2020 a significant number of professionals, groups and institutions visited the **CRAI** to learn more about its collections and services. The Rare Book and Manuscript CRAI Library also had the pleasure of receiving a visit from the descendants of Rudolf Grewe who heard about the work that has been done to conserve, catalogue and disseminate the Grewe Collection: food and gastronomy, donated by his relatives.

In addition, 266 people visited the **Pavelló de la República CRAI Library** to take part in activities in which the library participated, like Architecture Week, the 48th Open House Barcelona, and events put on by the Globus Vermell Cultural Association and the Catalan Association of Tourist Guides.

This year also saw the continuation of the **Sponsor a Document** project, which has attracted 66 sponsors since its launch in 2013, resulting in the total restoration of 39 books and the partial restoration of four works from the CRAI's heritage collection.

Projects aimed at researching and disseminating the cultural heritage of the University of Barcelona included the publication of the book **Els Vallmitjana i l'escultura moderna a Catalunya** [The Vallmitjanas



The Sala Josep Uclés hosted the exhibition “HerbArt, botànica i creació artística”, which led to the publication of the book *Herbart. Confluències entre art i ciència*.

and modern sculpture in Catalonia], a compilation of the lectures from the series dedicated to the sculptors Venanci and Agapit Vallmitjana held in 2019. The cultural project **Memory and Legacy: Funerary Spaces in the City of Barcelona** took place with the support of the Barcelona City Council. The project aims to publicize and raise awareness of Catalan funerary heritage among the citizenry within the context of the pandemic. In total, a total of 15 activities were held in which 104 people participated.

Over the course of the academic year, publication work continued on the first volume of the **new catalogue of paintings of the University of Barcelona**, dedicated to the Prado Museum’s collection at the University. The collaborative project is the work of 28 specialists, and is expected to be published by the end of 2021.

New open-source software to catalogue collections was introduced this academic year in order to unify **collection management** systems. In addition, the new website of the UB Virtual Museum, which includes an online catalogue of the University’s collections, is now operational, although it is still in the development phase. Work was done during the academic year to include new collections and records along with those

already on the site. Lastly, the process of digitizing the pieces in the Criminology collection was completed and work has begun on an exhibition based on the collection, which will be held at the Museu d’Història de Catalunya in 2022.

Efforts were also continued to **conserve and restore** the University’s tangible heritage: a set of six chairs from the Reserve Library were restored, and a table that used to be in the rector’s office was reintroduced. In addition, in July 2020, the main wall of the Paranymp Hall was restored, completing the renovation work in this space after the restoration of the decorative plasterwork and the paintings on canvas on display in the hall. A campaign was also begun to carry out structural repairs on the Clock Tower.

The **Committee for Integrated Management of the Ferran Soldevila Garden** held sessions to begin defining guidelines that will ensure the sustainable use of the garden and contribute to promoting it as part of the UB’s cultural heritage. The Ferran Soldevila Garden is located in the heritage complex of the Historic Building and houses a large collection of living plants in the style of a botanical garden.



• Culture and society

The concerts scheduled after March 2020 as part of the **33rd Season of Music at the University** had to be cancelled due to the pandemic. However, in September 2020, the University Orchestra of Barcelona and the Schola Chantorum Universitaria Barcinonensis performed the pieces *Gaudeamus igitur* and *Canticorum iubilo* in the Ferran Soldevila Garden. Recordings of these performances were played at the opening ceremony of the 2020-2021 academic year.

A collaboration agreement was signed between the University of Barcelona and the University of Barcelona Orchestra Association for the purpose of governing the relations between the two parties, establishing the UB Music Board and collaborating in the creation of a new UB choir. The monitoring committee for the agreement drew up the programme for the **34th Season of Music at the University**, which will resume its regular activity with the presentation of 16 concerts in the academic year 2021-2022. The University of Barcelona Orchestra, the Schola Cantorum and the UB Choir resumed rehearsals in April 2021.

The evening concert series **Els Vespres de la UB**, which aims to showcase emerging music groups and open the University up to the city, has become a fixture of Barcelona’s cultural offering. The sixteenth summer edition was held at the Pedro i Pons Estate,

In the press ●●●●●●

One of the classic events of the summer is the Els Vespres de la UB concert series, organized by the University of Barcelona. The series offers a stage on which to showcase up-and-coming artists and to promote culture and music. In this sixteenth edition, the event venue has been changed to the Agustí Pedro i Pons Estate, an exceptional setting at the foot of the Collserola mountains surrounded by gardens and featuring an outstanding view of Barcelona.

El Periódico, 13 July 2021

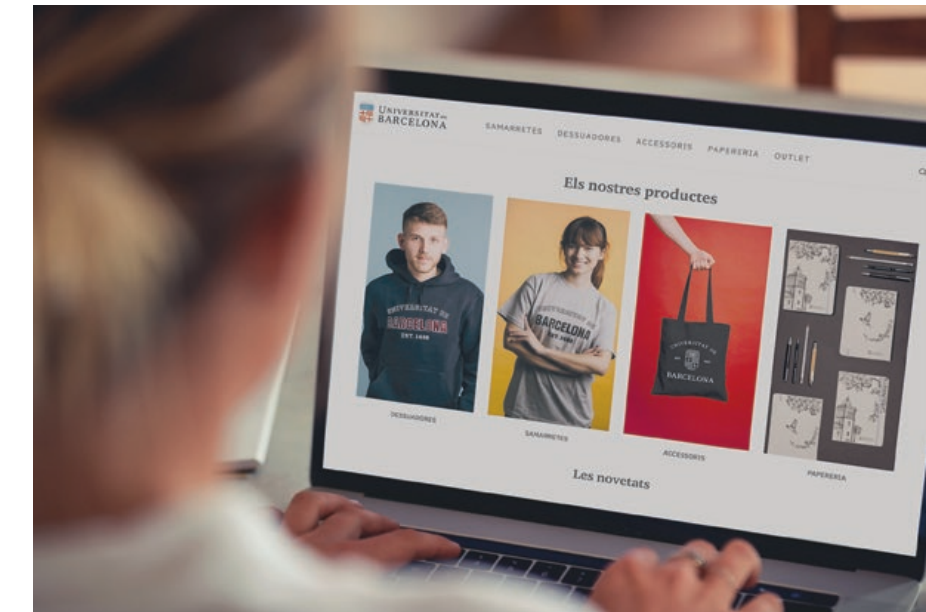
and two concerts were held at the Historic Building’s Paranymp Hall as part of the sixth winter edition.

The **10th Season of Contemporary Dance at the UB**, entitled “Body, movement and space”, resumed its programme with three sessions streamed via the StreamYard platform. The sessions were performed by different contemporary dancers in some of the Historic Building’s most iconic spaces.

Also during the 2020-2021 academic year, the **Soc cultura** website published some sixty news items on exhibitions, musical events, guided tours and other types of cultural activities. Of special note



1,110 A COMMITMENT TO SOCIETY
students enrolled in 14 programmes
at the University of Experience



is the Ephemerides 2021 section, in which several articles commemorated significant dates related to key figures in the construction of knowledge and the history of humanity.

The **exhibition programme** was implemented in the Josep Uclés exhibition space of the El Carme Culture Centre in Badalona as scheduled, with all the protective measures related to the pandemic in place in the venue.

The University also participated in the seminar “The cultural dimension of the university”, organized by Fórum Vives, during which the final version of the Charter for Universities and Culture was presented.

At the same time, the CRAI organized and collaborated on several **in-person and virtual exhibitions**. Of particular note were the exhibitions “La grip de 1918: la mort porpra” [The 1918 flu: the purple death], which

showed the parallels between the situation caused by COVID-19 and the pandemic experienced in the early 20th century, and “Collecció de fruits a l’Herbari de la UB” [Collection of fruits in the UB Herbarium] by the Plant Biodiversity Resource Centre (CeDocBiV), as part of the #museuobert initiative, which allows museums to share their collections quickly and easily. And, to commemorate International Women’s Day and International LGBTBI+ Pride Day, the CRAI libraries put on themed exhibitions, personalized their social networks, and created themed showcases on the website.

To ensure consistency in the University’s public image, the University’s **Graphic style guide** was revised. The University also checked for and monitored proper use of the UB brand in the various internal and external media, as well as management of brand assignments to companies or organizations linked to the institution.

The **online shop**, a sales outlet for University of Barcelona **merchandise**, was launched during the 2020-2021 academic year. The catalogue of accessories bearing the University of Barcelona brand was expanded and a new sweatshirt design was launched. New campaigns were also launched to publicize and promote UB merchandise among the university community.

Moreover, agreements for the **reciprocal publicizing** of events, activities and services were maintained with the Barcelona Institute of Culture, Barcelona Libraries and the Barcelona Municipal Libraries Network.

Throughout 2020, 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 a hundred offers and receives an average of 2,500 visits per month.

Edicions de la Universitat de Barcelona has published more than 200 works, in print and digital format, including institutional texts, teaching manuals, popular books, scientific journals, and monographs showcasing faculty research. A number of its collections have received the Academic Publishing Quality Seal (CEA-APQ), awarded 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): Barcino. Monographica Orientalia, Singularitats, Instrumenta, and Collecció de Bioètica. In addition to receiving the awards mentioned on page 30, Edicions de la UB has supported the projection of the University of Barcelona’s publishing output by participating in 14 national and international fairs, including Catalan Book Week, the Madrid Book Fair, the LIBER International Book Fair, the Guadalajara International Book Fair in Mexico, and the Frankfurt Book Fair. It has also organized 35 book launches at various bookstores and institutions and participates, every year, in the Festival of Sant Jordi celebrations.

The exhibitions scheduled during the 2020-2021 academic year

Space	Exhibition
Josep Uclés exhibition space	“Recién pintado”
	“Elogi del malentès”
	“Forjadors de la Festa”
	“HerbArt, botànica i creació artística”

9 THE UB SOLIDARITY FOUNDATION

took part in 9 international projects,
4 of which are in development cooperation

7,335

UB SOLIDARITY FOUNDATION
direct beneficiaries

The eleventh **University of Experience**, the UB's learning initiative for over-55s from any learning background, offered 40 courses to 1,110 students, 585 of whom had enrolled for the first time. Most of the enrolled students were between the ages of 55 and 65. Fourteen study programmes were offered, with the addition of History, and Society and Territory in Badalona, as well as several groups within the programmes. The pandemic situation prevented the academic schedule from being implemented in full. All first year courses were offered online, and second year courses and extensions in blended mode.

The UB continued to offer **University Extension Courses for Senior Citizens in Barcelona**, which

was adapted to an online format this year. Conferences and seminars on history, science, culture, art, literature, opera and other topics were offered. The choir's activities were suspended due to the pandemic, but the theatre group continued to meet and a poetry workshop was organized. Face-to-face activities were resumed when the health situation allowed it. This year, there were 3,372 members (75% women).

In February, the Governing Council approved the internal regulations of **Ateneu UB**, a forum meant to help retired lecturers stay connected to the University. Ateneu UB is intended to serve as a meeting point for reflection, discussion and the organization of events (e.g. book presentations and research initiatives).

Students and current lecturers may also ask members for advice on their projects and research.

The **UB Solidarity Foundation** continued to focus on social action, development cooperation, volunteering and the promotion of human rights and a culture of peace, sometimes in collaboration with other institutions, both within the university community and beyond.

The UB Solidarity Foundation endorses the **sustainable development goals** and is committed to working towards an inclusive university and society, promoting social volunteering, and pursuing programmes and lines of action that foster inclusion. These include the UB Volunteering programme, social agriculture projects, courses for people with functional diversity, integrating students who lack socio-economic resources into the university, and socio-educational activities in neighbourhoods and schools with higher proportions of at-risk students.

Due to the pandemic, the **UB Volunteering** programme's campaigns were only implemented virtually. Support was provided to organizations through social networks and volunteering from home was encouraged. The Roses en Confinament group issued a call for volunteers to hand out 'solidarity roses' to healthcare workers and people being discharged from Hospital Sant Jordi. The initiative was supported by the Red Cross, Doctors without Borders, the food bank and the Bellvitge Institute for Biomedical Research (IDIBELL). The UB, in collaboration with its faculties

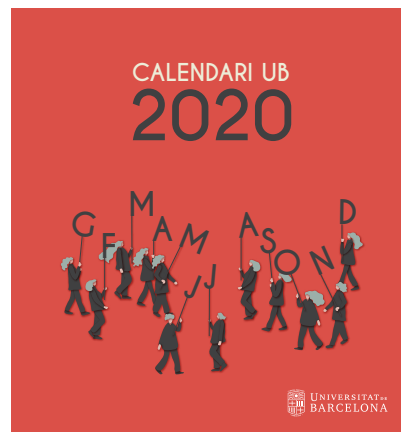
and schools, also examined the possibility of new volunteering projects such as social and educational mentoring to promote access to university and higher education for students from schools with a high proportion of disadvantaged students. Support was also provided to vulnerable groups who needed help in carrying out administrative procedures remotely.

As part of its efforts to **promote human rights and a culture of peace**, the UB worked with the Institute of Professional Development to organize the 16th Award for Peace Research for high school research projects and the 2nd Sustainability and Human Rights Poster Awards, with the aim of involving the university community in the dissemination of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as an instrument to protect and defend human rights.

In the area of **international cooperation for peace and development**, it has been difficult to resume activities due to the pandemic. In total, four projects remained active in 2020: support for the management of water resources in Saint-Louis (Senegal); implementation of peace agreements in Colombia; the Edible Cities Network project to build resilient and socially productive cities; and the WAHDA project (associated with the UB's Support Programme for Refugees and People from Conflict Areas), which aims to strengthen Tunisian civil society in the defence of civil and political rights and to promote social cohesion, the country's political transition, and regional stability.



The UB's Panera Solidària this year received a record amount in donations.



The **UB's Support Programme for Refugees and People from Conflict Areas** continued its activities. Of particular note was the fourth course on transition to university studies for young refugees (co-funded by the Barcelona City Council), which university lecturers took part in for the first time. The programme's activities included a series of webinars on refugee issues in different regions of the world, and a hackathon was held at the Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science to create an application for refugee issues.

Within the framework of this support programme, the UB took part the following projects: CHARM-EU (led by the UB), Include Me, SMILE and UNIDIVERSITY (in which the UB is a partner) and COMMUNITY (led by the UB and operated by the UB Solidarity Foundation), as well as the WAHDA development cooperation project mentioned above.

