



# Report 2023-2024 University of Barcelona



UNIVERSITAT DE  
BARCELONA



# Report

# 2023-2024

University of Barcelona



UNIVERSITAT<sub>DE</sub>  
BARCELONA

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# Table of contents

Foreword from the Rector	7
The University of Barcelona	9
UB identity	
Structure and basic figures	
Geographical distribution: campuses and faculties	
1. A university engaged with society	19
Transparency, ethics and good governance	
Sustainability and quality of life	
Institutional, cultural and heritage activities	
Commitment to society	
Entrepreneurship and innovation	
2. A university at the forefront of education	45
Course offering	
Other academic opportunities	
Student support	
Teaching innovation, assessment and improvement	
3. A university at the vanguard of research	63
Promoting research: internationalization and attracting talent and resources	
Research and scientific output	
Technology, knowledge and innovation transfer	
Doctoral studies	
Dissemination of scientific culture	
4. An international university	83
Internationalization strategy	
Internationalization actions	
International mobility	





The REPORT on the academic year of the University of Barcelona is the main institutional publication for documenting our commitment to transparency and our accountability to the university community and to wider society. It presents a summary of the activities and projects carried out over the course of the academic year 2023-2024, together with the most relevant statistical data.

The pages that follow provide a full account of the innovation, quality and excellence that characterize our teaching and research, placing us among the European and global elite. They also illustrate how a commitment to knowledge transfer, dissemination and internationalization, our engagement with people and society, the pursuit of sustainability, and the pledge to adhere to ethical standards and uphold the values of equality and inclusion, memory and culture have underpinned and continue to guide our actions.

The University of Barcelona is a forward-facing institution. In 2024, the University Senate approved the procedure for drafting a new Statute, based on collaborative participation and transparency. At a time of social, economic, cultural and political change, we have laid solid foundations for the future with the approval of a new Governance Plan for 2025-2029, which sets out a series of objectives across our various areas of activity.

I invite you, then, to read the Report on this academic year, which reflects the rigour, the responsibility and the sense of purpose with which all members of the University of Barcelona community approach their work.

**Joan Guàrdia**  
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, ensuring universal access to higher education. Its results are conveyed to society and its goals are shared through teaching, research and knowledge transfer, contributing to social and scientific progress. The commitment to digitization and efficient use of data helps to optimize administrative processes, reduces costs and improves the efficiency required of any institution in the public service.
- **Historic and urban.** Founded in 1450, the UB is implicitly linked to the city around it and has its own distinct role in the history of Barcelona. 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 L'Hospitalet de Llobregat) and much of the surrounding region.
- **Universally renowned.** The UB remains at the forefront of critical thought and sets a benchmark for educational and scientific excellence nationally and internationally. This is confirmed by its strong position in the main global rankings and its extensive participation in international networks. As a dynamic, critical, constructive, plural and humanistic institution, the UB is at the service of society and defends the values of freedom, democracy, justice, equality, inclusion and solidarity.
- **Innovative in teaching.** The UB's community of more than 6,000 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 86% for bachelor's degrees and 93% for university master's degrees. The teaching process is constantly adapted to the future and to emerging global challenges, such as the growth of artificial intelligence, and reflects a clear vocation for international collaboration: this is particularly apparent in the UB's consolidated leadership of the European reference alliance CHARM-EU.
- **Excellent in research.** Researchers from the UB – the only university in Spain to boast membership of the League of European Research Universities (LERU) – are cited in the most prestigious scientific publications. The research conducted at the UB and its facilities, such as those that make up the Diagonal Health Axis, around the Barcelona Science Park and adjacent faculties, is carried out in close collaboration with leading actors in science, business and technology, working at the forefront of innovation.
- **Ethical and transparent.** The UB promotes collaborative internal and external governance. It 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. These principles are transferred to research activity grounded in social responsibility and a commitment to open science.
- **Generalist and multidisciplinary.** The University offers a broad selection of bachelor's degrees and university master's degrees and carries out research in the many disciplines that make up the principal branches of knowledge: arts and humanities, social sciences, health sciences, experimental sciences and engineering. Collaboration between these disciplines is key to continuing to break down the frontiers of knowledge and maximizing its impact.
- **Sustainable.** The UB is committed to and constantly reviews its efforts to support the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations in all its areas of activity. The inclusion of cross-cutting competences in gender and the climate emergency across all academic programmes is a clear reflection of this commitment.
- **Inclusive.** The UB promotes and defends the equality and real inclusion of all people, especially the most vulnerable. It respects and protects the diversity of all groups, seeking to eradicate all types of discrimination. As part of this commitment, it strives to ensure the well-being of all its staff with regard to every aspect of their working conditions.
- **Entrepreneurial and innovative.** The University of Barcelona – most notably through the Bosch i Gimpera Foundation – actively promotes business creation and provides funding, guidance and training resources for entrepreneurs. The UB's innovative activities and projects create value for society, channelling knowledge management for public impact.
- **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 is involved in international research and teaching and seeks to broaden collaboration and dialogue, especially with Europe, the Mediterranean region and Latin America. Its global perspective and co-operation actions reinforce its international leadership.



• Structure and basic figures



76,300  
FOLLOWERS ON INSTAGRAM

459,000  
FOLLOWERS ON LINKEDIN

221,000  
FOLLOWERS ON FACEBOOK

6,300  
FOLLOWERS ON TIKTOK

23,200  
FOLLOWERS ON YOUTUBE

• Structure

- 17 faculties
- 10 affiliated centres
- 60 departments
- 1 training and research unit
- 38 UB research structures
- 18 research structures with UB participation
- 667,368 sq m of constructed area

• Course offering

- 72 bachelor's degrees
- 16 dual study pathways
- 173 university master's degrees
- 47 doctoral programmes
- 767 postgraduate courses
- 1,266 lifelong learning courses (IL3)

• Students

- 41,078 bachelor's degree students
- 5,679 university master's degree students
- 11,147 graduate students (provisional figure)
- 43,006 Lifelong learning students (IL3)
- 7,263 bachelor's degree graduates
- 3,238 university master's degree graduates
- 12,993 company placements

• Teaching quality

- 97 consolidated teaching innovation groups
- 147 active teaching innovation projects
- 83.2% PDI involved in training activities at the IDP-ICE
- 434 lecturers with positive evaluations in the teaching assessment process

• Doctoral studies

- 5,186 trainee researchers
- 745 doctoral theses read
- 18 industrial doctoral projects
- 8 joint supervision agreements signed

• Research

- €223,983,098 research funding secured
- 1,283 active research projects
- 5 projects awarded by the European Research Council
- 7,751 scientific publications
- 465 postdoctoral researchers
- 628 trainee predoctoral researchers
- 633 research technicians and assistants

• Transfer activities

- 663 Bosch i Gimpera Foundation contracts
- 153 patent applications
- 16 new technology-based spin-offs
- 308 Bosch i Gimpera Foundation researchers
- 105 Bosch i Gimpera Foundation research technicians and assistants

• Internationalization

- 1,311 UB students in mobility programmes
- 2,141 international students at the UB as part of mobility programmes
- 2,852 agreements with universities and other institutions outside Spain
- 59 active Erasmus+ programmes

• People

- 6,417 teaching and research staff
- 4,111 full-time-equivalent teaching and research staff
- 2,608 technical, management, and administrative and service staff (PTGAS)
- 468 interns in services and faculties