The **European Observatory on Memories** continued its programme of activities, organizing or participating in some 30 activities throughout Europe, including the launch of the project *Patrimonis incòmodos. Futuro y gestión de conflictos en los lugares de memoria* [Inconvenient Heritages: The Future and Management of Conflict in Places of Memory], a project funded by the vice-presidency of the Spanish government (responsible for historical memory) which deals with managing controversial places of memory, such as the Francoist monument on the Ebro River in Tortosa and Mussolini's tomb. The first Ruta a l'Exili (route to exile) was also organized in conjunction with

the Institute of Youth, in which young people from all over Spain follow the routes taken by Republican exiles during the Civil War and the Franco regime.

The CRAI continued its **community service work** with the Department of Justice of the Government of Catalonia. In 2020, two people took part in this programme. And, in collaboration with the UB Solidarity Foundation, the CRAI also took part in the Recycle Culture campaign, working in active cooperation with several **social organizations**, such as the Vicente Ferrer Foundation and Doctors without Borders. It also took part in the #1Lib1Ref campaign, an initiative in which librarians from all over the world apply their experience to add bibliographic references to Wikipedia articles.

Service-learning projects offer an approach to teaching and research that integrates service to the community and academic learning in a single project in which students learn while addressing real needs in the environment for the purpose of bringing about 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 Service-Learning (ApS) Group at the UB has been working to consolidate, publicize and spread the service-learning approach at the University of Barcelona. The interdisciplinary working group includes teaching staff from several faculties



and areas of knowledge. The Sharing Ideas project offers secondary school students a series of lecture-workshops led by UB bachelor's and master's degree students on topics of general interest related to their studies. In 2020-2021, the lecture-workshops were changed to an online format due to the health crisis.

Science to Market programme. For the launch phase, they can go on to set up a start-up company with the guidance of experts. Finally, for the acceleration phase, in addition to the StartUB! Sprint programme, the Consolida't, Boost UB-Health and Bridgehead Global programmes help the newly created companies get established.

• Entrepreneurship and transfer to society

In the area of **entrepreneurship**, a series of actions geared towards helping students generate innovative ideas, develop projects and initiatives with positive impacts on the world, and build their own professional careers continued to be offered.

StartUB!, an initiative based on LERU recommendations, with the strategic axes of innovation, creativity, sustainability and equality, offers several programmes for each stage of entrepreneurship. For the idea phase, it offers a massive open online course (MOOC), The Entrepreneur's Guide for Beginners, which has more than 10,000 students enrolled, as well as Innovation Day, creativity and design thinking workshops, and inspirational talks. For the validation phase, students can access the Business Model Lab and the From

The **StartUB! Lab** is a free co-working space for students who need to develop their ideas and projects, and to work in a team. The lab provides access to training and mentoring as well as a place to meet people who are part of the entrepreneurial ecosystem. Located at the Aleu University Residence, in premises spanning more than 400 m², it is designed to accommodate entrepreneurial teams of up to 80 people. There are currently 50 projects incubated and in the process of acceleration, of which 13 have women as CEOs and 35 are directly related to sustainable development objectives. Over the course of the 2020-2021 academic year, six start-ups were founded.

Innovation Day, organized by EIT Health, aims to promote university student innovation and entrepreneurship in the field of health. Students form multidisciplinary groups to seek solutions to society's foremost challenges in the field of health. Thirty-one workshops were organized across Europe. The workshop held at the University of Barcelona was



The UB signed a collaboration agreement with health tech company Siemens Healthineers.



the only one of its kind held in Catalonia. In the 2020-2021 academic year, the UB created a digital platform to hold Innovation Day virtually, which was used by 16 countries in Europe. The November 2020 Innovation Day was attended by 150 student participants, while the April 2021 edition, which focused on sustainability, welcomed 50 participants. The winners of the November Innovation Day came up with a mobile app for sex education for teenagers, while the April winners created a system to monitor student mobility and generate big data in order to design more efficient bus routes.

The **StartUB! Sprint** programme, developed with the UB's Social Council, also helps students to accelerate their entrepreneurial projects. Selected projects receive mentoring from experts for six months. At the end of the programme they are presented to a jury which awards a first prize of 3,000 euros and a second prize of 1,000 euros, which the winners must use to execute their business projects. Thirty-three projects were submitted for the 2020 autumn awards. First prize was awarded to both Skinnova, which focuses on making use of and reusing food industry by-products, and Ahumadete, a plant-based alternative to fish. Second prize went to Alta Guardia, the first pay-per-use security alarm company. Special mention went to the InSkin project, which allows users to search for products by selecting cosmetic

components, and Novogel, an innovative technology for people with type 2 diabetes mellitus to help reduce the frequency of injections from once a day to once a month.

Nineteen projects were submitted to the spring 2021 programme. In June 2021, prizes were awarded at the Let's UB! event. First prize was taken by Hemp and Love, a company that manufactures, markets, distributes and sells locally made hemp fabrics. Second prize went to Vutifoods, a start-up focused on producing animal product analogues with plant-based ingredients. Apis Play, the first board game about the accelerating disappearance of bees and its consequences, also received a special mention.

To facilitate the pursuit of external funding through projects, contracts and agreements with public and private bodies, the UB implemented a strategy that focuses on creating **chairs and minor chairs** as a framework for collaborating with companies and institutions aimed at achieving objectives of shared interests in training, cultural creation, research, knowledge dissemination and other areas. The UB currently has 37 active chairs (two of which are UNESCO and two of which are Jean Monnet) and two minor chairs divided among 12 faculties. In 2020, total revenue associated with UB chairs and minor chairs was 1,184,852 euros.

UB Chairs

- UB-Curaden Minor Chair in Prevention and Oral Health
- UB-Bioner Chair in Oral Implantology
- Jean Monnet Chair on European Private Law
- Jean Monnet Chair in EU Environmental Law
- UB-AmesPore Chair
- UB Chair in Cardiac Arrhythmia
- UB-Atrys Chair in Personalized Radiotherapy
- UB-Avinent Chair
- UB-BioHorizons Chair
- UB-Danone Chair
- UB-GSK Chair on Autoimmune Diseases
- UB-SEMI-Menarini Internal Medicine Chair
- UB Chair of Law on the Regulation of Public Services
- UB Chair on Respiratory Health
- UB Chair on Energy Sustainability
- UB Chair on Family Business
- UB-Dentaid Chair
- UB Chair on Innovation in Precision Oncology
- UB Chair on Urban Economics in the City of Barcelona
- UB-Adecco Foundation Chair
- UB GILEAD Chair on HIV Infection and Viral Hepatitis
- UB Hospital Clinic–AstraZeneca Chair on Lung Cancer
- UB Hospital Clinic Chair on Palliative Care
- UB Bellvitge Hospital Chair on Abex Robotic Surgery
- UB-Isdin Live Young Chair
- UB-IEC Josep Carner Chair
- UB Josep Termes Chair
- UB Llorens i Barba Chair, City of Vilafranca
- UB Longevity Institute Chair
- UB-Escuela del Pensamiento Mutualidad Abogacia Foundation Chair on the Economics of Ageing
- UB-EDU1st Neuroeducation Chair
- UB Manuel Serra Domínguez Chair on Procedural Law Studies
- UB Rector Francisco Buscarons Úbeda Chair, Forensic Chemistry and Chemical Engineering
- UB Repsol Chair in Energy Transition
- UB-Siemens Healthcare Chair on Digital Healthcare
- UB Chair of Tourism, Hospitality and Gastronomy CETT
- UB-Zurich Chair in Insurance
- UNESCO Chair in Bioethics
- UNESCO Chair on Women, Development and Cultures

With the aim of fostering social and business collaboration, a general fundraising and sponsorship plan is also being designed to finance specific projects with societal scope in order to multiply the UB's capacity to respond in the areas of knowledge, research and knowledge transfer, and to build a sense of community at the University of Barcelona. Ten campaigns are currently underway in social, heritage, environmental and research areas, including projects like "Let's get ahead of future epidemics like the coronavirus".

In order to promote its relationship with society and strengthen relations with its alumni, through **Alumni UB** the University offers a forum for services, knowledge

exchange, professional relations, opportunities, professional growth and other advantages. Over the course of the academic year, a total of 7,365 members organized 70 activities in different fields of knowledge, which were attended by 3,337 people (2,980 Alumni UB members), and 16 activities related to professional careers (1,254 new graduates made use of the professional development service). Due to the pandemic, starting in May all activities were offered online, a move which was well-received by members. In the area of job offers, 415 companies used the UB Alumni platform, posting 1,129 positions. Once again, Alumni UB made itself known among new graduates with its 'Congratulations! You're an Alumni now!' campaign.



2

A university at the forefront of education

Course offering ●

Additional academic opportunities ●

Student support ●

Teaching innovation, assessment and improvement ●

The UB Board of Trustees has given the Distinction in Teaching Quality in the individual category to Albert Cornet



Albert Cornet

Professor in the Department of Electronic and Biomedical Engineering of the Faculty of Physics.

Albert Cornet's experience is focused on the constant improvement of learning and teaching quality. He has provided teaching with methodological changes, new strategies for assessment and the use of ICT tools. He has been pioneering and proactive in adapting to the European Higher Education Area, in the creation of massive open online courses (MOOC) and, recently, in promoting a methodological change to adapt laboratory practices to the restriction of face-to-face activities due to COVID-19.

At the UB, he held the post of Delegate of the Rector for Teaching Innovation from 2001 to 2005, and he currently directs the Department of Electronic and Biomedical Engineering.

Course offering

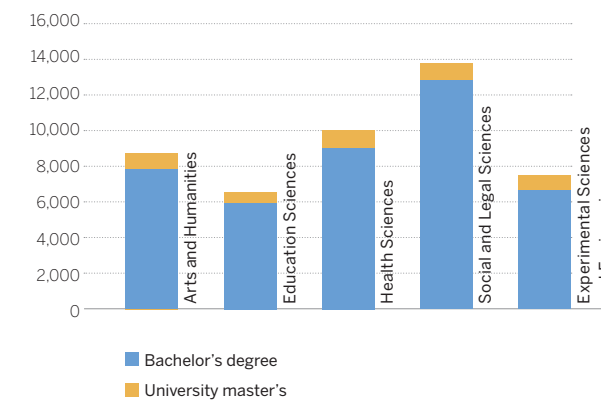
In the academic year 2020-2021, the UB offered 73 **bachelor's degree courses** and received 17,305 first-preference applications for 10,623 places, putting the demand ratio for places at 1.6. The highest numbers of first-preference applications were received for Medicine at the Clinic Campus (1,521), Psychology (1,048), Business Administration and Management (1,017), Nursing at the Bellvitge Campus (814) and Law (739). A total of 41,540 bachelor's degree students (including from the UB-specific degree in Private Investigation) enrolled at UB faculties and schools. This total includes 10,052 new students and 4,450 enrolments at UB-affiliated centres.

A total of 169 **university master's degree courses** were offered to 4,776 students at UB faculties and an additional 1,551 at UB-affiliated centres. The most popular master's degrees were Teacher Training in Compulsory Secondary and Upper Secondary School Education, Vocational Training and Languages (440), Legal Practice (307), Women, Gender and Citizenship (187), General Health Psychology (144) and Contemporary History and Today's World (86). Of the total number of students enrolled (including those at affiliated centres), 2,357 (37.3%) are international students, mainly from Latin America, China and (within Europe) Italy. Teaching in foreign languages was also strengthened, particularly at the master's degree level, where 21% of instruction was in English.

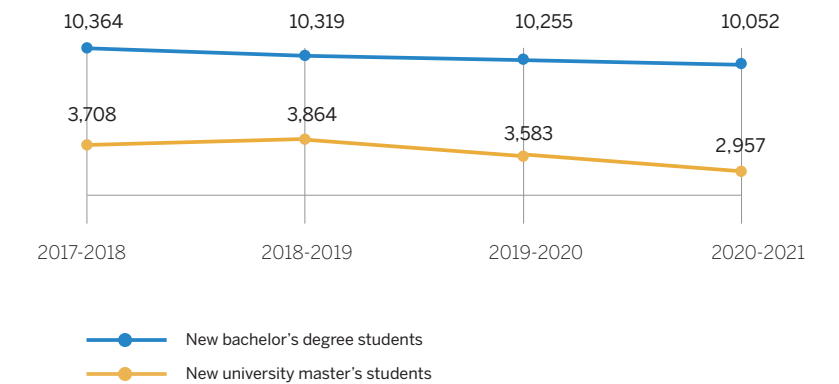
A total of 7,276 bachelor's degree students and 43 UB-specific degree students **graduated** from UB fac-

45,720 STUDENTS in 73 bachelor's degree courses (including affiliated centres)

Bachelor's and university master's degree students in UB faculties, by branch of knowledge



New bachelor's and university master's degree students in UB faculties



Postgraduate students

Branch of knowledge/centre	Master's degree courses	Specialization courses	Expert courses	Advanced university courses	University extension courses
Arts and Humanities	41	53	15	1	229
Social and Legal Sciences	922	265	181	71	105
Experimental Sciences and Engineering	68	23	23	44	61
Health Sciences	1,972	297	334	252	11,588
Education Sciences	169	132	104	—	12
Institute of Professional Development (IDP-ICE)	78	117	6	13	—
Institute of Lifelong Learning (IL3-UB)	2,349	1,330	14	44	21
Affiliated centres	134	118	9	—	177
Total	5,733	2,335	686	425	12,193
% women	73.3	70.7	70.1	55.3	79.8



ulties, while 2,742 university master's degrees were awarded. **Special academic achievement awards** for courses completed in the academic year 2019-2020 were given to 149 bachelor's students and 109 university master's students.

Accreditation of UB degree courses began in 2014-2015. In 2020, two bachelor's degree courses and 34 university master's degree courses were evaluated. Both bachelor's degree courses have achieved the level required for accreditation, and 28 of the master's degree courses have now completed the accreditation process (12 having been recognized for their excellence). In all, 82.2% of the bachelor's degree courses currently offered at the UB (60 of 73) have been accredited, with 14 having been recognized for their excellence. In the case of the master's degree courses, 92% (116 of 126) have completed the accreditation process, and 28 have been recognized for their excellence.

External accreditation visits to 13 faculties were arranged or took place in 2021 (all of which were conducted virtually due to the pandemic), enabling 10 bachelor's degree courses and 29 master's degree courses to be evaluated. In addition, in the academic year 2020-2021, the Faculty of Economics and Business and the Faculty of Chemistry each obtained **certification of the implementation of their internal quality assurance system (IQAS)**, awarded by the Catalan University Quality Assurance Agency (AQU Catalunya). With this certification, they were then able to obtain **institutional accreditation** from the

Spanish Universities Council, enabling both faculties to renew the accreditation of all their bachelor's and university master's degree courses for another renewable period of five years. The Faculty of Law is currently in the process of obtaining certification of its IQAS in order to apply for institutional accreditation, and three more UB faculties will apply for IQAS certification over the course of 2022.