• Gender

- 65.2% women bachelor's degree students
- 57.02% women trainee researchers
- 49.6% women members of teaching and research staff
- 31.6% women full professors
- 62.8 % women members of technical, management, and administrative and service staff (PTGAS)

• Budget

- €501,840,931 total budget
- 77% of total income from public transfers
- 23% of total income from self-finance
- 89% current costs

• Services

- 16 libraries
- 1,688,364 monographs and print journals
- 19,226 UB Sports users
- 10,167 UB Alumni members
- 13,517 placement offers received

• Society

- 122,192 direct beneficiaries of UB Solidarity Foundation actions
- 10 students received under the UB's support programme for refugees and people fleeing conflict zones
- 6 international development cooperation projects
- 15 University of Experience programmes

• Culture

- 32 collections in the Virtual Museum
- 16 concerts programmed in the Season of Music at the UB
- 20 exhibitions in the Historic Building

• Sustainability

- Data relating to the period 2019–2023:
- 23% reduction in water consumption
- 12% reduction in electricity consumption
- 33% reduction in natural gas consumption
- 14% reduction of total CO<sub>2</sub> emissions

Information correct at:  
• Staff: December 2023  
• Studies: June 2024  
• Research: July 2024



Faculties

	Bachelor's degrees			University master's de- grees <sup>2</sup>			Doctoral	Teaching and research staff (PDI)	
	Bachelor's degrees <sup>1</sup>	Bachelor's degree students	Bachelor's degree graduates	University master's degrees	University master's degree students	University master's degree graduates	Trainee researchers	Permanent PDI	Non-permanent PDI
Biology	6	1,942	404	16	493	353	446	188	194
Chemistry	3	1,496	242	11	234	159	276	136	143
Earth Sciences	2	411	80	4	64	37	130	58	51
Economics and Business	5	6,69	1,06	18	644	303	226	254	390
Education	5	5,766	1,252	13	820	555	319	140	524
Fine Arts	3	1,548	236	5	65	27	106	61	168
Geography and History	5	2,684	337	12	617	268	395	131	166
Information and Audiovisual Media	2	590	101	5	146	73	31	34	49
Law	6	5,204	891	12	524	255	238	154	296
Mathematics and Computer Science	2	1,133	189	4	79	44	94	56	62
Medicine and Health Sciences	5	2,753	495	9	368	274	1,596	302	1,279
Nursing	1	1,688	341	3	96	68	102	11	152
Pharmacy and Food Sciences	3	2,5	427	7	181	164	332	143	251
Philology and Communication	10	2,832	484	9	291	126	252	145	197
Philosophy	1	714	98	6	177	82	156	28	48
Physics	2	1,097	180	13	348	190	245	139	141
Psychology	1	2,03	419	10	407	201	243	104	222
% women	—	65.2	66.7	—	62.5	61.6	57.2	44.2	51.3
Total	61	41,078	7,236	158	5,679	3,238	5,186	2,084	4,333

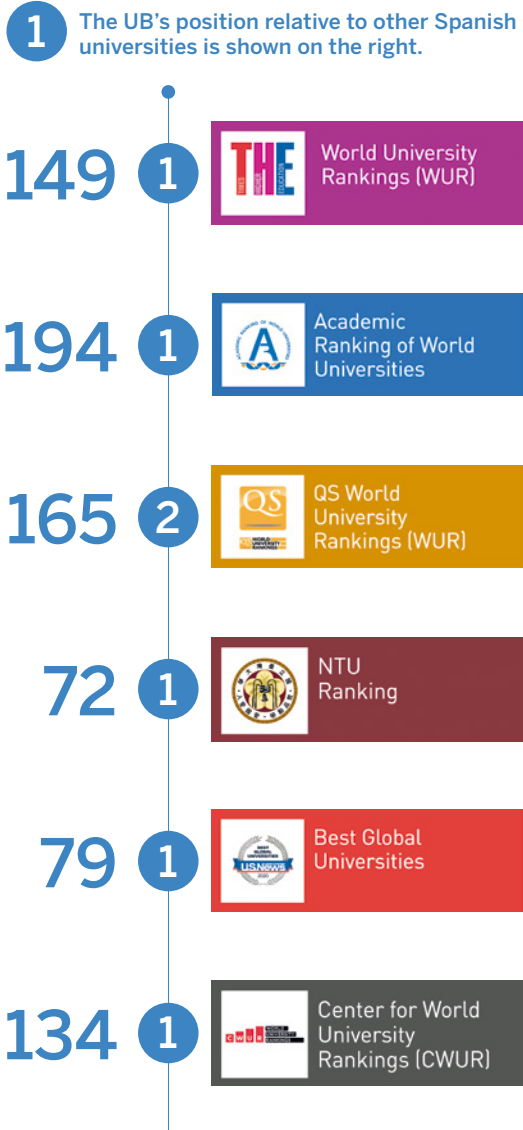
1 Includes the UB-specific degree in Private Investigation, taught at the Faculty of Law, and the bachelor's degree in Biomedical Sciences, taught at the faculties of Biology and of Medicine and Health Sciences.

2 Includes CHARM-EU programmes, students and graduates.

EMPLOYABILITY

According to the eighth study on labour market outcomes by the Agency for the Quality of the University System of Catalonia (AQU), carried out in 2023, the **employment rates** for UB graduates are as follows: 89.6% after bachelor's degrees; 92.0% after university master's degrees, and 96.8% (deemed 'full employment') after doctoral studies.

Position in the foremost international rankings



Position in the QS World University Rankings by subject area

Area	Global position
Arts and Humanities	94
Life Sciences and Medicine	55
Natural Sciences	59
Social Sciences and Business Management	113
Engineering and Technology	140

HIGHLY CITED RESEARCHERS

The University of Barcelona is, once again, the university in Spain with the most researchers considered among the most influential researchers in the world, and it is the second-ranked research centre in Spain, after the Spanish National Research Council (CSIC). The UB has a total of 10 researchers in the prestigious Clarivate Analytics list, which names the experts that lead research projects with the greatest international impact in several fields of study.



• Geographical distribution:  
campuses and centres

CEI International Affairs

Sant Joan de Déu Teaching Campus

Diagonal Campus

- Faculty of Biology
- Faculty of Chemistry
- Faculty of Earth Sciences
- Faculty of Economics and Business
- Faculty of Fine Arts
- Faculty of Law
- Faculty of Pharmacy and Food Science
- Faculty of Physics
- Barcelona Science Park
- Penyafort-Montserrat Hall of Residence
- Science and Technology Centres
- Sports
- Student Suport Service (SAE)
- Yugo Aleu University Residence

School of New Interactive Technologies (ENTI)

Pavelló Rosa – General Services

International University Center of Barcelona  
(UNIBA) – Barcelona Culinary Hub (BCH)

Sants Campus

- Faculty of Information Science and Audiovisual Media
- General services

Clínic Campus

- Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences
- Faculty of Nursing
- Hospital Clínic of Barcelona

Bellvitge Campus

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

School of Public Relations (ESRP)

National Institute of Physical Education of Catalonia (INEFC)

Mundet Campus

- Faculty of Education
- Faculty of Psychology
- Institute for Professional Development (IDP)

Barcelona School of Tourism,  
Hospitality and Gastronomy

School of Cinema and Audiovisual Studies of Catalonia  
(ESCAC)

Institute of Public Safety of Catalonia (ISPC)

Torribera Campus

- Faculty of Pharmacy and Food Science

El Carme Cultural Center

Institute for Lifelong Learning (IL3)

Plaça Universitat Campus and Raval Campus

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

667,368sqm

OF CONSTRUCTED SURFACE  
area across 6 urban campuses  
and other buildings

103,986sqm

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

41,998sqm

OF RESEARCH LABORATORY  
FACILITIES





1

# A university engaged with society

Transparency, ethics and good governance

Sustainability and quality of life

Institutional, cultural and heritage activities

Commitment to society

Entrepreneurship and innovation

◀ One of the Cycle of Music concerts held at the University, in the Paranymp Hall.



# The UB's commitment to society in the 2030 Agenda



## • Transparency, ethics and good governance

The name of the University of Barcelona is synonymous with a dedication to service to society and the defence of the values of free thought, critical awareness and positive progress, as well as a guarantee of quality and innovation in all the areas in which it is active. The University's regulations on ethics, integrity, transparency and good governance, which are regularly expanded and updated, ensure **open, accessible and participatory governance**.

Over the years, the UB has developed its own framework for **institutional integrity** through the approval of specific policies in this area. The **Regulations on Transparency, Access to Public Information and Good Governance**, the **Code of Ethics on Integrity and Good Practices** and the **Mechanisms for Compliance with Regulations on Institutional Integrity at the University of Barcelona** set the highest standards of behaviour and strengthen the process by which the University holds itself accountable to society.

This year saw the launch of the UB's **Ethics and Institutional Integrity Mailbox**, which assesses and responds to messages and queries, and the **Ethics Committee** continued its work. In addition, the UB's **Anti-Fraud Committee** consolidated the functions assigned to it, and anti-fraud committees were created for all UB Group entities.

The University also continued to implement its **Code of Conduct for University of Barcelona Officers and Senior Officers**, which sets out values, principles, guidelines and models of conduct and serves as a set of objectives and commitments for those responsible for the institution. Eighty percent of the UB's elected officers have signed the commitment so far.

Together, these initiatives comprise the essential elements for establishing a united sense of community at the University of Barcelona. The Governing Council's approval of the **regulation which approves the University of Barcelona's policy on peaceful coexistence and outlines conflict resolution mechanisms** complements the Code of Ethics, which has become a key instrument for establishing those rules and their interpretation.

One of the main tasks of the **Coexistence Committee**, established at the University in accordance with the Coexistence Act, is to mediate in student disciplinary proceedings, taking into account the circumstances and characteristics of the conflict and considering them in the context of its own regulations and those of the Mediation Service, which receives the cases referred by the committee.

Results regarding current status of governance measures aimed at meeting the objectives of the 2022-2024 Governance Plan were presented to the University Senate. The plan is divided into five areas of action and includes monitoring and evaluating a series of 387 indicators. Of the achievement indica-

tors, 69.3% were fully met, 1.5% had a degree of fulfilment between 67% and 99%, 9.8% between 34% and 66%, and only 5.9% between 0% and 33%.

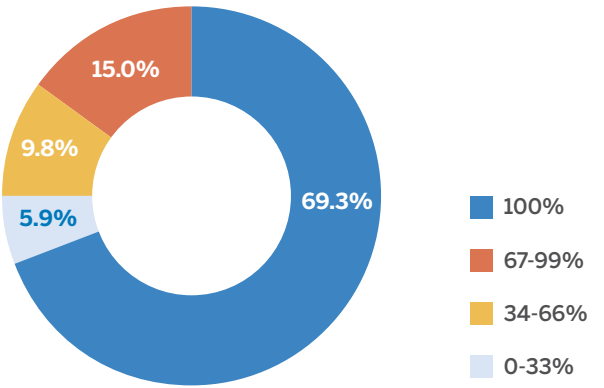
In the area of **equality**, the process of finalizing and evaluating the Third Equality Plan was initiated, and a tender process was issued for the preparation of the University of Barcelona's Fourth Equality Plan.

The Executive Council also approved the updated version of the procedure for changing the name of trans\* and non-binary people at the University of Barcelona, which has since come into force. Likewise, the report *Perception of safety and visibility of trans\* and non-binary students in Catalan universities: An examination of cases at the University of Barcelona and Pompeu Fabra University* was published and pre-

sented at the event TransUB: "conQUEERiendo estimas, espacios e instituciones" (ConQueering assumptions, spaces and institutions), held as part of the International Day Against LGBTIQ+phobia.

In addition, courses were given about the Equality Plan for Technical, Management, and Administrative and Service Staff (PTGAS) at the University, as well as courses aimed at the university community as a whole on the prevention, treatment and eradication of gender-based violence, with funding from the State Pact against Gender Violence. These included the courses "Applying the protocol against male violence and LGTBIQ+ phobias at the UB"; "Working towards the eradication of online male violence: service-learning projects"; "Gender violence and online intersectionality"; "Introduction to self-defence for

Governance Plan 2022-2024: percentage of indicators by degree of achievement (at close of 2024)



Subject area	Number of indicators by degree of achievement				Total indicators
	0-33%	34-66%	67-99%	100%	
Governance	6	2	5	52	65
People	1	2	7	11	21
Knowledge	3	11	12	98	124
Academic	7	19	15	50	91
Generic	6	4	19	57	86
Total indicators	23	38	58	268	387
% of indicators in each range	5.9%	9.8%	15.0%	69.3%	





The first interuniversity conference against gender-based violence.



UB stakeholders linked to social and ethical responsibility

- Alumni
- Ateneu
- University Extension Courses for Senior Citizens
- Bioethics Committee
- Sustainable Development Commission
- Ethics Committee
- Coexistence Committee
- Delegate of the Rector for Transparency and Electronic Administration
- Sport
- UB Solidarity Foundation
- Gaudir UB courses
- Service-Learning Group
- Office for Internal Monitoring and Inspections
- Office for Health, Safety and Environmental Issues
- Student Support Service and student integration programmes: Fem Via and Avança
- Support and Mediation Office
- Ombuds Office
- Scientific Culture and Innovation Unit
- University of Experience
- Healthy University programme
- Equality Unit and Equality Committees
- UB Volunteers

women”; and “Training for Purple Point engagement during university parties”. The *Guidelines for staffing Purple Points: theoretical and practical proposals for exercising the role of intervention and approaching complex conversations* were published. The document is based on the lessons shared at the various workshops and training sessions for attending “Purple Points” (safe meeting points for women) at faculties and university parties.

With regard to the UB Protocol for Preventing, Identifying and Responding to Sexual Harassment and Harassment on Grounds of Gender, Gender Identity or Sexual Orientation, and Other Sexist or LGBTIQ+-phobic Behaviour, a total of 41 requests were dealt with in 2023, which resulted in 10 consultations, 9 complaints and 22 official complaint reports lodged. Most of these were sent to the protocol mailbox or arrived via the helpline for gender-based and LGBTIQ+-phobic violence.

With the support of the faculty committees and the Equality Unit, several **events** were held to commemorate important dates, such as 25 November, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women; 11 February, the International Day of Women and Girls in Science; 8 March, International Women’s Day; and 17 May, the International Day Against LGBTIQ+ Phobia. One of the events held on 25 November consisted of the first Interuniversity Conference Against Male Violence at Universities, held at the University of Barcelona. In addition, the monthly

*eFEMINISTèrides* publication came out to coincide with important milestones in the women’s rights movement as a means to recognize and give visibility to people who have made significant contributions.