In the area of lifelong learning, the UB also offered 231 **specialization courses and postgraduate programmes**, 408 **master's courses**, 161 **expert courses** and 91 **advanced university courses**, which were taken by 2,335, 5,733, 686 and 425 students, respectively. The high number of international students (17% of the total) underscores the strong degree of internationalization that continues to characterize postgraduate studies. The UB's **university extension programme** offered 85 courses. A total of 12,193 students enrolled in these courses, including 11,359 students on the "Management of critical COVID-19 patients" course. One master's course and one specialization 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. Advertisements were placed in a variety of general and specialist educational media to publicize activities such as the Science Festival, the International Day of Women and Girls in Science, the Els Vespres concert series and the UB Science Cafés, as well as initiatives such as UB Sponsors. Cam-

37% A COMMITMENT TO INTERNATIONALIZATION
of university master's students are international



International scope of the student body*

Studies	% International students
Bachelor's degree courses	6.8 (3,118)
University master's degree	37.3 (2,357)
Doctoral studies	33.5 (1,615)
Master's degree courses	30.5 (1,746)
Specialization courses	36.2 (845)
Expert courses	16.6 (114)
Advanced university courses	40.9 (174)
University extension courses	5.8 (708)
Total	13.6 (10,677)

In parentheses total number of international students

* Includes students at affiliated centres, the Institute of Professional Development and the Institute for Lifelong Learning.





paigns were likewise run to attract students to bachelor's degree courses (UBica't) and university master's degree courses and to publicize courses offered by the School of Modern Languages, the Hispanic Studies unit and the University of Experience. Thanks to partnership agreements with various media outlets, advertisements were placed at no cost to the University.

In September 2020, the University launched the **SocUB mobile app** for students, which brings together the main services they might need during their time at university in a single place. The application, which continued to add new features throughout the year, allows students to receive customizable pop-up notifications, check their academic transcript, access a variety of UB services, such as their institutional e-mail or the Virtual Campus, use a geolocation feature to find campuses, centres and services, and keep up with institutional, faculty and UB service news. Additional features are currently in the pipeline.

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 welcome action that

was held online this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The action consisted of a photography contest held across various social media platforms and a raffle for an iPhone among participating university community members.

Additional academic opportunities

This academic year, the **School of Modern Languages (EIM)**, Catalonia's oldest university language school, offered courses to 3,256 students in a variety of formats: face-to-face, blended learning, by videoconference and fully online. The EIM has a broad network of accredited centres in 17 cities that provide quality language instruction.

Additionally, 997 students participated in 21 calls for language certification examinations, including the EIM, Cambridge, Catalan Universities Language Cer-



3,256 COMMITMENT TO LANGUAGE LEARNING AND CERTIFICATION students at EIM

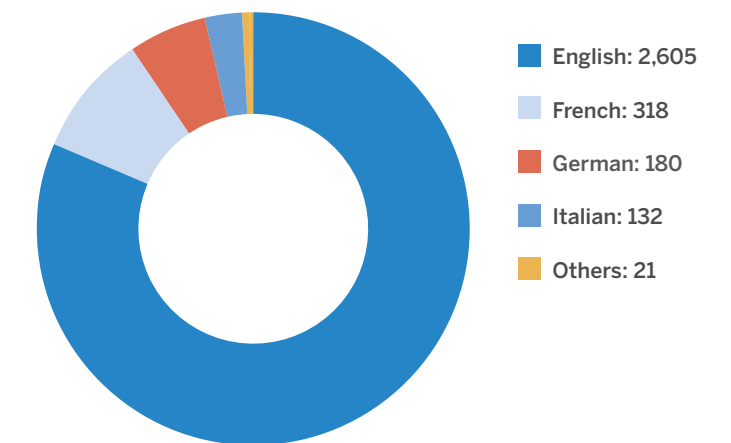
tificate (CLUC) and Association of Language Centres in Higher Education (ACLES) examinations, among others, with a 95% pass rate. In January 2021, the EIM also became a preparation and testing centre for the Cambridge CELTA (Certificate in English Language Teaching to Adults) and DELTA (Diploma in English Language Teaching to Adults) examinations.

The EIM's **Language Teacher Training Department** aims to be a forum for foreign language teachers to share ideas and pursue continuing professional development. Over the academic year, the EIM organized the fifth edition of the Jornades Multilingües conference and delivered training sessions by videoconference to encourage networking and facilitate exchanges regarding advances in university research, as well as the latest innovations and creative techniques for classroom practice.

With more than 60 years of experience, the **Institute of Hispanic Studies** provides courses in Spanish language and culture to visiting students. Over the course of the academic year, a team of 20 teachers taught general courses on language and culture, as well as specific ones focused on conversation, writing and pronunciation, leading to the award of diplomas and certificates. The Institute also offered intensive Spanish courses for Erasmus exchange students at the UB and through an agreement with the Polytechnic University of Catalonia.

This year, all academic activity was disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic. As a result, class sizes were re-

Students enrolled in courses at the EIM



duced and face-to-face classes were combined with remote learning through the UB's Virtual Campus. Since the 2018-2019 academic year, students have been able to take their level tests on the Virtual Campus.

In conjunction with the Cervantes Institute, the Institute of Hispanic Studies oversaw nine sittings of the official examination on Spanish constitutional and sociocultural knowledge (CCSE), which is required to obtain Spanish nationality, and seven sittings of the official examination to obtain the Diploma in Spanish as a Foreign Language (DELE), for which it offers preparation courses at levels B1, B2, C1 and C2. This year, a total of 418 students enrolled in Spanish language and culture courses, 1,309 students sat DELE examinations and 914 people took the CCSE examination.



In addition, the Institute of Hispanic Studies offered placements to students of the bachelor's degree course in Communication and the Culture Industry and the university master's degree courses in Spanish as a Foreign Language in Professional Environments and in Training of Teachers of Spanish as a Foreign Language. It also offers services for the editing of specialist texts and their translation into Spanish and training for teaching and administrative staff from abroad.

Catalan language courses provided by the UB's Language Services were offered as year-long, single-term and intensive summer courses in a variety of formats (including the Catalan government's online *parla.cat* programme), at CEFR levels A1, A2, B1, B2, C1 and C2. Successful students receive official certificates from the Catalan government and recognition of ECTS credits towards their degree. A total of 71 courses were offered to 655 students. All summer courses were held fully online. For the fourth year in a row, the Catalan Interuniversity Commission for Language Training and Certification (CIFALC) offered training towards certification of competence in Catalan legal language, with 16 students taking part. Additionally, for the second consecutive year, members of the UB community were offered the option of signing up to take the C1 or C2 test without taking a course (exam-only option).

At the initiative of the Faculty of Education, the offering of courses aimed at improving the oral and written Catalan language skills of students enrolled in the

bachelor's degree course in Teacher in Early Childhood Education and the bachelor's degree course in Teacher in Primary Education was maintained. Students were offered personalized advice and guidance, as well as 45 virtual language workshops.

To support language learning among UB staff, administrative and service staff were offered 12 specific language courses and four focused training units linked to the general offer. In accordance with Catalan Decree 128/2010, two specific courses were organized for teaching and research staff, with 68 staff members

Students enrolled in other course types

	Students
School of Modern Languages	3,256
Hispanic Studies	418
Els Juliol's summer courses	183
Gaudir UB courses	2,032
Catalan courses (Language Services)	655

Language certification examinations

	Certification examinations
Foreign languages	997
DELE examinations	1,309
CCSE examinations	914
Catalan examinations (Language Services)	606

registering to sit Catalan language certification examinations linked to civil service and contract positions.

To promote multilingualism, UB students and staff were able to use the self-access online language learning tool *Multilingüitza't* via Rosetta Stone. Some 2,000 of the 2,213 enrolled language learners were members of the university community. During the lockdown period, UB staff and their families were offered free licences for this software, under the slogan "Voleu aprofitar per aprendre llengües amb els vostres fills?" [Do you want to take advantage to learn languages with your kids?].

The UB's self-access learning centres promoted a variety of informal learning activities in multiple languages, such as peer conversation groups, with 354 participants in English, 41 in French and 29 in German.

The informal Catalan language learning activities held in the context of the welcome activities for international students included the Language Exchange Service and CATclub. The University prioritized virtual formats for the language exchanges. A total of 65 international students and 177 local students signed up, enabling exchanges between Catalan speakers and speakers of German, English, French, Italian, Portuguese, Arabic, Chinese, Greek and Serbo-Croat. As for the CATclub, this year's activities were held in person, in accordance with the health authorities' guidelines. A total of 134 students registered for the 10 cultural meet-ups that were held. Finally, 17 infor-



mation sessions for language welcome programmes were held at the various UB faculties (mostly online) to coincide with the arrival of international students.

Separately, projects involving Catalan-language assistantships abroad (linked to the Ramon Llull Institute) were maintained and expanded, facilitating the formation of 10 Catalan-German exchange pairs with students from the University of Bochum and 26 Catalan-English pairs with students from three British universities: Sheffield, Manchester and Liverpool.

Students enrolled in lifelong learning courses (IL3)

Type of course	Open courses		Corporate solutions	
	Courses	Students	Courses	Students
Online	558	11,559	23	608
Face-to-face	86	1,185	11	2,119
Blended learning	57	864	31	1,339
Total	701	13,608	65	4,066



The **Institute for Lifelong Learning (IL3)** expanded its course catalogue with new programmes in health, marketing and human resources, such as the master's degree in Human Resources Management: Organization and Talent Management, the master's degree in Strategic Management of Marketing, Sales and Sustainability, and the postgraduate course in Cancer Nutrition. The offer dealing with emergencies launched last academic year with the postgraduate course in Disaster and Emergency Psychology was expanded with the postgraduate course in Coordination and Management of Healthcare Emergencies, and, for the first time, a programme was offered entirely in English, the master's degree in Executive in Digital Healthcare.

Over the year, the IL3 managed the **Gaudir UB** and **Els Juliols** courses, whose formats were adapted due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Student support

Many of the student support programmes and actions continued to be offered in virtual format in light of the ongoing the COVID-19 health crisis.

Information and orientation activities

The Student Support Service (SAE) has planned and coordinated several information and orientation activities to facilitate the transition to university for prospective students from varying backgrounds and to provide new students with the tools they need to integrate and adapt to the university setting.

To publicize its **course offering** within Spain, the University of Barcelona participated in the third edition of a virtual state-level fair for bachelor's degrees (drawing 40,000 visits) and the second edition of a virtual state-level fair for official master's degrees (over 10,000 visits). Both fairs were promoted by the Conference of Rectors of Spanish Universities (CRUE) via the UNIFeria platform, and in both cases the UB stand was among the most visited. This year, neither the Saló de l'Ensenyament bachelor's degree fair nor the Saló Futura master's degree fair

were held, and the University did not participate in Aula de Madrid or the other face-to-face information and university orientation fairs it usually attends. In contrast, it did participate in the Tu tries! virtual university orientation sessions for secondary schools in Menorca and in the ninth edition of the Fira de l'Ensenyament de Badalona education fair.

This year, to publicize its range of bachelor's degree courses, the UB launched **UBica't** ("Get situated at the UB"), a new information and orientation programme encompassing the Apropa't a la UB ("Come to the UB"), La UB s'apropa ("The UB comes to you"), Inspira'm ("Inspire me") and Pregunta'm ("Ask me") activities, as well as the open days, all of which were conducted online. Through the **Apropa't** programme, eight talks were offered for secondary school students, and within the framework of **La UB s'apropa**, 11,378 students from 211 secondary schools received academic advice. The **Inspira'm** activities consisted of 53 sessions on different bachelor's degree courses in which a lecturer, a graduate and a current student from the course shared academic, professional and personal experiences. Finally, via the **Pregunta'm** initiative, current bachelor's degree students fielded questions from pre-university students via 50 chat channels in a total of 500 sessions. Fifty-three bachelor's degree students helped publicize, organize and facilitate the talks and answered questions in the **Inspira'm** and **Pregunta'm** actions. Finally, the various faculties organized **virtual open days** offering presentations of the bachelor's degree courses on offer and the UB's facilities



and services. The SAE coordinated the registration process for the 5,713 participating secondary school students.

In the second edition of the **UB-Santander Awards for the Best Upper Secondary School Research Projects**, 950 projects were submitted and 80 prizes were awarded across 16 categories (one for each faculty). The University also collaborated on the promotion and management of various **contests and prizes** organized by UB faculties for secondary school research projects, such as the Concòrdia-Fedefarma and Xavier Domingo prizes awarded by the Faculty of Chemistry.

This year, a new edition of the **Secondary and Upper-Secondary Debating League**, coordinated by the Vives University Network, was held online. Participation fell to five teams from different upper secondary schools.

The **accommodation programme** continues to offer information about a variety of accommodation options, including UB residences, affiliated halls of residence, and several private residences with which the UB has agreements. Additionally, the University continued to collaborate with Barcelona Centre Universitari.

The UB also once again hosted the Jornades de Drogodependències conference on drug addiction, in collaboration with the NGO Projecte Home, through two online sessions.



11,604 FEINA UB PROGRAMME

external academic placements

As for **information actions**, the University responded to 43,024 queries concerning the academic and service offer and issues accessing the student intranet and associated services, while the M6n UB student information portal received 34,277,220 visits.

The **CRAI libraries** provided the UB community with the **resources** needed to facilitate learning and research. To guarantee this service during the pandemic, efforts were made to shift from hard-copy purchases of teaching resources (the most frequently requested) to electronic ones. The libraries also made changes to the loan service for users – which was directly impacted by the start of the lockdown – such as extending the loan period for documents and eliminating penalties, among others. In all, in 2020, the

libraries lent out 276,359 documents and 7,587 study rooms and organized 790 courses, drawing a total of 15,721 participants, 9,275 of whom were students enrolled in regulated education programmes.

The CRAI worked to meet the goals of the ITER 2022 Strategic Plan, focused on enhancing the user experience and promoting self-sufficiency and **virtual training** through a series of online courses with tutoring. The UB Digital Repository now has 877 self-study documents available, including 64 newly created ones.

The **User Support Service (S@U)** responded to 9,507 queries (1,406 from students), and S@U-Docència handled another 7,011 from teaching staff, with a 98% satisfaction rate with the service. Additionally, 4,532 messages were sent through the Mundet Campus CRAI Library's WhatsApp account.

In 2020, the University also acquired the **Library Access** tool, a browser extension to facilitate rapid, easy access – from anywhere and at any time – to digital content the UB subscribes to and other open-access content without having to go through the CRAI's catalogue.

Career advice and employment

In the area of **university orientation**, a number of on-site and virtual programmes were offered, through which 8,811 students were advised on matters such as decision-making, career design and skills development.