The sixth **Clara Campoamor** and **Rosalind Franklin Awards** for the best bachelor’s and master’s degree final projects with a gender perspective was opened to entries. The awards are funded by the Catalan Institute for Women and, this academic year, prizes from previous rounds were awarded. The third call for submissions for **Antoni M. Badia i Margarit Awards** for the best thesis written in Catalan on the subject of gender equality or other sustainable development goals was also announced. In addition, grants for projects related to social responsibility in teaching were announced (RIMDA RSU) to recognize projects that promote measures related to sustainability, the climate emergency, equality, the gender perspective, inclusion and their application in teaching

Over the course of the academic year, the network of Sustainable Menstruation-Friendly Toilets was expanded to a total of 42. Bathrooms were also fitted to respect gender diversity through inclusive signage, which only identifies toilets by use (menstrual cup and reduced mobility) rather than differentiating them by gender.

Work has continued in national and international **networks** dealing with gender equality issues, such as the Vives University Network, the Network of Gen-

der Equality Bodies for University Excellence (RUI-GEU), the Women and Science Committee of the Inter-University Council of Catalonia, the Network of Universities for Diversity (RUD), and the equality committees of different international networks, such as the League of European Research Universities (LERU) and the Coimbra Group.

In the area of **mediation**, the independent and autonomous **Ombuds Office** continued with its task of safeguarding the rights and freedoms of UB students, teaching and research staff and administrative and service staff. During this academic year, the Office dealt with 17 cases and responded to 110 queries and 207 consultations.












A COMMITMENT TO SOCIETY

23% reduction in water consumption since 2019



Global and SDG position in THE Impact Rankings

 Ed. 2024	OVERALL POSITION	
	101-200	
	POSITION 24	
	1,681	Participating institutions
	POSITION 101-200	
	1,018	Participating institutions
	POSITION 101-200	
	825	Participating institutions
	POSITION 42	
	924	Participating institutions
	POSITION 74	
	1,086	Participating institutions
	POSITION 96	
	2,031	Participating institutions

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 the drafting of the UB’s **Agenda 2030**, an action plan for working towards the SDGs at the University. In addition, the fifth **Sustainability Report** was approved, which covers the social, economic and environmental impact of UB activities in the academic year 2022-2023 and includes the University’s contributions to the achievement of both the SDGs and the goals of the Agenda 2030. The standards of the GRI (Global Reporting Initiative) were applied to prepare the report, and adapted to the university context. A four-fold brochure was also published highlighting some aspects of the document.

The measures set out in the **Roadmap for Implementing Sustainability Measures at the UB** were implemented throughout the academic year. An initial goal was installing photovoltaic systems at the Faculty of Economics and Business on the Mundet Campus and at the Faculty of Geography and History, as well as installing 52 new charging stations for electric vehicles. In addition, efforts to reduce energy consumption continued, and in a year marked by drought and resulting restrictions on water use, a number of modifications and redesigns were implemented to reduce water consumption.

The University of Barcelona renewed its pledge to the 2024-2034 Citizen Commitment for a More Sustainable Barcelona, an initiative of the Citizen Council of which the University is a member. In the same vein of commitment to citizens, since April 2024 several buildings of the Learning and Research Resources Centre (CRAI) were made part of the city’s Network of Climate Shelters.

Significant progress was also made in integrating the SDGs into teaching, including the inclusion of a section for reflecting on the SDGs in all bachelor’s and master’s degree final projects. This was supported by cooperation with other LERU universities within the ad hoc sustainability group to incorporate these goals into teaching. A document entitled *How to enhance education for sustainable development: Trends and good practices at LERU universities* was also published. In the context of teaching improvements and innovations, the first call for proposals on the social responsibility of universities (RIMDA-RSU) was published, with a special section on sustainability.

In the area of **health, safety and the environment**, the main lines of action have been the management of occupational health and safety, the integration of prevention across all areas of university activity, research support, emergency preparation and response, sustainability, and social care. A total of 852 actions were recorded in these areas.

In the Office of Safety, Health and Environment (OSSMA), the **Technical Unit of the Risk Prevention Service** continued to provide online training and materials for staff, and conducted studies and prepared technical reports to support other services and departments and to propose preventive and corrective measures resulting from safety visits and risk assessments. It also launched a project to systematize the collection of documentation to designate facilities and activities for the contained handling of genetically modified organisms and is coordinating two working groups: one dealing with health and safety in the laboratories and technical areas of the different schools and faculties, and the other to improve working conditions in the dissecting room of the Faculty of Medicine and Science.

The **OSSMA Medical Services Unit** performed 877 job-specific medical examinations in 2023, 156 of which were for at-risk groups, and also handled 13 maternity protection procedures. It attended to 141 accidents involving University staff and 80 common illnesses and non-occupational accidents. Sixty-three students were attended to as well as 28 employees of external companies. In addition, 737 flu vaccinations were administered to UB staff.

In the **area of training**, a total of 722 people took part in the 19 courses offered, including 302 participants in the workshop on Risk Prevention in Research Laboratories. Implementation of the orientation plan on safety, health, the environment and





social care for new staff was continued, with 245 employees taking part. The Medical Service also offered two courses related to the Self-Protection Plan: one on immediate medical assistance and defibrillation (ASI and DEA), which was attended by 45 people, and a refresher course in basic life support with automatic electronic defibrillators (AED), which was taken by 61 people. Several specialized workshops were also offered, including workshops on the safe handling of technical gases, fire extinguishing and safety in research laboratories.

**Two awards** were received in the areas covered by the **OSSMA Environmental Unit**: one for the UBici Fleet project, recognized as one of the 10 top ideas to change the world by the Barcelona Citizens' Council for Sustainability, and the second from the Sectorial Commission for Sustainability of the Conference of Rectors of Spanish Universities (CRUE) for having met the requirements for taking action and compiling evidence to achieve global recognition for environmental sustainability. Also, within the framework of the Catalan Government's Programme of Voluntary Agreements for the Reduction of Green-

house Gas Emissions, a new emissions inventory was conducted for 2022, which totalled 34,993 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>, up from last year due to mobility returning to previous levels and new categories being incorporated in the inventory.

Among the new projects, the following are particularly noteworthy: the launch of ReUBtilitzem, which promotes reusing materials internally and preventing waste generation, the dissemination of the results of the mobility survey to the university community, and the implementation of the sustainability toolbox for libraries.

In the specific area of **social care**, the UB published information on public services for citizens, as well as monthly health tips and recommendations for healthy habits within the framework of the Business Solidarity Programme of the Spanish Association against Cancer (AECC), in which the UB participates. In addition, the awareness-raising campaign on prevention "Organitzeu-vos el lloc de treball" (Organize your workplace) was shared with the entire university community each month, and, together



with Food and Nutrition Torribera Campus a 2024 calendar entitled "Alimenta el benestar: dotze consells per a una alimentació i un estil de vida saludables" (Feed your wellbeing: 12 tips for a healthy diet and lifestyle) was designed. A video was also released to mark World No Tobacco Day, calling for smoke-free spaces inside and outside schools and faculties, the 17th toy collection campaign was carried out in partnership with the Red Cross, and a project to collect bottle caps for charitable causes was continued in partnership with the ForçAME Association.

In this academic year, the **Healthy University** project was transferred to the Sports Service, although its activities have always been implemented in collaboration with other UB departments.

As part of efforts to **promote good health**, the University of Barcelona and the Catalan Ministry of Health jointly organized the event **#TrioLaVida**, which was held on the Mundet Campus and welcomed 113 people. Other actions taken include **World Health and Physical Activity Week**, dur-

ing which several activities were offered for the 97 attendees; **No Smoking Week**, in which 225 people took part in in-person activities and which had a significant impact on social networks (with more than 70,000 views), and the **Healthy Breaks** campaign at the Learning and Research Resources Centre (CRAI), in which 129 students participated.

Through the Sports service, the University of Barcelona reaffirmed its commitment to healthy habits and the values associated with **physical and sporting activities**. Physical activity makes a particularly notable contribution towards achieving the SDGs, through healthy and sustainable sports actions and events, projects to promote the education of vulnerable individuals and groups, programmes for groups with special needs, and the promotion of women's sports and sports programmes for girls and women. The Sports service's activities and facilities attracted 20,937 users this year.

As part of #BeActive, the European Week of Sport sponsored by the European Commission, the UB was honoured with an award from the Spanish National



## A COMMITMENT TO SPORT

**173** medals won in university championships in Catalonia, Spain and Europe



Award ceremony for UB athletes of the 2022-2023 academic year.

Sports Council for its contribution to the promotion of physical activity and a healthy lifestyle.

In relation to **competitive sports**, the Sports service organized the **Barcelona University Leagues**, the largest recreational and amateur university sports competition in the country, in which 2,020 students from all the universities in the city participated.

A total of 4,058 students from the UB represented the University in the different official university competitions held in Catalonia, Spain and Europe, and together took home **173 medals** (68 gold, 51 silver and 54 bronze).

In the **Catalan University Championships (CCU)**, the University won a total of **132 medals** (57 gold, 38 silver and 37 bronze) in individual and team sports, with 463 students taking part (217 women and 246 men). The UB was the leading Catalan university in terms of the number of participants and medals in the CCU. In the **Spanish University Championships (CEU)**, the University of Barcelona won **36 medals** (11 gold, 12 silver and 13 bronze) – the second-best public university in Spain and the best in Catalonia in terms of the number of medals. The UB was particularly well represented, with 143 students (82 women and 61 men) competing in 21 different sports.

This year saw the second **University Cup**: men's and women's teams took part in the Catalan phase, and came in second and first respectively, which qualified them for the final four held in September 2024 in Granada. Sixteen girls and 14 boys took part.

In the **European University Championships**, the UB was represented by its judo, karate and taekwondo teams in the European University Games held in Hungary. The 10 students who took part won four bronze medals and one silver.

## UB SPORTS

**20,937** users of UB Sports facilities and services

Nineteen UB students were also recognized by the **Catalan University Sports Association (ECU)** as the best university athletes in their respective sports. Basketball player **Adrià Codinachs Pita** (from the Faculty of Pharmacy) was distinguished as the best overall athlete in the men's category for the 2023-2024 academic year.

This year also saw the tenth edition of the **Unirun** event, with 1,422 participants. The UB won the university race for the ninth time, as well as the men's and women's categories.

In addition, 178 students (104 women and 74 men) took advantage of the **Tutoresport UB** programme, which aims to help high-level university athletes strike a balance between excellence in sport and academic success and has more than 50 tutors.

The process to obtain the **FISU Healthy Campus** label was started this academic year, and 35 of the 100 indicators that make up the certification were accredited. It is the only label of its kind in the world and recognizes the efforts of the University's faculties and services to improve the well-being of the student body and the campus community.

The **Sports Schools** programme, launched last year, continued to enjoy great success in terms of participation. The number of students increased compared to last year and the new Activities in Nature programme was added, with around a 100 people already

signed up for outings. In addition, 740 members of the community (students, teaching and research staff, and technical, management, and administrative and service staff) took part in special activities to **promote good health** through various programmes offered by the Sports service; the UB training courses, including those aimed at people over 55, and the Healthy University project.



The University of Barcelona won the 2024 Unirun Champions Cup.





Renowned chef Carme Ruscalleda, centre, is awarded an honorary doctorate on the recommendation of the Faculty of Pharmacy and Food Sciences

Institutional activities, culture and heritage

The academic year 2023-2024 began with the official conclusion of the **150th anniversary** of the inauguration of the first academic year in the UB Historic Building, which was celebrated throughout the year. The event featured the presentation of a chocolate model of the façade of the Historic Building designed by Barcelona pastry chef Christian Escribà.

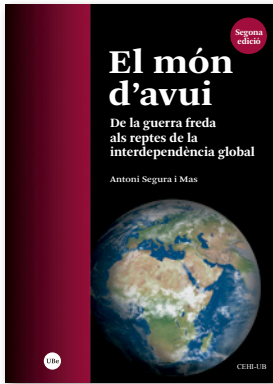
Among the many **institutional activities** during the year, the opening ceremony of the academic year stands out, which emphasized the importance of art at the University with spectacular projection mapping and artistic actions with music, dance and sound sculptures. The event, held under the motto “The University is art”, also marked the 50th anniversary of the death of Pau Casals and the 100th anniversary of the birth of Victòria dels Àngels i d’Antoni Tàpies, three great artists awarded honorary doctorates by the UB in 1939, 1987 and 1988, respectively. The inaugural lecture was given by the film director Juan Antonio Bayona.

During the academic year **honorary doctorates** were awarded to chef Carme Ruscalleda, nominated by the Faculty of Pharmacy and Food Sciences; math-

ematician **Kristian Seip**, proposed by the Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science; and, on behalf of the Faculty of Fine arts, filmmaker **Juan Antonio Bayona**, painter **Lita Cabellut**, actress **Núria Espert** and sculptor **Jaume Plensa**.

The **Doctors’ Senate**, currently comprising 1,673 members, awarded the **27th Doctors’ Senate Prize ex aequo** to Dr Anna Garcia Serra, for her thesis *Investigations in animal models of anti-NMDAR encephalitis*, and to Dr Enrique Torres Roig, for his thesis *Vertebrats postmessinians de Mallorca i Eivissa (Illes Balears, Mediterrània occidental): descripció, origen i extinció d’espècies* (Post-Messinian vertebrates of Mallorca and Ibiza (Balearic Islands, western Mediterranean): description, origin and extinction of species). In addition, the 11th awards of the University **Doctors’ Senate** and **Board of Trustees** for the best scientific and humanistic dissemination activities went to Dr Francesc Xavier Giménez Font, lecturer in the Department of Materials Science and Physical Chemistry of the Faculty of Chemistry.

The panel of judges for the 19th **Board of Trustees Awards** presented the **José Manuel Blecua Award** to Dr Sergi Ferrer Juan and the **Ramon Margalef Award** to Dr Adrià Gràcia Condal. As for the 16th edition of awards organized with the Bosch i Gimpera



Núria Sara Miras Boronat and Antoni Segura i Mas received awards for their books *Filòsofes de la contemporaneïtat* and *El món d’avui*, respectively.

Foundation, the **Antoni Caparrós Award** was bestowed on doctors Hibai López González, for the project *Debunking gambling myths via Instagram* and Antoni Ibarz Valls for the project *Non-invasive study of fish condition and response to possible food additives using epidermal mucus biomarkers*; and the **Senén Vilaró Award** for the best innovative company went to Gate2Brain.

During this academic year, over sixty bachelor’s degree **graduation ceremonies** were held, and **special academic achievement awards** were presented to outstanding **bachelor’s, master’s and doctoral students**. A recognition ceremony was also held for **technical, management, administrative and service staff who have worked at the UB for 25 years** and for UB teaching staff retiring this year. This academic year for the first time an insignia was awarded to **teaching and research staff who have taught at the University of Barcelona** for more than 40 years.