Twenty-nine online courses were held on **specific skills and job hunting**, with 1,376 participants, and four courses were taught on LinkedIn, drawing 141 university master's degree students and 71 trainee researchers.

The **UB Job Club's** activities were likewise shifted online, and resources and tools were offered to assist students in defining their career goals, building self-knowledge and designing a training plan and professional project. A total of 689 students took part: 227 received advice and 413 attended one of the ten thematic sessions that were held.

UB staff also conducted 280 online **personal interviews** with students and recent graduates, providing advice on career prospects, options for continuing their education or changing their studies, and guidance for secondary school students on choosing a degree course. Support was also given to students participating in integration programmes.

In this area, 140 **orientation actions** were carried out at UB faculties, addressing specific needs through career guidance programmes provided throughout the bachelor's degree courses and in the context of business fairs. Most were conducted by videoconference, although in some cases it was possible to hold them in person. In all, 6,254 students participated.

Additionally, for the sixth year in a row, the UB played an active role in the working group on Guides and Tools for University Orientation, which is part of SIOU, the group bringing together members of the

In the press ●●●●●

The University of Barcelona ranks 1st in Spain and 87th worldwide in the QS Graduate Employability Rankings 2022. The new edition of the ranking, published today by Quacquarelli Symonds, lists 550 university schools according to an employability index. The UB is thus in the top 17% of universities worldwide for graduate employability.

UB News, 28 September 2021

University Information and Orientation Services at Spanish universities.

Over the year, 10,107 students completed a total of 11,604 **external academic placements** at companies and institutions. Of these, 8,550 were curricular placements and 3,054 were extra-curricular. The majority were processed through the GIPE application.

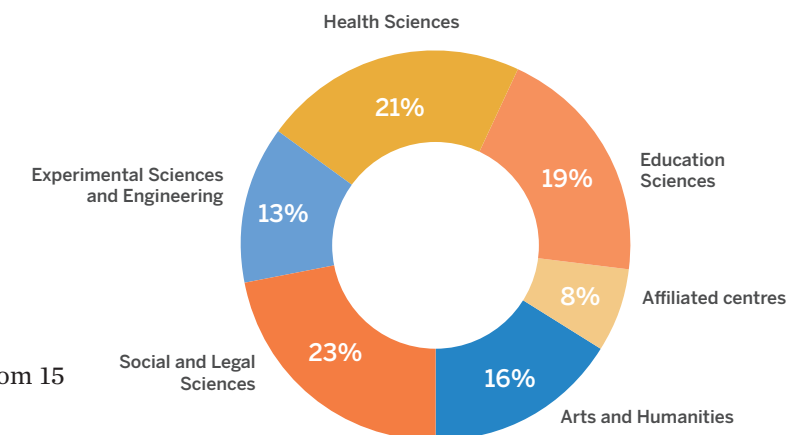
In the area of employment promotion, students continued to benefit from the **ONCE Foundation-CRUE Placement Grants** programme, now in its fifth call, under which financial aid was awarded to six students with a certified degree of disability equal to or greater than 33%, and from the Catalan government's **Odysseus programme**, which funded work placements for 24 UB students at companies based in rural areas. In addition, more than 90 students from Spanish and international secondary schools and universities completed a **placement** at a UB centre. For the first time, the University also processed **AIReF (Independent Authority for Fiscal Responsibility) grants**. In coordination with the faculties of Economics and Business and of Law, candidates were chosen to apply for ten places, including five research positions.

Feina UB also helped coordinate the **first virtual companies fair**, attended by more than 2,000 students and 133 organizations.





General grants for bachelor's degree and university master's degree courses, by branch of knowledge



Due to the pandemic, the Science Fair (the largest fair organized by the UB) had to be suspended, and the number of companies with which the University has arrangements has declined sharply. Although the number of placements and job offers has also fallen, the University was able to maintain a high level of activity and offers in the area of employability: the total number of offers fell from 17,755 in the 2018-2019 academic year to 14,589 in 2019-2020 (approximately 18% fewer).

In all, while 5,249 companies offered placements or jobs (up 12% from the previous academic year), the number of job offers in the Job Bank fell by 41% (to 1,445). The number of companies participating in fairs and forums likewise fell, to 195 (down 35% from the previous academic year).

As for participation in interuniversity **working groups**, the University of Barcelona remained active in the Coimbra Group's Employability Working Group. It also participated in the Interuniversity Council of Catalonia's Employability Working Group.

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 inclu-

sive university. It gave support to 747 students with disabilities enrolled on a course of study at the UB and to 342 students who, despite not having a certified disability, have special educational needs stemming from various diagnoses.

Over the academic year, the University undertook 3,796 **advisory actions** and/or interventions (2,385 with students, 1,169 with teaching and research or academic and service staff, and 242 externally) and designed 204 personalized study plans.

With respect to **material aid**, the UB loaned support devices to 46 students and provided libraries with 22 licences for software designed to improve reading and writing. It also provided clear masks to people who regularly interact with 16 students with hearing impairments.

In the area of **personal support**, it has coordinated the collaboration of 16 support students, offered 1,293 hours of sign language interpreting to five students with hearing impairments, and renewed its financial support programme for students with reduced mobility requiring the assistance of other people.

The UB also hosted the second edition of the **Meetup workshops**. Aimed at students with autism spectrum disorder, the activity involves regular meetings under the guidance of members of the UB and the Asperger

Association of Catalonia. Nineteen students from 15 courses took part.

Additional steps taken to enhance the **employability** of students with disabilities included collaborating with the placement services of various entities and processing work placement grants, in collaboration with Feina UB, provided by the ONCE-CRUE Foundation.

Apart from direct actions aimed at students with special educational needs, the University continued working to improve inclusion of this group by offering **training** to members of the university community (through the workshop "Students with autism spectrum disorder at the university", attended by 30 teaching staff members from various faculties) and participating in several **projects and working groups**, both with external agents (as with the *Guide to services for people with disabilities at university*, by the Universia Foundation) and in the interuniversity sphere (participating in the sixth Spanish University Support Service Network for People with Disabilities (SAPDU) conference and the development of the document *Common framework of action for Catalan universities for situations involving university students with chronic or acute illnesses with extended recovery periods*, presented by the UNIDISCAT Technical Committee).

As for resources loaned by the **CRAI Libraries**, two new tools were made available for users with special

Total value (in euros) of general grants for bachelor's degree and university master's degree courses

Type of grant	Total value (€)
Tuition fee waiver	11,049,125
Minimum variable amount	73,020
Fixed amount (residence-based)	1,888,000
Fixed amount (income-based)	8,235,650
Variable amount	8,608,336
Excellence grant	234,025
Total	30,088,156

bkUB programme: grants awarded by type

Type of grant	Number
Study grants for extraordinary circumstances	86
Grants to cover surcharge for repeated subjects	136
University master's degree grants	9
Foreign-language study grants	196
Total	427



needs: BB Ally, which allows lecturers to enhance the accessibility of documents they post to the Virtual Campus and enables them to be downloaded in a variety of formats able to accommodate most individual educational needs; and ClaroRead, which facilitates access to CRAI resources for people with dyslexia.

Grants and financial aid awarded

Grants awarded	Number	Total value (€)
General grants	11,661	30,088,156
Departmental collaboration	114	228,000
Collaboration with UB services	612	2,684,825
Collaboration with UB faculties/schools	117	356,585
Equity grants	10,086	—
Mobility programme	465	176,900
Iberoamérica grants	9	27,000
Santander Progreso grants	23	23,000
bkUB programme	427	123,296
Connecta UB grants	228	—

Grants and financial aid

Over the past academic year, 19,661 applications were received for **general grants for bachelor's degree and university master's degree course**. A total of 11,661 grants were awarded for a combined amount of 30,088,156 euros.

Additionally, 14,670 applications for means-tested **equity grants** were received and 10,086 grants were awarded. These grants subsidise between 10% and 80% of students' enrolment fees, across two means-tested categories.

The **Santander Progreso** grant programme offers funding to bachelor's and master's degree students. This year, 263 applications were received and 23 grants of 1,000 euros were awarded.

Work has continued to consolidate the **Connecta UB** programme, which was launched with the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic to guarantee equal opportunities among the student population. Two calls for applications were issued during the year. Under this program, grants during the course amounted to 6,630 euros. A total of 261 applications were received and 228 awards were made across the three categories: temporary laptop loans, provision of Internet connections, and laptop + Internet.

To prevent economic hardship standing in the way of learning opportunities, the University also runs the **bkUB programme**, under which more than 13,000



bachelor's degree students were given free access to paid facilities. A total of 427 grants were awarded.

The Spanish Ministry of Education and Professional Training awarded 114 **departmental collaboration grants**, with a total value of 228,000 euros; 612 **collaboration grants for UB services and units**, with a total value of 2,684,825 euros, and 117 **UB faculty collaboration grants**, with a total value of 356,585 euros. In the area of collaboration grants with UB services and units, a new **Master+ UB** programme has been introduced to attract talent and foster the vocational pursuit of scientific enquiry in the UB's research groups: 29 grants were awarded, with a total value of 96,622 euros.



TEACHING IMPROVEMENT AND INNOVATION

97,000 €

Funds allocated to the RIMDA programme

100

Active teaching innovation projects

637

Members of the UB community involved in teaching innovation projects

79

Consolidated teaching innovation groups

1,497

Members of the UB community involved in teaching innovation groups

7.50 AVERAGE STUDENT SATISFACTION SCORE FOR TEACHING STAFF
in bachelor's degrees

Under different **mobility programmes**, 456 grants were awarded, 443 of them for placements in European institutions under the Erasmus+ programme and 22 for placements at universities in Europe and the rest of the world through a variety of general and specific agreements. In the framework of international mobility funding from Banco Santander (**Iberoamérica Grants**), 29 complementary grants were awarded to students who completed mobility placements as part of an international mobility programme. However, due to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, only nine of these grants could be accepted (five with a value of 15,000 and four with a value of 12,000, for the first semester of the academic year 2021-2022).

Within the framework of the **SICUE national mobility programme**, the UB signed bilateral agreements with 51 Spanish universities. Participating in the programme were 251 UB students and 495 students from Spanish universities.

• Teaching innovation, assessment and improvement

The **Teaching and Learning Research, Innovation and Improvement (RIMDA) programme** contributes to ensuring the teaching quality that the UB holds as a priority objective. With a total funding allocation of 97,000 euros, the programme is intended to sup-

port continuous teaching improvement through innovation and exchange experiences. This year, 22 new **teaching innovation proposals** were presented, 15 of which received official recognition and five were allocated direct funding. All proposals received grant funding for the dissemination of results, and support was provided for the creation of learning materials. There were 100 **active teaching innovation projects**, with the participation of 637 members of the UB community (PDI, PAS and collaborating staff).

Within the framework of institutional projects for the **promotion of teaching quality**, and to ensure adequate adaptation to the requirements created by the ongoing pandemic, the blended learning project **RIMDA Docència Mixta** has been introduced. The main goal was to offer support and advice to the UB's teaching staff in meeting the challenges presented by the blended learning scenario that was imposed at the beginning of the academic year 2020-2021 by the COVID-19 pandemic. In total, 141 staff took part, carrying out 141 projects for the application of teaching methodologies for blended learning: flipped classroom (Just-in-Time-Teaching, JiTT and Team-Based Learning, TBL), case study, problem-based learning, project-based learning and oral presentation.

In addition to the areas of interest and requirements identified among the teaching staff of the Faculty of Education, the Faculty of Chemistry and the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, innovations were carried out in a number of forms, including flipped classroom (JiTT and TBL), gamification, problem-

8.03 AVERAGE STUDENT SATISFACTION SCORE FOR TEACHING STAFF
in university master's degrees

based learning, project-based learning, case study, business simulation, competence-based assessment, digital portfolio, objective structured clinical examination, formative simulation-based assessment, role play and Mini-CEX, and existing faculty-based projects to promotion teaching quality were renewed.

Accreditation was renewed for all of the UB's recognized **teaching innovation groups** and maintained by the 79 consolidated groups and the 29 groups not yet designated as consolidated. Specific financial assistance and support staff were again allocated to the consolidated groups with the highest scores, while funds also continued to be made available for the dissemination of innovation actions by all groups. In total, 1,497 members of the university community (PDI, PAS and support staff) were engaged in the various activities of recognized teaching innovation groups.

This year the Social Council awarded its seventh **Teaching Quality Distinctions**: in the group category, to the Observatory on the Teaching and Learning of the Arts, led by Dr José Luis Menéndez Varela, and in the individual category, to Dr Albert Cornet Calveras, full professor in the Department of Electronic and Biomedical Engineering of the Faculty of Physics.

The UB reaffirmed its commitment to **massive open online courses (MOOC)**, initiated in 2016 through an agreement with the Coursera platform. A total offer of 14 courses attracted 58,782 participants, and 900 certificates were issued to the approximately 6,000 learners who completed their courses.

Over the past academic year, the eighteenth formal **evaluation of teaching activity** was carried out. In total, 81.5% of the eligible teaching staff participated, and 95.1% of participants received positive evaluations. Participating teachers managed the process via a specific teacher assessment app (ADP) accessible through their Carpeta Docent ("Teacher's Folder"). As in previous editions, participants were asked to complete a satisfaction survey.

In addition, as part of the procedure to renew the accreditation of evaluation manuals, a video conference

• Satisfaction and opinion surveys

- New bachelor's degree students
- New university master's degree students
- Student satisfaction with bachelor's and master's degrees
- Student satisfaction with services and facilities
- Graduates
- Master's degree graduates
- Doctoral graduates
- Students at the School of Modern Languages
- Gaudir UB 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



was held with the external evaluation committee of AQU Catalunya to validate the teaching evaluation process for a period of five years.

Students are encouraged to take part in **opinion surveys** from their first day on campus right up to graduation. In the past year, the **opinion survey for new bachelor's and master's degree students** achieved a participation rate of 34.1% among bachelor's degree students and 38.4% among university master's degree students: of these, 81% and 67%, respectively, stated that they would not prefer to be studying at another Catalan university. For the continued application of the **survey on bachelor's and master's degree subjects and teaching staff**, actions remained in place to improve student participation and the questions were added to record satisfaction with the adaptation of teaching structures in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Over the two semesters, the participation rates were 23.2% for bachelor's degrees and 36.2% for university master's degrees: 176,244 online responses were received and 16,546 reports were created. The average score for the statement, "In general, I am satisfied with the teaching activity carried out by the lecturer in this subject", was 7.50 among bachelor's degree students and 8.03 among university master's degree students.

The results of the **survey on services, activities and facilities** were broadly positive, students giving an average overall satisfaction rating of 7.04 out of 10; due to

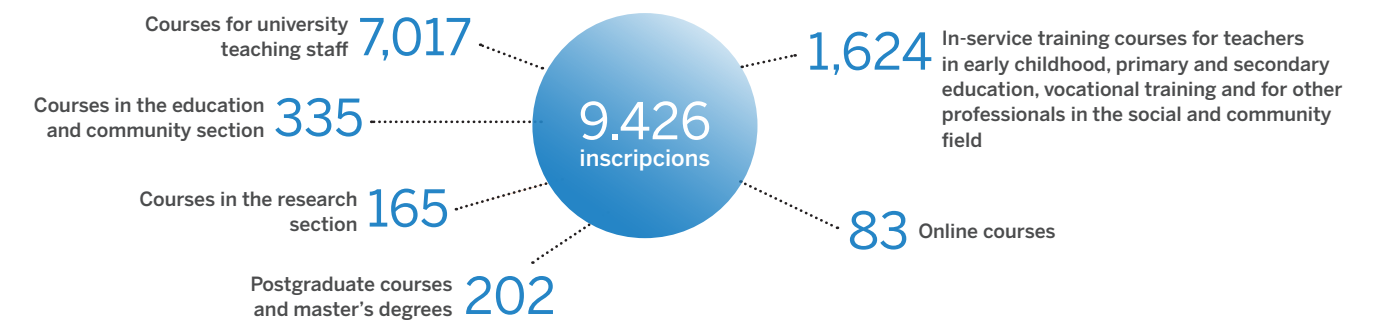
the cancellation of face-to-face activities, however, participation was low at only 7%. A specific section on management of the health crisis caused by the COVID-19 epidemic was again included this year; the overall satisfaction score for the UB's response to the crisis was 5.47. Strong approval was shown for online support provided by the CRAI Library network and its e-book and e-journal collection, which were rated 6.51 and 6.61, respectively. Positive scores were also given to the new tools incorporated into the Virtual Campus (6.45).

Our **graduates** have also expressed their satisfaction with their completed courses. In the 2020 survey, 82.1% of master's degree graduates and 74.7% of bachelor's degree graduates stated that they would choose the UB again. In the survey for **doctoral graduates** a total of 36.5% of PhD holders who defended their thesis in the academic year 2019-2020 participated. They expressed a high level of satisfaction with the direction of the thesis, which they scored 8.3 out of 10.

In addition, **other surveys** were distributed to collate students' views on the complementary training options offered by the School of Modern Languages, the University of Experience and the Gaudir UB programme. Students enrolled in UB-specific postgraduate courses were also consulted to obtain their feedback about teaching staff.

Similarly, to compile the material required for the accreditation of bachelor's degree and university mas-

Activities offered by the Institute of Professional Development



ter's degree studies, **biannual teaching staff surveys** were completed by the teaching staff delivering the instruction for each programme.

The **Institute for Professional Development (IDP-ICE)**, founded in 1969 as the Institute of Education Sciences (ICE), is responsible for a number of tasks that 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, 368 educators participated in training activities and 9,426 students enrolled (70.2% of them women).

The **Learning and Research Resources Centre (CRAI)** has continued to update the contents of its **TÀCTIC portal**; tools and resources have been organized to ensure ease of use, the use of the TÀCTIC blog has been intensified, with 115 posts on key resources for the teaching community, new functions have been added to the Virtual Campus, and focused training units were offered to staff. In response to the ongoing pandemic, new contents were added to the FAQs, primarily on new functions, with links to manuals, guides and video tutorials in the new version of the OpenLMS-based teaching platform.

The **CRAI** comprises 16 libraries, the Centre for Research on Plant Biodiversity, the Digitization Centre, the Restoration Workshop, the Cervera Warehouse and seven cross-university units that collaborate in learning and knowledge creation and facilitate access to and knowledge of a variety of information resources. It has received the EFQM 500+ European Seal of Excellence.





3

A university at the vanguard of research

Promotion, funding and internationalization of research ●

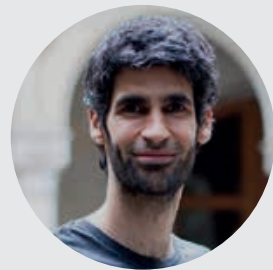
Research and scientific output ●

Technology and knowledge transfer and innovation ●

Doctoral studies ●

Dissemination of scientific culture ●

Mathematician Xavier Ros Oton, awarded the Stampacchia Gold Medal



Xavier Ros Oton

Professor in the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science of the Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science.

The ICREA research professor has been recognized with the Stampacchia Gold Medal, which is awarded by the Italian Mathematical Union to experts aged up to thirty-five whose research studies are significant in the field of variational analysis and its applications.

Ros Oton is the first researcher in Spain to be awarded this prestigious international award and in 2019 he was awarded the Premi Fundació Princesa de Girona for scientific research. He has been a lecturer at Zurich University and R.H. Bing instructor at the University of Texas in Austin (U.S.) and, currently, is the principal researcher of a European Research Council Starting Grant (2019-2024).

Promotion, funding and internationalization of research

The UB's main research asset is its teaching and research staff. To incorporate the best talent from the University itself and beyond, the UB continues to implement internal programmes to promote staff and stabilize its workforce, combined with competitive selection processes in the area of human resources.

The participation of UB teaching and research staff in research projects has undergone moderate growth since 2017. Due to the pandemic, experimental research activity dropped in 2020 but remained at the same level or even increased in other fields.

In the framework of the UB-100 Strategy, each year strategic positions are created to enable promotion within the university in certain areas. Over the past few years, the University has been facilitating the incorporation of teaching and research staff – especially Ramón y Cajal, Beatriz Galindo and ICREA researchers – from other institutions, both universities and research centres. In 2020, 16 Ramón y Cajal, 12 Juan de la Cierva, 10 Beatriu de Pinós and 13 Marie Curie researchers joined the UB.



Through the **ICREA** Foundation, the UB hired two new lecturers, bringing the total number of researchers funded through the ICREA excellence programme to 43. Additionally, the University 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.

Considerable progress was made in the implementation of the European requirements derived from the **HR Excellence in Research award**, inspired by the European Charter for Researchers, and in the creation of the Action Plan for the period 2017-2020 to implement good practices in the Human Resources Strategy for Research (HRS4R). In addition, the HRS4R working group was involved in drawing up the document *Principles of an open, transparent, merit-based human resources policy*, the new selection procedure for postdoctoral research staff, and the new regulations for hiring trainee predoctoral research staff at the UB. All three documents were approved by the Governing Council during 2020.

At the same time, the **UB Code of Conduct for Research Integrity** was approved. The aim of the code is to improve the quality, impact and results of research in all fields, to provide good scientific practices for research staff, and to promote the culture of integrity in research.

Several proposals were submitted to **national calls** for research funding. The results of the 2019 calls for

proposals (adjudicated in 2020) of the National Programme for Fostering Excellence in Scientific and Technical Research (National Sub-programme for the Knowledge Generation in the Knowledge Generation R&D&I Projects category) and the National Programme for Research Aimed at the Challenges of Society (in the Research Challenges category) were similar to those of previous years, with total funding of 14 million euros and a success rate of 52%. The number of projects presented by the UB has moderately increased in the past few years.

The 2019 TV3 and Catalunya Ràdio **Marató** charity drive for rare diseases funded 15 projects involving members of the University. The UB received other external funding for research, in particular thanks to the success of its researchers in applications to the **ICREA Acadèmia** programme. The research careers of five researchers from the University of Barcelona received recognition in the 2020 call, and they will receive five-year research grants.

This year, the Government of Catalonia announced the grant call “Retreating to grow: the impact of pandemics in a world without visible borders” (**PAN-DEMIES 2020**) to fund research projects that analyse the impact of COVID-19 and the concept of the pandemic on society and propose new measures, models and areas of action that contribute to overcoming the consequences of the pandemic and defining new models of prevention, analysis and treatments. The UB has presented 37 projects to this call, whose results will be announced in mid-2021.





Over the course of 2020, the University of Barcelona signed agreements with the European Commission for 32 projects from the **Horizon 2020 research programme** with total funding of over 13 million euros. In the framework of the European Research Council, the three Starting Grants and the Synergy Grant obtained by the Carbocentre team stand out, for an amount over five million euros. Marie Curie actions remained important and successful at the UB,

with six individual and five network projects. Two collaborative projects stand out in the health area: CoNVat, with funding above 400,000 euros, corresponding to the first urgent call that the European Commission opened in response to the pandemic, and EuCanImage, led by the UB and with funding of almost 1.3 million euros. Other noteworthy projects are the five signed in the subprogramme Future and emerging technologies (FET), one of which is led by

Horizon 2020	Projects	Amount (in euros)
Total projects	32	13,245,628
Starting grants	3	3,146,526
Proof of concept grants	1	150,000
Synergy grants	1	1,984,750
Marie Curie actions (individual projects)	6	1,085,160
Marie Curie actions (network projects)	5	705,795
Collaborative projects:		
Future and emerging technologies (FET)	5	2,655,649
Health area (1 led by the UB)	2	1,678,278
Climate area	1	299,500
Social sciences and humanities	1	115,445
Science With And For Society (SWAFS) (2 led by the UB)	2	852,423
Euratom programme	1	211,065
Single European Sky ATM Research (SESAR) programme	1	99,944
PRIMA programme	1	219,890
Others (tenders within Horizon 2020 projects)	2	41,204

the UB, for an amount of approximately 2.7 million euros, as well as the RadoNorm projects, the first that the UB has obtained in the Euratom programme, and ConServeTerra, the first in the PRIMA (Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area) programme. Other notable projects are the two signed in the subprogramme Science With And For Society (SWAFS), both led by the UB, for an amount of over 850,000 euros.

In the area of **research infrastructure**, 1.5 million euros were allocated to research programme contracts of faculties and institutes, dedicated to co-funding research infrastructure.

In 2020, the creation of the **Institute of Archaeology** was approved. This is a new UB research structure designed to promote archaeological research with international reach. It exemplifies interdisciplinarity, incorporating researchers from seven faculties (Geography and History, Chemistry, Education, Earth Sciences, Biology, Medicine and Health Sciences, and Fine Arts). In addition, a new UB observatory was approved: **the Observatory of European Systems of Complementary Social Pension Plans**. At the same time, the new **Regulations on the creation and operation of research and transfer structures within the UB** were published. These update previous regulations and bring them together in one text that describes essential aspects of the mission and objectives that define UB research and transfer structures, the procedure for their creation and assessment, their organisation and their operation.

The Institute of Cosmos Sciences (ICCUB) was again awarded the **María de Maeztu certificate of excellence**, this time for the period 2020-2023. It joins the two UB research institutes that were recognised in previous calls (the Institute of Neurosciences and the Institute of Theoretical and Computational Chemistry). The distinction provides additional funding for research organisations that show they have an impact, demonstrate international scientific leadership and collaborate actively in knowledge transfer. It also recognises the effort made in open access policies for researchers' publications, internationalization and the dissemination of knowledge. As a Unit of Excellence, the ICCUB will form part of the SOMM ExcellenceAlliance, an initiative that promotes high-level Spanish research and increases its social impact in Spain and internationally.

The **The UB Science and Technology Centres (CCiTUB)** constitute one of the most extensive mid-sized science and technology infrastructure facilities in Spain and they continue to be a national and international leader in the area of research support. Their infrastructure and capacity have contributed to the University of Barcelona's position as one of the three Spanish universities that are recognised with two nodes on the Ministry of Science and Innovation's Map of Singular Scientific and Technological Infrastructures (ICTS), and the only university in Catalonia.

For research that requires the participation of humans, the use of human biological samples and the



use of personal data, the **UB Bioethics Committee** has been reorganized to strengthen its composition, clearly establish the responsibilities of its members and provide the right technical and administrative support. These changes are described in the new Regulations on the organisation and operation of the UB Bioethics Committee.

The UB continues to be the only Spanish university represented in the **League of European Research Universities (LERU)**, which includes 23 research-intensive European universities across 12 countries. In 2020, UB representatives participated in the expert groups that make up the LERU: nine *policy groups*, two *ad hoc groups*, two *network groups* and the Rectors' Assembly. This year, the UB participated in around 30 LERU meetings, with the attendance of around 30 of its representatives. In addition, the University collaborated in the preparation of some analytical publications and position papers, including: *Good Practice in Communicating Animal Research at Universities*, *A Ban on Animal-Derived Antibodies will Stifle European Competitiveness in the Life Sciences*, *Towards a Research Integrity Culture at Universities: From Recommendations to Implementation* and *Family Leave for Researchers at LERU Universities*. Also in 2020, the University jointly organised with LERU and the Institute for Global Health the online session: "Health in a Global Context. Advocating for global health and SDGs: creating synergies for global health and SDG research and in-

novation", in which over 50 experts from LERU universities participated.

In 2020, the nine universities that comprise the **Eurolife network** won a project within the Erasmus+ Strategic Partnership programme. This is the **DATAETHICS** project - Changing Landscapes in the Health and Life Sciences: Ethical Challenges of Big Data. It addresses the profound scientific, social and ethical impact of the use of big data in the area of health and medical care. This new challenge opens a space to improve international cooperation. As part of the project, the UB will be responsible for organising summer schools in Barcelona in 2021 and 2022, among other academic activities.

In 2020, work continued on the SIRA project, which will become the **UB's future Research Information System**. It will include new applications based on those currently included in GREC, Curricul@, the Research Projects Manager and the Research Opportunities Management System, and will allow the service to be comprehensively managed within a flexible, modular framework for users (managers, researchers and research groups).

Given the Covid-19 health situation, the University of Barcelona and the Hospital Universitari de Bellvitge have launched the sponsors project **Help us to prevent new outbreaks: discovering asymptomatic carriers**, to carry out a cross-sectional study

Staff engaged in research, by type of grant

Teaching staff engaged in research*				2,287			
	Women	Men	Total		Women	Men	Total
Postdoctoral researchers	98	133	231	Predoctoral researchers	282	290	572
CIBER	17	6	23	Marie Skłodowska-Curie (Innovative Training Networks)	1	3	4
ICREA	11	32	43	PREDOCS-UB	61	54	115
Beatriz Galindo		2	2	Research staff training grants - FI (Generalitat)	70	59	129
Ramón y Cajal	21	30	51	Research staff training grants - FPI (MICIU)	77	87	164
Beatriu de Pinós	5	9	14	University teaching staff training grants - FPU (MECD)	61	63	124
Young researchers (JIN) (MINECO)	1	2	3	Government of the Basque Country	1		1
Juan de la Cierva	5	9	14	La Caixa	5	3	8
Juan de la Cierva – Formació	11	1	12	Project-specific, other calls or no grant	6	21	27
Marie Skłodowska-Curie (Individual Fellowships)	5	6	11	Research technicians	123	95	218
Junior Leader de La Caixa	1	3	4	CIBER	4	2	6
SECTI-UB	3	3	6	Research technicians	119	93	212
Research staff training - FPI (MICIU)	4	1	5	Auxiliars de recerca	155	115	270
Project-specific, other calls or no grant	14	29	43	UB Total	658	633	1,291
				Bosch i Gimpera Foundation researchers	254	261	515
				Bosch i Gimpera Foundation research technicians and assistants	85	39	124

* Academic staff who are members of competitive and non-competitive research groups.
 MINECO: Ministry of Economic Affairs and Digital Transformation
 MICIU: Ministry of Science and Innovation
 SECTI: Spanish Science, Technology and Innovation System

RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER

€ 139,837,09

secured through competitive and non-competitive calls for research and technology transfer

of SARS-CoV-2 infection and seroepidemiology in a representative population of the UB community. The results of this study will be published next year.