Among the **awards and distinctions** bestowed upon the lecturers and researchers from the university community in the 2023-2024 academic year, those listed in the table below are especially noteworthy.

Xavier Ros, professor at the Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science, won the **María Andresa**

Award or distinction	Awardees
Vicens Vives Prize for university teaching quality	Pere Serra
Serra d’Or Critics Prize	Lola Badia
Jaume I Award for biomedical research	Xavier Trepàt
Narcís Monturiol Medal for Scientific and Technological Merit	Jordi Alberch, Anna Alberno and Petia Radeva
Honoris Causa from the University of Montpellier	Joan Guàrdia
Premi Meienhofer	Fernando Albericio
L’Oréal-UNESCO for women in science award	Adriana Isabel Figueroa
Joan Lluís Vives Prize for the best book in the arts and humanities of 2024	Núria Sara Miras Boronat
Joan Lluís Vives Prize for the best social science book of 2024	Antoni Segura i Mas



## GUIDED TOURS

147 tours of the Historic Building, 3 of the Pedro i Pons Estate and 13 of the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences at the Clínic Campus

3,632 attendees

**Casamayor National Youth Research Award** of the Ministry of Science, Innovation and Universities and received a grant from the **European Research Council** for funding of 1.6 million euros. The researcher Meritxell Rovira was awarded the **CRIS Excellence Award** from the CRIS Cancer Foundation, and Cristina Rivera Garza, a researcher at the Faculty of Philology and Communication, won the **Pulitzer Prize** – awarded annually by Columbia University – in the Memoir category for her book *Liliana’s Invin-cible Summer: A Sister’s Search for Justice*.

At the institutional level, the European Commission recognized the University of Barcelona’s contribution to the **Erasmus Mundus** programme, which recently celebrated its 20th anniversary. The award acknowledges the University of Barcelona’s strong and sustained commitment to the initiative. The UB was also recognized for its contribution to promoting physical activity and healthy lifestyle habits at the **BeActive Awards** put on by the Spanish National Sports Council. Five UB faculties and schools received the **Severo Ochoa Award**, and 12 UB members received awards from the **ICREA Academia Programme**, making the UB the largest grant recipient in the programme.

The **guided tour service** offered a total of 179 activities during 2023-2024 to 3,632 participants: of these, 147 took place in the Historic Building; 13 in the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences on the Clínic Campus; 8 on the Bellvitge Campus; 3 on the Pedro i Pons Estate, and 8 combined between the Antoni

Tàpies Foundation and the Historic Building, within the framework of the Tàpies Year 2024.

A new inter-institutional **infrastructure** cooperation agreement was signed to create the future University of Barcelona Diagonal Clínic Campus, a municipal hospital concept that represents one of Catalonia’s most ambitious strategic projects for the next decade. The Barcelona Science Park will also be a cornerstone of the Diagonal Health Axis and is set to become a leading European hub in the field of life sciences.

One of the **heritage research and dissemination projects**, the **feminist virtual tour of the UB Historic Building**, was published, and work continued on the second volume of the **University of Barcelona’s catalogue of paintings**. In addition, the academic year saw the completion of a series of high-impact projects, such as the inauguration of the **Phonetics Museum**, which houses a collection of scientific instruments from the Eugenio Martínez Celdrán Phonetics Laboratory, the publication of the museum’s collection in the UB’s Virtual Museum and the opening of the exhibit *Dels laberints de l’ànima a les llums de la ment. Figures clau en la història de la psicologia* (From the labyrinths of the soul to the lights of the mind: Key figures in the history of psychology), a permanent exhibit at the Faculty of Psychology.

Also this year, the UB took part in the First National Meeting of University Heritage Collections in Valencia with the aim of forming a network of Spanish uni-



Jaume Plensa’s *Arrels* (‘Roots’) on display in the main vestibule of the Historic Building.

versities with cultural heritage. And the UB took part in two meetings of the Advisory Committee on Cultural Heritage, a collegiate body of the University of Barcelona for issues related to collections and cultural heritage. At the meetings, topics of interest to UB collections were discussed and actions agreed upon.

In terms of artistic heritage, highlights include the inauguration of the work *Arrels* (Roots) by Jaume Plensa, which will be on display in the foyer of the UB Historical Building over the next few years, and the permanent artistic installation by Àlex Nogué in the Clock Tower, which can be viewed on a guided tour. Also of note is the transfer of two drawings by Josep Obiols and one by Joan Llimona, which are now on display in the rooms of the UB Historic Building.

For the celebration of the Diada de Sant Jordi in 2024, a 2024 **Sant Jordi poster** was published from a design by Lola Lasurt, a lecturer in the Faculty of Fine Arts.

Lastly, the **University of Barcelona Virtual Museum** (MVUB) continued to expand its content, with 12 entries on the MVUB blog and six 3D pieces.

Of note in the area of **temporary exhibits**, the UB Historic Building hosted the exhibit “Alfonso X e Galicia”, a joint project with the Galician Culture Centre, which was complemented by several concurrent activities inside and outside the University, including lectures, concerts and an exhibition of medieval Galician musical instruments. Other exhibitions

in the UB Historic Building include “Women of Mathematics throughout Europe: a Gallery of Portraits”; “Enciclopèdia de dones STEAM” (Encyclopaedia of STEAM Women) on women researchers, science and technology; and “Future foodscapes”, featuring art projects based on future scenarios on the subject of food as medicine.

Measures in the area of **conservation and restoration of historical heritage**, included the reupholstering of the benches in the auditorium, completing a process that began in 2022, and the refurbishment of the gallery of deans and distinguished professors in the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences on the Clínic Campus.

A series of **cultural events** were held throughout the academic year, such as the 50th anniversary of **Pau Casals’** death, for which the University and the Pau Casals Foundation organized a commemorative event, and **Tàpies Year**, for which the UB collaborated with the Tàpies Museum to organize a combined tour of the Montaner y Simón publishing house (the current site of the museum, designed by Lluís Domènech i Montaner) and in the Historical Building of the University, designed by Elies Rogent. In addition, on 1 November, the centennial of the birth of **Victòria dels Àngels** was celebrated with an event that included a concert by the Victoria de los Ángeles Symphony Orchestra.

The fourth major event was the commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the birth of the sculptor and





lecturer of the Faculty of Fine Arts **Lluïsa Granero i Sierra**, the first woman to be appointed professor of sculpture in Spain, in 1964. Science seminars were held at the Faculty of Fine Arts, as well as an institutional event in the Auditorium of the Historic Building to mark the occasion, accompanied by an exhibition of the sculpture *Bust de noia* (Bust of a girl), a work by Granero from 1944, which was on display for two months in the main staircase of the Historic Building. At the same time, an exhibition devoted to her career and life was also published on the UB Virtual Museum.

One of the highlights of the University's **historical memory projects** was the lecture given by UB professor and researcher Queralt Solé, who spoke about her experiences as head of the research project to identify the remains of people buried in the Basilica of Cuelgamuros during the Franco dictatorship, which are currently being reclaimed by their relatives. In the same spirit of reclaiming historical and democratic memory, the film *Salvador (Puig Antich)* was shown as part of the six days of commemorative events organized by the La Model cultural centre, followed by a colloquium, to mark the 50th anniversary of the execution of the activist on 2 March 1974.

In **music and performing arts**, the **36th Season of Music at the University** scheduled 16 concerts held in the Paranymph Hall of the Historic Building, with a total of 16 musical groups from the UB and other schools and institutions participating. The three traditional Christmas concerts featuring the University

of Barcelona Orchestra, Cor UB and the Schola Cantorum Universitaria Barcinonensis merit special mention.