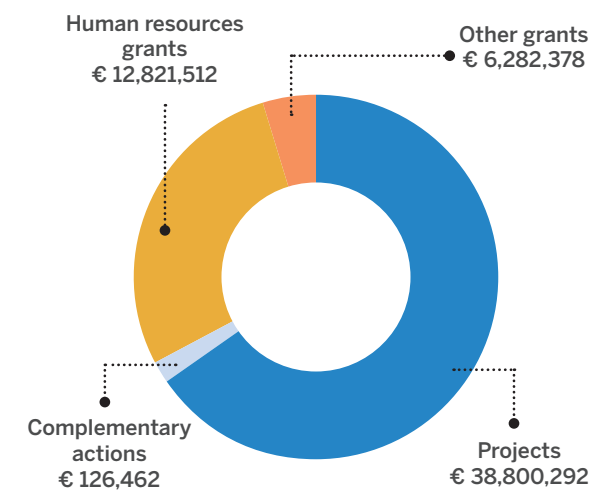
The UB signed 32 European projects as part of the **2020 Horizon Framework Programme of the European Commission** for a total of 13,245,628 euros. The European Institute of Innovation and Technology has funded 32 projects for a total of 1,310,521 euros. The combined value of the other European projects was 2,198,460 euros.

Regarding **research structures** for the promotion and coordination of research, in 2020 the UB had 16 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 institu-

Research and scientific output

The **competitive research funding** secured by the 16 UB faculties and schools and 18 institutes amounted to 58 million euros, including Spanish and European projects and grants, for a total of 540 research activities.

Research funding secured through competitive calls, by type



Research institutions and centres

UB research institutes

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

University research institutes

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

Research centres

- ADHUC: Research Centre in Theory, Gender and Sexuality
- Centre for Research in Information, Communication and Culture (CRICC)

- Centre for Sociolinguistics and Communication Research (CUSC)
- POLIS Research Centre: Art, City, Sustainability
- Barcelona Institute of Analytic Philosophy (BIAP)

Research institutes to which the UB contributes

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

Interuniversity institutes

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



7,112 SCIENTIFIC OUTPUT
scientific publications indexed in the Web of Science portal (Clarivate Analytics)

Summary of funding secured to research and technology and knowledge transfer

Concept	Amount (in euros)
Projects	38,800,292
Complementary actions	126,462
Grants for human resources	12,821,512
Other grants	6,282,378
FBG and other research contracts	10,944,554
Research agreements	772,095
External CCiTUB services	2,626,122
Funding secured by UB researchers at institutions with UB participation*	67,463,679
Total	139,837,093

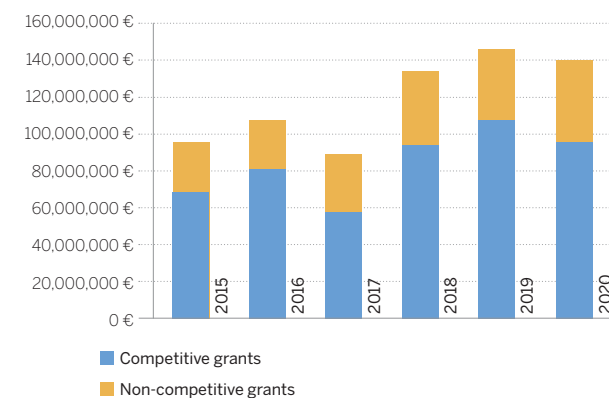
*This includes funding allocated to UB researchers in competitive and non-competitive research activities at IDIBAPS, IDIBELL, IBEC, IREC, IRB, IEB, ISGlobal, IEEC, CREAF, IJC and IRSJD.

Research funding secured through competitive calls

Origin	Activities	Total value (€)
Regional government	138	11,519,774
National government	268	26,752,694
Local government	4	118,182
Foreign government	3	451,960
Other	6	140,193
European Commission	85	16,754,609
Private sector: PNP ¹ and business	26	1,895,768
Public sector: PNP ¹	10	397,465
Total general	540	58,030,644

* PNP: Private not-for-profit institutions.

Research funding secured

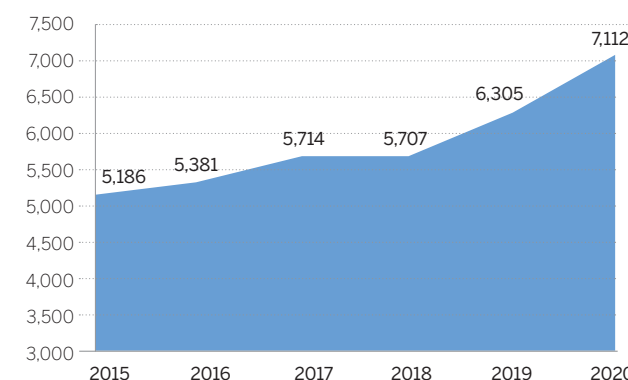


* In 2017, the Ministry of Economy, Industry and Competitiveness did not hold a call.

tions 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 — that is still valid, the map of **research groups** consists of 250 consolidated research groups, ten pre-consolidated research groups and eight 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.

Scientific publications



According to the data collected in the Web of Science (WoS) portal run by Clarivate Analytics, the **scientific output of UB researchers** stood at 7,112 scientific publications: 5,851 figured in the Science Citation Index Expanded, 510 in the Social Sciences Citation Index, 625 in the Emerging Sources Citation Index, and 126 in the Arts & Humanities Citation Index. In recent years, the number of scientific publications has evolved in a positive way.

The CRAI Research Unit validates articles provided by UB researchers for publication in open-access format in the **Digital Repository of the UB**. Since the approval in 2011 of the UB's Open Access Policy, the number of publications in this format has reached 64% of the total published at the UB. In 2020, the research collection was comprised of 34,862 documents, of which 7,589 were published the same year, including articles, working papers, conference pa-

OPEN ACCESS

30,077
articles in the UB's Digital Repository

758
grants for open-access publishing

48,350
documents published in open access

8,408
doctoral theses in the UB's Digital Repository

pers and book chapters. Of the total theses defended at the UB, 391 were published in the Digital Repository and the Doctoral Thesis Network (TDX). Combined, these two repositories now contain 8,408 theses. The UB's scientific journal portal hosted 92 UB journals, seven more than the previous year, and provides links to any other publications solely or jointly published by the University.



A total of 758 grants have been awarded associated with programmes and project calls to promote publication of research data in open access, such as the National Plan for Scientific and Technical Research and Innovation or the European research programme Horizon 2020.

The UB participated in the LERU Information & Open-Access Policy Group. This group continued to focus on open science and turn its attention to the Horizon Europe framework programme through work on Plan S. It also participated in the initiative of the Network of Spanish University Libraries (REBI-UN) to analyse the state of open access in this area.

Since 1995, the **UB Bioethics Committee (CBUB)** has assessed methodological, ethical and legal aspects of research projects and doctoral theses submitted by UB researchers. This year, through specific agreements, CBUB has continued to be a leading committee to assess calls for research funding of organisations such as the Catalan Agency for the Management of University and Research Grants (AGAUR).

The **Barcelona Science Park (PCB)** promotes innovation and knowledge transfer relating to the University, public research organizations and businesses. In 2020, a total of 117 organizations were **users** of the PCB. Of these, 92 were companies, six were research centres, 12 were non-profit entities, and seven were UB groups, units and services. Together, these organizations accounted for a total of 2,900 users.

The PCB has a total built **area** of 101,486 sq m and usable space of 59,687 sq m for clients and services. The total leased area is 27,812 sq m, of which 19,194 sq m are laboratories and 8,618 sq m are offices.

Within the scope of the high added-value **scientific and technological services** they offer, and through technological platforms, about a thousand users have accessed the PCB's Common Scientific Services.

Activities were carried out to stimulate the PCB community, despite the restrictions due to the pandemic. These included 11 activities focused on networking, as well as training days and social events, with 575 participants in total.

In the area of **communication**, the PCB produced 1,152 hits in the general and specialized press and on sector websites. Also appearing were 134 online news items about organizations in the PCB community or about the PCB itself. In 2020, the PCB website received more than 100,000 visits.

In addition, **scientific dissemination** and the promotion of **scientific careers** continues to be encouraged through the Research in Society programme, in which over 3,500 children and young people participated.

The **Science and Technology Centres** provide a service for researchers from the University of Barcelona, other public organizations and private companies. In 2020, they worked for a total of **1,128 ac-**

Science and Technology Centres

Staff	164
Approximate value of scientific equipment	€ 42,000,000
Total campus area	12,000 m ²
Users and clients	1,128
Income from services	€ 3,395,605

count holder users and/or principal investigators: 450 were from the University, 285 were from private companies and 393 were from public entities. There were 500 new users, and the volume of invoicing for the provision of services was 3.4 million euros. According to the annual survey, user satisfaction was high with an overall score of 8.36/10 and a notable score for staff expertise.

During 2020, the CCI-TUB adapted their service provision to the Action protocol of the University of Barcelona in response to the activation of the **COVID-19** health alert. They adopted protection measures to continue to carry out their activity as an **essential critical service**, with full safety. The **digitization** project has accelerated and **remote working has been introduced** in places where it is possible.

To maintain its **commitment to society**, the CCI-TUB participated in various studies such as the Government of Catalonia's **Orfeu Programme for mass**

detection of COVID-19. Essential services continued to operate without interruption to support research on COVID-19.

In the area of **collaborations** during 2020, as members of two singular scientific and technological infrastructures (the Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Laboratories of Biomolecules [R-LRB] network and the Integrated Infrastructure for Electron Microscopy of Materials [ELECMI] infrastructure), the CCI-TUB continued to boost synergies between the nodes in these networks. The CCI-TUB has worked with the rest of the ELECMI nodes to update the image and the website, and a new digital platform has been launched for requesting the use of its equipment.

Collaboration with other public and private entities has been promoted: **20 collaboration agreements** have been signed, as well as quality agreements for the provision of services in some technical units.

Considering the **updating of infrastructure** and with the aim of increasing the number of instruments and their availability to users, during 2020 the CCI-TUB has incorporated various pieces of equipment: isotopic analysis equipment for water samples; a new isotope ratio mass spectrometer; three new silicon drift detectors (SDD) for scanning electron microscopes (SEM); an ultra low frequency (ULF) module for the LabRam HR spectrometer; 400 MHz nuclear magnetic resonance equipment; a new PIXcel detector for the X'pert PRO MPD "TT2 equipment; a new bottle water for the clinical animal house; a single



reaction chamber microwave digestion system, and two new PCRs for the Genomics unit on the Diagonal Campus and the Biology unit on the Bellvitge Campus. In the area of microscopy, the Government of Catalonia agreed to allocate an **ERDF grant** for the cooperative purchase of a new singular (S)TEM - (L) TEM microscope with corrected aberration, valued at 3,350,000 euros, which will be included in the services offered by ELECMI.

In 2020, for the fifteenth consecutive year, the CCiTUB has renewed **ISO 9001:2015** certification, which guarantees the use of a quality management system in accordance with the requirements of the Regulations for Correct Manufacture for activities that support public and private research, and the provision of analytical, scientific, technical and other services. This certification has also been renewed for the provision of services by the Radiological Protection Technical Unit (UTPR). In addition, the CCiTUB has renewed its entry in the Catalan government's Register of **Agri-food Laboratories** until 2025.

During 2020, **training activities** were affected by safety measures due to the pandemic, but online and face-to-face seminars were carried out. A total of 20 activities were completed. The CCiTUB continued to participate in **international conferences**, including the Spanish & Portuguese Advanced Optical Microscopy Meeting 2020 (SPAOM) and the VII International Symposium on Marine Science. In the area of **dissemination**, the programmes Nanoinventum and Nanodivulga continued as well as the fifth



edition of the Festival 10alamos9 at CosmoCaixa, with a greater focus on the online format.

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, in this way, through innovation, to contribute to economic and social progress. The FBG is responsible for facilitating collaboration between the university and businesses to increase the UB's impact on society, while giving support to researchers and businesspeople.

In 2020, the FBG managed 720 contracts for **research, transfer and other services** for the University of Barcelona for a total of 41.93 million euros and contracted 798 people to carry out tasks associated with the research projects.

With **contract research**, companies are offered the opportunity to develop innovative projects to improve their products or services by hiring researchers and research groups from the University of Barcelona. In 2020, a total of 553 projects were contracted for a value of 10.67 million euros. Of these, 20 research, development and innovation projects were associated with COVID-19, including those focused on detecting the virus in water, predicting the evolution of tourism activity in Catalonia and determining



A university at the vanguard of research

RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY AND KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER

41.93

million euros in managed contracts

73

patent applications

553

contracted research, development and innovation projects

Projectes i imports gestionats per a la recerca i la transferència de tecnologia i coneixement, i altres serveis de l'FBG

	Number	Amount (in euros)
Contract research	553	10,667,888
Contracts and agreements	392	9,394,800
Services rendered	161	1,273,088
Projects and grants	102	28,349,096
European projects	29	21,982,396
National and international projects	73	6,366,700
Total	65	2,910,746
Licenses	35	118,092
Program and service management	30	2,792,655
Total	720	41,927,730

the impact on the taxi sector. In addition, the FBG collaborated with Farmatec-UB and the Drug Development Service (SDM) to produce hydroalcoholic gel on a large scale for health centres, in accordance with the formula recommended by the World Health Organization.

A total of 102 **grants** were obtained for 28.35 million euros: 73 from public and private institutions (6.37 million euros) and 29 from the European Commission (21.98 million euros). Of the European Commission grants, 25 were from the research framework programme (19.63 million euros) and four were from

22 SUPPORT FOR ENTREPRENEURSHIP
business creation ideas received
and assessed

other directorates-general (2.35 million euros). In relation to COVID-19, the FBG participated in the European project CONVAT, whose aim is to develop a device that can detect COVID-19 in thirty minutes, and the project CaixaImpulse COVID-19, which is designed to find antiviral drugs that block the replication of SARS-CoV-2 by acting on viral RNA.