The second **Night of Music at the UB** was held during the academic year, a six-hour musical marathon in the Historic Building's most emblematic spaces, in which a dozen musical groups took part from different music schools in Catalonia, as well as the UB Orchestra and the UB Choir. This year, the Catalonia College of Music Jam Session joined the celebration.

The programme of the **13th Season of Contemporary Dance at the University of Barcelona**, entitled "Urban Dances", presented three dance and choreographic performances, mainly originating in larger cities, in the Aula Magna of the Historic Building.

Participation in the 3rd Biennial University Theatre Festival of the Vives Network of Universities served to strengthen the **UB Theatre Group**. The play presented was *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, which received recognition for best adaptation and staging, best sound design and best stage design.

The **Poetry Group** organized several conferences, talks, presentations and poetry readings in the Faculty of Philology and Communication, including the reading and round table *Desfent els murs: poesia escrita per dones* (Undoing the walls: poetry written by women) as part of World Poetry Day, and the conference entitled *Jaime Siles: poètica i poesia (1969-2024)* (Jaime Siles: poetics and poetry: 1969-2024) led by



*Dones? Homes? Sexe, gènere i biologia*, by Jordi Casanova i Roca, was awarded the Joan Lluís Vives Prize for best science and technology book of 2024.

Siles himself, a renowned poet, philologist, literary critic, translator and professor of philology.

Application of the **University of Barcelona's Corporate Identity Manual** was also monitored to ensure the coherence of the University's public image and the correct use of its brand in the different communication media in accordance with the manual's graphic guidelines.

As part of its commitment to sustainability, the UB's official **merchandising** programme offered environmentally friendly products, including products made from organic cotton and recycled plastic (rPET). This year saw the opening of the new UB Shop in the Historic Building, with twice as much space for displaying products and improved access for people with reduced mobility. Revenue was 190,502 euros, an increase of 18% over the previous year. The main sales channels were orders placed with UB services and departments at 44%, followed by the UB Shop at 41%. The online shop was the third most-used sales channel, which saw an increase of 36% with 243 orders, 85 of which were international (especially Europe and America). For the first time, sales to the UB community (students and UB staff) exceeded sales to outsiders, indicating a stronger sense of belonging to the university.

The UB's in-house publisher, **Edicions de la Universitat de Barcelona**, has released more than two hundred print and electronic publications, including institutional books, teaching manuals, scientific dis-

semination, journals and monographs drawing on research carried out by the University's teaching staff. The collections that have received the academic publishing seal of quality – awarded by the Union of Spanish University Publishers (UNE) and endorsed by the National Agency for Quality Assessment and Accreditation of Spain (ANECA) and the Spanish Foundation for Science and Technology (FECYT) – are the following: "Barcino. Monographica Orientalia", "Estudis d'Antropologia Social i Cultural", "Instrumenta" "Pedagogies UB" and "Singularitats. The monography *Filòsofes de la contemporaneïtat* by Núria Salas Miras Boronat has also obtained the academic publishing seal of quality. In addition to the awards mentioned on p. 31, the sixth edition of the Joan Lluís Vives Awards recognized *Dones? Homes? Sexe, gènere i biologia*, by Jordi Casanova i Roca, for the best science and technology book.

To promote its work in the area of publishing, the University has taken part in 16 national and international fairs, including Catalan Book Week, the Madrid Book Fair, the Liber International Book Fair, the International Book Fair of Guadalajara (Mexico), the International Book Fair of Bogotá (Colombia), and the Frankfurt Book Fair. It has also organized 50 book presentations, held at a variety of bookstores and institutions, and continued its annual involvement in the book fairs held to mark the Diada de Sant Jordi.





A study on Andalusian immigration to the Barceloneta district won the 19th University of Barcelona Peace Research Award.

## UB SOLIDARITY FOUNDATION

16 international projects,  
6 of them in development  
cooperation.

122,192 direct  
beneficiaries

## • Commitment to society

**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.

The UB's service learning group has been working since 2013 to consolidate, disseminate and extend service learning throughout the University. This academic year, the UB fostered the teaching and learning of social commitment through the creation of the new **UB Chair on Service Learning**, the result of an agreement with the Fèlix Llobet Nicolau Foundation. This academic year, the first award for the best bachelor's and master's degree final projects written as part of a service learning project was announced, and an award is planned for the best doctoral theses written in cooperation with tertiary sector stakeholders. In addition to holding working days and workshops, plans for a living laboratory with social organizations were discussed this year, as well as the organization of a fair to raise awareness of service learning.

Almost all UB faculties offer the possibility of participating in service learning projects; in fact, over thirty bachelor's degrees currently offer these opportunities. Service learning projects include activities in different spheres of knowledge: from accompanying people with disabilities or homeless people to getting involved in local environmental improvement projects or finding ways to make learning fun for secondary school students, as part of the "Sharing ideas: The University Goes to School" initiative.

In addition, the first **subject** entirely dedicated to Service Learning, Engagement and Social Transformation was launched during the academic year with 25 students from 11 different degree programmes enrolled. Specifically, they were tasked with tackling some of the problems around the beach of the Tres Xemeneies industrial complex of Sant Adrià del Besòs, a seaside area closed due to pollution. To this end, students of fine arts, nursing, social work, pharmacy, food science and technology, biology, biochemistry, biotechnology, biomedical sciences, sociology and environmental sciences joined forces to become involved in the organizations supporting the cause.

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

nities, professional growth and other advantages. Over the course of the academic year, a total of 10,167 members organized 74 activities in different fields of knowledge, which were attended by 1,452 people (1,330 Alumni UB members), and 44 activities related to professional careers (1,003 new graduates made use of the professional development service). This year the UB Careers Centre was used by 1,095 **companies** to announce national and international job offers.

This year, a new edition of the **University Extension Courses for Senior Citizens** continued to promote cultural and scientific dissemination through lectures – both face-to-face and online – and seminars on subjects including history, art, literature, science and opera. The theatre group remained active and, for the third year running, the results of the poetry workshop were brought to life with the publication of a compilation of the work of the participants. This year, there were 3,271 members (74% women).

For yet another year, the **Solidarity Foundation** continued to organize activities for education in global citizenship and volunteering, development cooperation, promotion of human rights, inclusion and refuge, and the defence of democratic memory and peace. Some of the highlights of these efforts include the UB Volunteering programme, projects focused on natural solutions for sustainable development, courses for people at risk of exclusion, the enrolment of students lacking socio-economic resources, and socio-educational interventions in highly complex neighbourhoods or schools.

The **UB Volunteering** programme maintained two priority areas of work: the publication and dissemination of calls for volunteers from private non-profit organizations and from UB volunteer groups themselves. Fifty-three calls for volunteers were published from 25 different organizations, including the Fundació Solidaritat itself, in which 69 people participated as volunteers and from which 294 users benefited. The UB's own volunteer groups, linked to training and research projects in different UB faculties, units and programmes, worked on projects like the Law Clinic run by the Faculty of Law, using the service-learning formula; the Community project, focusing on social and sports meetings with refugees for cultural exchange, and the language partners project to support the social inclusion of recent arrivals through the learning of Catalan and Spanish, within the framework of the UB Support Programme for Refugees and People from Conflict Areas.

In the context of **global citizenship education**, this year the 19th Award for Peace Research was presented for upper-secondary school research projects, and the 5th Sustainability and Human Rights Poster Awards were held. Work continued in secondary schools in Barcelona to promote the integration of global citizenship education into the curriculum through support for teachers.