The FBG also works to protect research results and technologies developed by researchers at the University of Barcelona and, through **licences**, ensure that they reach and can be used by companies and organizations. This year, 24 licence agreements were signed for UB technologies. Throughout the year, the income from these and previous licences amounted to 236,501 euros. Of the 73 **patent** applications submitted, 21 were priority, ten were international extensions and 42 entered the national phase in other countries. The leading sector was biotechnology and health sciences, which accounted for 60% of the patent applications. This year, 130 patent families were available for transfer. In addition, researchers proposed 56 **inventions** that the FBG evaluated, and four software products and one database were registered. In relation to the development of technologies associated with COVID-19, the UB participated in the consortium that developed innovative mRNA/MVA vaccines, and the FBG negotiated a licence with the company Hipra to produce them. In addition, the research group UB Computer Vision & Machine Learning developed technology based on artificial intelligence to detect the use of face masks (LogMask), which has been implemented in the Espai Abacus.

TECHNOLOGIES, MATERIALS AND LICENSES

56
invention
disclosures

130
transfer
patents

24
license agreements
signed

The FBG is responsible for promoting the **creation of innovative companies** by UB researchers. In 2020, four spin-offs were created (Mind & Identity, Accure Therapeutics, Gate2Brain and AI Gecko Technologies). A total of 22 ideas for creating companies were received and evaluated. The University had 20 active spin-offs in which it has a stake. These companies have secured 9.3 million euros in public and private funding and have generated 151 jobs and 7.1 million euros in combined revenue.

4 SUPPORT FOR ENTREPRENEURSHIP
new spin-offs created

Through the company **Cultura Innovadora i Científica (CIC-UB)**, the FBG is responsible for monitoring the spin-offs in which the University of Barcelona has a stake. In addition, it participates actively in StartUB!

UB spin-offs participated in various projects on COVID-19. Notably, the company Nostrum Biodiscovery provided data for the design of smart drugs; the company Braingaze managed to control *eye tracking* in its video game to treat attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) so that children could continue to receive treatment at home during the lockdown; and the company Neurekalab offered its learning programme free of charge for children with dyscalculia problems.

In the area of **fostering relationships between companies and members**, programmes continued to be organized and promoted despite the pandemic. They were adapted to online formats and virtual platforms. This year, the sixth edition of **Science + Partners** was held and the fifth edition of the **Fund to Foster Innovation (F2I)**, which offers UB grants in two categories: Valorization Funds (FVal), with a total allocation of 125,000 euros to demonstrate the proof-of-concept of a research project; and the Mentor in Residence (MiR) programme, with 30,000 euros to support spin-off creation.

In addition, in 2020 the University of Barcelona launched the incentives programme **Innovation Tickets** to promote research, development and innovation and collaboration projects between com-

panies, institutions and research groups. With these grants, up to a maximum of 1,500 euros, research groups can carry out an initial analyses of the needs described by the companies or the institution. During 2020, eight Innovation Tickets were granted.

This year, the **Living Lab UB**, the University's social laboratory, was opened. Its aim is to respond to challenges from the public and private spheres in relation to the behaviour of people, through innovative solutions and with the participation of social agents from the quadruple helix: companies and institutions, clients and users, university experts and those responsible for policies. As a living lab, it is focused on responding to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

In 2020, the third edition of the **Open Innovation Forum** was organized. Participants included 23 companies and 101 representatives. A total of 137 meetings were held to try to resolve the 52 innovation challenges proposed by the companies. The challenges were in fields such as immunity, dermatological diseases, pain management, innovation in drug administration and food supplements.

In addition, a **meeting** was organized to present UB research groups who carry out research in the area of microbiota, to identify potential synergies and common interests so as to establish university-business collaborations.

The University participated in the meeting "Deeptech, how universities respond to the challenges of society

BUSINESS CREATION

9.3

million euros of public and private funding raised for

20

active spin-offs



and business”, which was held during the BizBarcelona fair.

In 2020, the seven UB groups recognized with the **TECNIO seal**, which have over 195 researchers, had this certification renewed for the 2020-2023 period.

To strengthen collaboration with companies, gain first-hand knowledge of their needs and be able to offer the research carried out at the UB, the FBG is present in five **clusters** accredited by the Government of Catalonia.

Researchers at the School of Podiatry of the University of Barcelona have promoted a **micro-sponsorship** campaign to improve the quality of life of patients with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS)

through podiatry treatment. The campaign was carried out through the Precipita platform and raised 10,000 euros.

In the area of **dissemination and publicity**, work continued on the project to interview researchers from the University of Barcelona for the purpose of improving the visibility and publication of their projects, and to highlight technologies that have emerged from the UB and are used on the market. Examples are the improvement of nutrition for cancer patients, biological control of crop diseases and the use of 3D images to improve the treatment of arrhythmias. Publicity on social networks was promoted and 73 news items were written and published on the website and disseminated in the media.

Doctoral studies

Over the course of the academic year, the UB offered 46 **doctoral programmes** linked to the areas of experimental sciences and engineering, health, social sciences, the arts, humanities and education, all with a high level of cross-disciplinarity. Thirteen of these programmes were run jointly with other universities. All the doctoral programmes are available in English. A total of 4,816 **trainee researchers** enrolled in the doctoral programmes: of these, 34% were international students.



14 INDUSTRIAL DOCTORATE PROGRAMMES

A total of 754 **doctoral theses** were defended, 134 of which received **international doctorate certification**. In addition, the Governing Council awarded 108 **extraordinary doctoral prizes** and signed 19 **joint supervision agreements**.

The **satisfaction survey for doctoral graduates** gave an average satisfaction score for the doctoral programme of 6.47/10 and for thesis supervision of 8.30/10. A total of 87% of the graduates would repeat the doctoral programme and 86% would take it at the UB again.

The aim of **grants for pre-doctoral trainee researchers** is to promote research in UB departments and institutes and to train qualified predoctoral staff in the area of university research and teaching. On 31 December 2020, there were 572 active contracts of pre-doctoral trainee researchers, 115 of which were funded by the University (PREDOCS-UB). In 2021, 29 grants were awarded for training periods (3 for FPU predoctoral researchers, 18 for FPI and eight for PREDOCS-UB), for a total amount of 89,687 euros (6,630 euros, 56,877 euros and 26,180 euros, respectively).

Doctoral School

During the academic year 2020-2021, tools were firmly established to make **doctoral processes available electronically**. These tools had been introduced in the academic year 2019-2020 for processes such as requests for research plan acceptance and follow-up reports. In addition, regulations were amended to in-

clude procedures for the deposit and defence of doctoral theses through online means. Due to the exceptional situation of the pandemic, a new system needed to be established to address the restrictions on public attendance of thesis defences. As a result, a hybrid system was approved to allow face-to-face and online attendance of the public. This academic year, most doctoral theses were defended using online systems.

Training Capsules are cross-cutting activities for all trainee researchers enrolled in doctoral programmes at the University of Barcelona. This year, the capsules were consolidated online. A total of 26 capsules were offered, and the new format meant that the number of attendees could be increased: the average number of attendees per capsule increased from 25 to 70.

Within the **Industrial Doctorates Plan**, in the 2020 call for proposals the University of Barcelona defined various projects with companies, which culminated in 14 collaboration agreements, all in the form of co-funding.

The eleventh edition of the LERU **Doctoral Summer School**, entitled “Reasserting the Value of the Expert. The role of Doctoral Research and Researchers in Promoting the Importance of the ‘Expert’ in Europe”, organised by Trinity College, Dublin, was held online. Two doctoral students attended as representatives of the UB.

Over the course of the academic year, a **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. Thirteen grants were awarded. In addition, two student mobility exchanges took place within the framework of the **Erasmus+ study** call.

In relation to the quality of official university courses, the **process of accreditation** of UB doctoral programmes began this year. This process has two stages: in the first or cross-cutting phase, the Doctoral School will draw up a self-assessment report in which it analyses aspects common to all the doctoral programmes. In the second phase, each programme will prepare a self-assessment report to analyse the specific standards of their programme.

• Dissemination of scientific culture

The Scientific Culture and Innovation Unit (UCC+i) carried out **scientific dissemination activities** in two 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 168

activities, which received 31,610 visits and an average of 84 visitors a day.

To promote the dissemination of knowledge through **social networks**, Twitter and Instagram were used to provide content on important events and information about researchers and their work.

The **Camins infinits** project connects primary, secondary and upper secondary schoolchildren and young researchers at the UB to stimulate social interest in science and knowledge, and to improve the communication skills of doctoral students. Currently, 19 trainee researchers from 11 faculties are taking part. They have given 24 talks, all online, in primary, secondary and upper secondary schools and over 1,300 students participated.

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. The project currently has 18 participants from eight faculties and one from the CCiTUB. A total of 15 online talks were given at 12 organizations, and over 700 people were reached.

To celebrate European Research Night, on 23 to 27 November the programme of **Scientific cafés** was offered online. The programme included 12 online



talks in which 42 UB experts offered a multidisciplinary overview of the pandemic. A total of 774 people participated live.

As part of the programme **De nenes a científiques** ("From girls to scientists"), on the International Day of Women and Girls in Science a video was produced in which five female scientists from the University talk to primary schoolchildren, and especially girls, and share their personal stories. A total of 68 class groups participated, some in areas far from the University of Barcelona and in rural schools. The video has been viewed over 4,400 times.

For the second year in a row, the **UB Science Festival** was held online. Unlike the previous year, the



seventh year has offered live activities online and was held over four days. Over 100 UB researchers were involved and close to 400 people participated. In addition, the 30 videos resulting from the live and recorded activities are available on the YouTube channel "La UB Divulga" and have around 2,500 views.

As for activities targeting trainee researchers, organized jointly with the Doctoral School, the UB participated again in the competition **Tesis en 3 Minuts** (Three-Minute Thesis or 3MT) organized by the Coimbra Group, and the competition **Tesis en 4 Minuts** (Four-Minute Thesis or 4MT), 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. This year, the UB took part in the first edition of the competition **Your Doctoral Thesis in a Twitter Thread: #HiloTesis**, which was organized by the Scientific Outreach and Culture Network (RedDivulga) of the R&D&I committee of the Spanish Universities Rectors Conference (CRUE).



4

An international university

Participation in international university alliances and networks

International academic cooperation projects

International community at the UB

Researcher Abir Monastiri, recognized by the Arab Women Organization in the fight against coronavirus.



Abir Monastiri

Researcher from the Department of Evolutionary Biology, Ecology and Environmental Sciences of the Faculty of Biology.

Abir Monastiri has been awarded a distinction by the Arab Women Organization in the category of Women at the Front Line on the Defence Against Coronavirus, as part of an international initiative that has recognized the work of a total of seventeen scientists from Arabian countries.

She is an expert in the field of virology and ecoepidemiology. Since 2013, she has collaborated with the Biodiversity Research Institute (IRBio) and she is a member of the CONVAT project, promoted by the European Union for the rapid detection of coronavirus through nanodevices.

The three cornerstones of the University of Barcelona's international activity are participation in international university **alliances and networks**, participation in **international projects**, and the coordination of student and staff **mobility initiatives**. The overall aim is for training, research and knowledge transfer to be carried out to the highest international standards.

In the academic year 2020-2021, the COVID-19 pandemic significantly affected international network activity, which was greatly reduced in terms of face-to-face work but continued thanks to online alternatives.

Participation in international university alliances and networks

The UB is leading the **CHARM-EU** (CHallenge-driven, Accessible, Research-based, Mobile European University) alliance, launched in January 2019, whose other members are Trinity College Dublin, Utrecht University, the University of Montpellier, and Eötvös Loránd University in Budapest. CHARM-EU started up the TORCH (Transforming Open Responsible Research and Innovation through CHARM) project, for which the European Union is providing 2 million euros in funding over three years under the Horizon 2020 programme. Through TORCH, CHARM-EU aims to align research and innovation strategies



TORCH PROGRAM

CHARM-EU was awarded 2 million euros of additional European Union funding for its TORCH project

and teaching strategies by promoting a transformative agenda based on transdisciplinarity and interculturalism. The project is helping to consolidate CHARM-EU as a European university by improving the academic and research networks the alliance has established.

CHARM-EU also launched its Master's in Global Challenges for Sustainability. One of the first academic experiences to arise from the European Universities initiative, the programme is groundbreaking in its use of the European Approach for accreditation. Taught both face-to-face and as a blended course, the master's provides advanced knowledge about sustainability, by addressing real, global social challenges (such as the Sustainable Development Goals and the European Green Deal), and focuses on reconciling humankind with the planet. It offers an official qualification jointly awarded by CHARM-EU's five partner universities. A total of 70 students, from 16 different countries and with a range of academic backgrounds, have enrolled for the 2021-2022 programme.

Over the course of 2020-2021, CHARM-EU organized its annual conference and a Winter School, as well as training sessions for and meetings of academic staff of the five universities that make up the alliance, with a view to creating content for the Master's in Global Challenges for Sustainability.

Within the **European University Foundation (EUF)**, the UB, through its University Internation-

alization Hub, led the Blended Mobility Task Force and laid the groundwork for the activity of the Promotion of Mobility Task Force. Owing to its ties with the EUF, and under the Connecting Europe Facility programme, which funded the call for proposals regarding the EU Student eCard Core Service Platform, the UB participated in the European Digital Student Service Infrastructure level 2 project, which aims to develop the platform in question and is being coordinated by Humboldt University of Berlin.

The UB maintained its presence in the **Coimbra Group's** various working groups. Of particular note in that respect is the UB-chaired Employability Working Group, which produced the report *Career Services in times of Covid-19: Challenges, Responses and Best Practices*.

In the Latin American arena, the UB continued its active participation in the **Ibero-American Union of Universities (UIU)** and, specifically, in the organization of the UIU School, which the UB actually hosted in 2021. Teaching staff from the alliance's five partner universities (the UB, Complutense University of Madrid, the National Autonomous University of Mexico, the University of Buenos Aires, and the University of São Paulo) took part in the event, the title of which was "Gender and Feminisms". Over the year, the UIU made a particular effort to strengthen institutional synergies and cooperative work among its partner universities, with a view to enhancing its role as a strategic alliance.



The UB also participated in the Transformative Internationalization Project of the **Interuniversity Centre for Development (CINDA)**. The project aims to foster collaboration among CINDA members and help institutions develop the capabilities they need to design and implement internationalization policies and strategies. To that end, two UB activities have been recognized as good practices, namely “Fostering internationalization and interculturalism with administrative staff” and “Improving information for students on international mobility: the UB International Mobility Fair”.

As part of the **Campus of the Americas** project, a delegation from the UB paid an institutional visit to Panama to monitor the progress and analyse the viability and sustainability of the initiative, which the UB is carrying out alongside Pablo de Olavide University and the University of Salamanca.

Closer to home, the **Mediterranean Universities Union (UNIMED)** celebrated its 30th anniversary in 2021 and the UB took part in the acts held to mark the occasion.

The UB hosted the 16th Internationalization and Cooperation Conference of the **Conference of Rectors of Spanish Universities (CRUE)**, which was eventually held online following its initial postponement owing to the pandemic. The conference covered subjects such as the new Erasmus+ 2021-2027 programme and the internationalization strategy and cooperation of Spanish universities. With

the term of office of the former management team headed by its rector at an end, the UB stepped down from chairing the CRUE's Sector Committee on Internationalization and Cooperation in January 2021.

Every year, as part of the Catalan delegation coordinated by the **Interuniversity Council of Catalonia (CIC)**, the UB participates in the world's most important higher education fairs, including those of the Asia-Pacific Association for International Education (APAIE), the Association of International Educators (NAFSA), and the European Association for International Education (EAIE). In the academic year 2020-2021, however, many such events were called off because of the pandemic.

International Mobility Fair

Unlike its predecessor, the second UB International Mobility Fair took place online. In all, 340 people registered for the event.

The fair gave students access to all the necessary information (language learning, certificates, financial support and application processes) about temporary study periods at the international universities with which the UB has exchange agreements. Thanks to the collaboration of the Confucius Institute and the Fulbright Foundation, students were able to attend informative sessions about mobility options in Asia and the United States.



Additionally, talks with students who were participating in or had recently completed an exchange were organized. The students in question described their experiences of international study periods in Scotland, Germany, France, Korea, Australia, the United States, Costa Rica and Argentina.

A survey conducted at the end of the fair found that 76% of participants considered the event satisfactory or very satisfactory. Furthermore, 64% said the fair had helped them make decisions about future study periods abroad.

International agreements

In the sphere of international cooperation, the UB signed 94 agreements over the academic year, mainly with institutions in France, Italy, Germany, the Netherlands, Mexico, Argentina and the United States. They included 26 framework agreements, 11 international mobility exchange agreements, four joint supervision agreements and 35 research agreements. In all, the UB currently has 398 international agreements in place.

International networks and associations

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



INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIVENESS

56

internationalization projects under way, including

24

strategic partnership projects and

9

capacity-building projects

International academic cooperation projects

The European Union funds highly competitive projects aimed at promoting internationalization, strategic alliances, international cooperation and knowledge transfer in higher education. Apart from

Projects related to internationalization, international cooperation, strategic alliances and knowledge transfer

Faculties and services	Projects
Fine Arts	1
Biology	2
Earth Sciences	1
Economics and Business	9
Education	24
Geography and History	2
Information and Audiovisual Media	2
Law	3
Mathematics and Computer Science	1
Medicine and Health Sciences	4
Pharmacy and Food Sciences	1
Agency for Policy and Quality	1
Total	56

international mobility, the **Erasmus+** programme includes KA2 projects (strategic partnerships, knowledge alliances, capacity-building, etc.), KA3 projects (social inclusion, education, training and youth), Jean Monnet activities (chairs, networks, projects and centres of excellence), sport actions (addressing threats to the integrity of sport, promoting voluntary activities in sport, focus on grassroots sport, etc.), and other initiatives and programmes (Creative Europe, Europe for Citizens, etc.).

In the academic year 2020-2021, 19 new projects with UB participation were granted funding. Together with those already under way, that gives the UB a total of **56 projects related to internationalization, international cooperation, strategic alliances and knowledge transfer** in higher education. Such projects received approximately 27 million euros in direct EU funding, of which the UB obtained almost 4.4 million euros. Highlights include nine capacity-building projects, which seek to support the modernization, accessibility and internationalization of higher education in non-EU partner countries, and 24 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.

Most of the projects in question involve European partners, from countries including Italy, France, Belgium, Germany, Portugal and Romania. As far as in-

ternational cooperation projects outside the EU are concerned, the most intense collaborations were with partners in North Africa (Tunisia and Algeria), Latin America (Colombia, Bolivia and Costa Rica) and Asia (Thailand and Vietnam). As part of those projects, the UB has established collaborations with institutions in 48 countries.

Erasmus Without Paper

The Erasmus Without Paper project, linked to the Erasmus programme, revolves around the creation of a European electronic network for higher education institutions to exchange student data. Over the course of the Erasmus+ 2021-2027 programme, a range of tools, whose use will be compulsory for participating institutions, will gradually be incorporated into the project as part of the programme's multiannual financial framework, with the aim of improving international mobility management procedures and making it easier to exchange data instead of documents.

Additionally, efforts are being made to implement the **European Student Card Initiative**, which involves connecting the systems of the universities participating in the Erasmus programme to reduce the administrative burden involved, facilitate cooperation between institutions, and simplify enrolment procedures and service access for students spending time abroad.



A COMMITMENT TO INTERNATIONALIZATION

11,231 international students from 141 countries

International community

In the academic year 2020-2021, the UB welcomed an **international community** of more than 11,000 students from 141 countries. They accounted for 33.5% of doctoral students, 37.3% of master's degree students, 6.8% of bachelor's degree students and 17% of postgraduate students.

English-language tuition was offered for six full bachelor's degrees (Business Administration and Management, Bioinformatics, English Studies, International Business, Physiotherapy, and Tourism), two of which are taught at UB-affiliated centres. Also taught entirely in English were 32 university master's degrees, including eight Erasmus Mundus programmes. Furthermore, the UB's 46 doctoral programmes were available in English.

International student mobility

The University of Barcelona manages a number of student mobility programmes and bilateral agreements with other institutions. They include the Erasmus+ programme (which involves exchanges within and outside the European Union), specific and general agreements (referred to as Global UB as of the academic year 2020-2021), individual applications, and the Study Abroad programme.

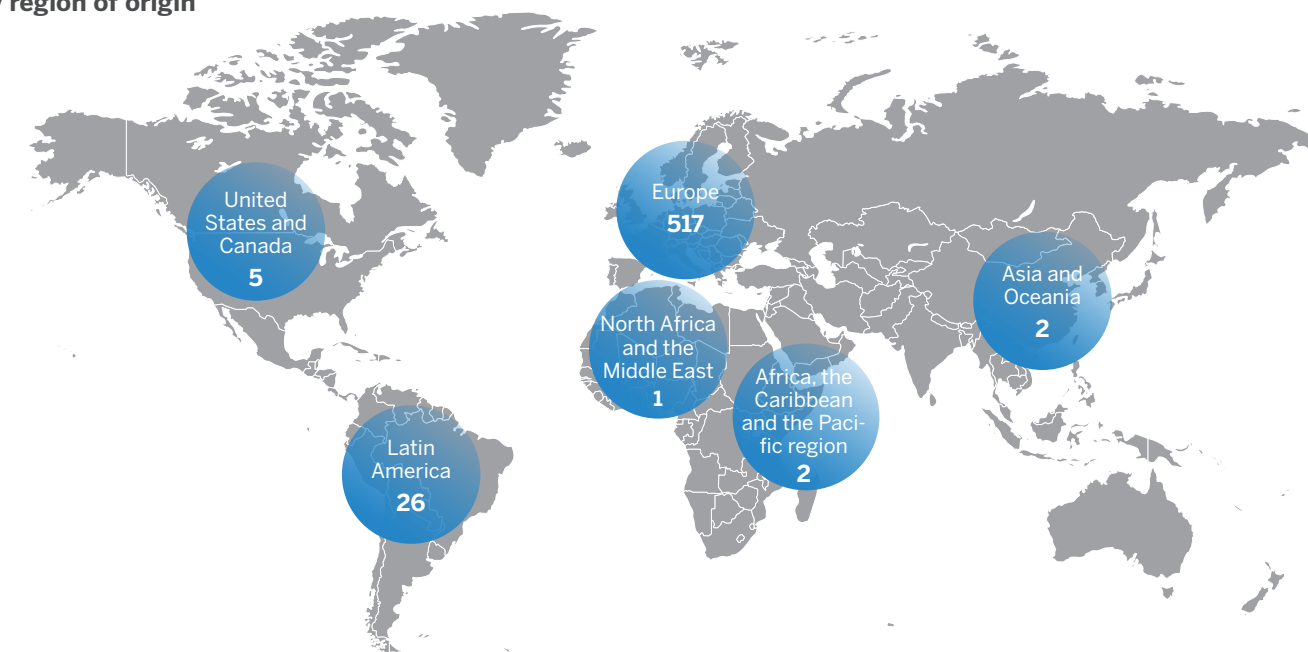
Despite the pandemic, **Erasmus+** study exchanges and placements were once again the most signifi-

cant framework for international mobility at the UB. Over the academic year, 630 UB students undertook study periods and 100 completed traineeship mobility placements in the EU, while the University hosted 494 students, 40 of whom completed traineeship mobility placements. In terms of doctoral students, there was one incoming and one outgoing student. Five UB students took up the option of Erasmus+ mobility outside the EU, and the University hosted two non-EU students under the programme.

The **Global UB** framework encompasses two programmes intended to increase the visibility of and promote internationalization beyond the European Union. Through the Global Faculty UB programme (agreements between a UB faculty and a foreign centre), the UB sent 41 students on study periods abroad and hosted 17 students. The Global UB Mobility programme (agreements between the UB and a foreign university) saw six UB students depart to study abroad and nine students arrive to spend a period at the UB.

UB students participating in a mobility programme may have access to **additional grants and financial aid**. As they do every year, the offices of the UB vice-rectors responsible for internationalization and students established a programme offering different types of funding, awarding 443 travel grants to holders of Erasmus+ grants and 22 grants to students undertaking study periods outside the EU. Through the Santander Erasmus Grants programme, 124 Erasmus+ programme students received a complementary payment to fund their period abroad. A total of 29 stu-

International exchange students by region of origin



UB student mobility by programme

Programme	International students	UB students
Erasmus+ studies (in the EU)	454	630
Erasmus+ studies (outside the EU)	5	2
Erasmus+ placements (in the EU)	40	100
Erasmus+ doctorate	1	1
Global Faculty UB	17	41
Global UB Mobility	9	6
Coimbra Group	1	—
Study Abroad	5	—
Fundación Carolina	4	—
AECID*	5	—
Individual applications	13	1
Total	554	781

* Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation



19

TRAINEE RESEARCHERS

joint supervision agreements signed

dents qualified for funding through the Ibero-America Grants programme (also a Banco Santander scheme), but only nine were actually able to make use of it, with the others having to cancel their international study periods due to the pandemic.

Additionally, the UB awarded grants to four doctoral students from universities in Latin America through the **Fundación Carolina**.

The UB is involved in two non-reciprocal mobility programmes through which it hosts students from foreign institutions who temporarily enrol to study at the University and sends its own students to partner centres abroad. One such arrangement is that of **individual applications**, through which 13 students from around

the world were hosted at the UB and one UB student went out on an international study period. The other is the **Study Abroad** programme for agreements with university consortia. Unfortunately, the pandemic had a major impact on the Study Abroad programme: the main participating universities (i.e. those in the United States) cancelled all mobility periods, resulting in the UB hosting just five students from Latin America.

International staff mobility

In total, 14 members of the UB's teaching and research staff completed mobility periods abroad, mainly within the framework of the Erasmus+ programme. Just one of those mobility periods was spent

Staff mobility by programme

	TEACHING AND RESEARCH STAFF (PDI)		ADMINISTRATIVE AND SERVICE STAFF (PAS)	
	Incoming	Outgoing	Incoming	Outgoing
Erasmus+ in the EU	–	13	–	4
Erasmus+ outside the EU	1	–	–	–
Coimbra Group	2	–	–	–
Other programmes ¹	61	–	18	–
Funding from Banco Santander ²	–	1	–	–
Short postdoctoral mobility periods 2020	6	–	–	–
Total	70	14	18	4

¹ In the case of teaching and research staff, formerly the Visiting Researcher and Lecturer Reception Programme; in the case of administrative and service staff, under the Erasmus+ KA107 programme.

² Includes one trainee researcher.

29

TRAINEE RESEARCHERS

grants for academic study periods

outside the European Union, specifically in Colombia, with funding from the Santander Ibero-America Research Grants programme.

A total of 70 **teachers from abroad** completed periods at the University of Barcelona. Thanks to funding from the Coimbra Group, two young African teachers and researchers (one from South Africa and one from Senegal) undertook mobility periods at the UB.

As for the mobility of **administrative and service staff**, four UB staff members completed periods within the EU and 18 members of the staff of universities outside the EU visited the UB. All the mobility periods in question were part of the Erasmus+ programme.

Processing of permits for non-EU students and staff

In the academic year 2020-2021, the UB carried out the procedures necessary to secure permits for the stays of five non-EU students and to regularize the stays of 77 members of staff and 21 accompanying family members.

Effect of COVID-19 on international mobility

For the second academic year running, the pandemic had a marked effect on mobility. Whereas the first semester of the academic year 2019-2020 went by

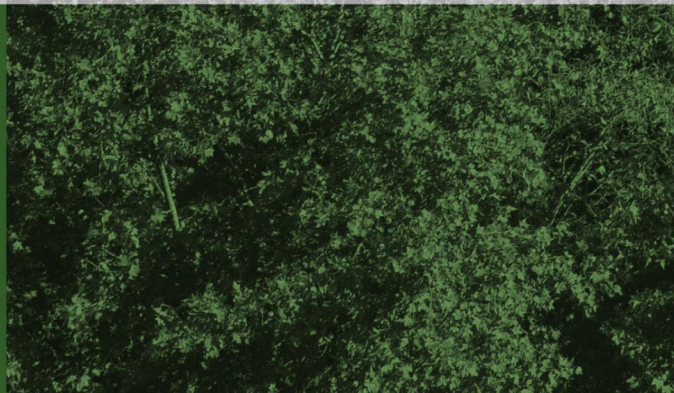
as normal and was followed by a second semester in which *ad hoc* solutions were adopted for each participant (early return, online teaching, etc.), 2020-2021 began with the pandemic already declared. In addition to individuals opting against mobility periods, many host institutions cancelled their mobility arrangements at the beginning of the academic year, resulting in a much more significant reduction than in the previous year, with incoming and outgoing students down by 35% and almost 50% respectively in comparison to 2018-2019, the last academic year unaffected by the pandemic.

In terms of staff mobility, only 30% of the visiting teaching staff and 60% of the visiting administrative and service staff expected arrived at the UB. Just 15% of the UB's teaching and research staff and 9% of its administrative and service staff completed mobility periods in 2020-2021. For the second year in a row, the UB's Staff Week had to be cancelled.





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