In the area of **international development cooperation**, four projects were completed this year: IN-OWASIA, a project to create innovative training pathways on waste water management at six univer-





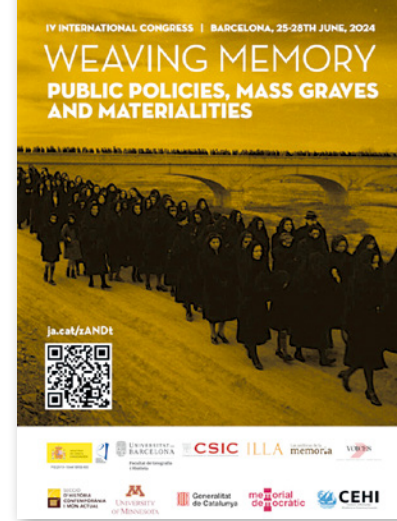
sities in Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam; the project to assess existing practices and develop pathways for effective integration of nature-based water treatment in urban areas in Sri Lanka, the Philippines and Vietnam; EdiCitNet (Edible Cities Network, Horizon 2020), to implement and evaluate nature-based solutions for the transition to food-producing, sustainable and socially resilient cities; and Empowerment, Advocacy, Innovation and Climate Change of Palestinian women's cooperatives in collaboration with the Catalan Association for Peace (ACP), the Palestinian Farmers' Union (PFU) and the Palestinian Technical University Kadoorie Tulkarem (PTUK). With the same institutions, the project Agricultural Innovation, Climate Change and Farmers' Rights in Palestine began in 2024 through women's cooperatives and international partnerships between universities, which will continue to train women farmers' cooperatives in hydroponic farming.

The environment and sustainable water management are also central to the international cooperation project Good Governance and Citizen Participation for a Sustainable City in Richard Toll, which the University of Barcelona, the University of Girona and three Senegalese universities are promoting in northern Senegal. And, within the framework of sustainable water management, the UB Solidarity Foundation is a partner in two European projects: Life4ZOO (Management of water resources in visitor attractions: FIT4USE water recirculation technology), with sponsorship from the Technical University of Liberec (Czech Republic) and the zoos of Liberec and Barcelona, and SOLLAGUA,

sponsored by a consortium of ten organizations and co-financed by the Interreg Sudoe programme, with the aim of promoting water reuse in three rural communities in Portugal, Spain and France.

In another area of international cooperation, the MOMKIN project (Youth and Creativity for Peace and the Prevention of Violent Conflicts in the Maghreb), of which the UB Solidarity Foundation is a partner along with the NOVACT Institute for Non-Violence and the University of Carthage, is under way in Tunisia and in the Saharawi refugee camps. Closer to home, the UB Solidarity Foundation and the UB Research Group on Social Exclusion and Control are sponsoring the project *(Tr)african(t)s: museus i col·leccions de Catalunya davant la colonialitat* ((Tr)african(t)s:museums and collections of Catalonia in the context of colonialism), which critically reviews colonial heritage in Catalonia's public museums.

As part of the UB's **Support Programme for Refugees and People from Conflict Areas**, since it first began in 2016, the Transition to University Studies Course has already welcomed 75 students recognized as refugees. The project has been recognized by the Spanish Committee of the United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR) as the only initiative in Spain that implements complementary and safe routes for refuge through study visas. The call for grants for the sixth edition of the course opened in May 2024, aimed at ten students who are refugees or in comparable situations; half of them have been reserved for students from Palestine, with priority given to women.



The University of Barcelona's volunteer project Àgora promotes training for mature-age students.

Within the scope of this programme, the UB Solidarity Foundation is a partner in the STEAMigPOWER, Include Me+, Food Includes and SMILE projects (which closed at the end of 2023); it is also part of the Community project (as mentioned above, which also ended in 2023), and continues to participate in the Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion of the CHARM-EU alliance.

Finally, in the sphere of **democratic memory**, the European Observatory of Memory (EUROM), based at the UB Solidarity Foundation, sponsored some thirty activities, including the *Rap per la memòria* educational project for secondary school students, the Ruta a l'Exili summer camp, the Subaltern Memories conferences, the international conference Repairing the Past: Historic Justice and Colonialism and the international seminars Taking Stock of European Memory Policies. EUROM also participates in the Transatlantic Racial Reparations Network, dedicated to mapping and advocating reparations for individuals or groups who suffer or have suffered historical injustices based on race; the FORCED project, on the history and memory of Portuguese and Spanish forced labourers under National Socialism; the REMEMCHILD project, on childhood memory in times of European wars; and the My City through Time (MCT) project, which explores cities such as Barcelona through historical and civic education.

For its part, the CRAI cooperated with a range of different **social organizations and agencies**, like the Catalan Federation of Social Volunteering, which

hosted the exhibition “Imatges de cura. Voluntariat i salut” (Images of care: Volunteering and health); the Plataforma Aprofitem els Aliments, from which it hosted the exhibition entitled “Menja't el malbaratament” (Eat the waste); the Tallers Foundation, in the job placement project Singulars: joves amb moltes Kpacitats! and the cultural association **Llibre Viu**, to give a new life to books. During the year, seven people from the job integration programme Treballs en benefici de la comunitat (Jobs for the benefit of the community), of the Catalan Ministry of Justice, Rights and Memory were welcomed in different libraries of the CRAI.

In addition, the Bellvitge Campus CRAI Library made a financial contribution to the NeuroBell programme of the Bellvitge Biomedical Research Institute (IDIBELL) and to Doctors Without Borders, based on voluntary donations from users who borrowed materials from the library. The proceeds from the production and sale of bookmarks were donated to Doctors Without Borders, the Arrels Fundació, the Association of Relatives and Friends of Oncological Children of Catalonia (AFANOC) and Open Arms. In addition, several CRAI libraries took part in the Taps Solidaris project of the ForçAME Association, for research into spinal muscular atrophy.

In parallel, the CRAI has participated **in institutions and projects for the dissemination of history, science and culture**, such as the educational project Ruta a l'Exili to bring recent Spanish history to new generations using an interactive approach, the



## UB CHAIRS AND MINOR CHAIRS

63 chairs and 4 minor chairs €2.1m of associated revenue

interuniversity reading club Lletres Compartides a la Uni!, organized by the Vives University Network and the Catalan Institution of Letters, the campaign #1Lib1Ref, in which CRAI staff have added bibliographic references to Wikipedia articles, and the Wikimarató. It also collaborated with the Spanish National Museum of Science and Technology (MUNCYT) through the Collections Network; the Catalan Mathematics Society in the dissemination of articles; and the Nippon Foundation in the framework of the Read Japan project, which donated monographs for dissemination. It also hosted the exhibition “Funerary art in Catalan medicine: A walk through the cemeteries of Barcelona”, coordinated by the Clínic Campus CRAI Library.

To facilitate the pursuit of external funding through projects, contracts and agreements with public and private bodies, and to promote the relationship with society, 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. At present, the UB has 63 active chairs (including a UNESCO chair and two Jean Monnet chairs) and four minor chairs divided across 15 faculties. In 2023, total revenue associated with UB chairs and minor chairs was 2,068,916 euros.

The University’s fund-raising efforts in the area of **sponsorship and patronage** continued in 2023-

2024 with the same three lines of action: the first is to foster a sense of belonging; the second is to develop the link with the University; and the third is to develop a plan of campaigns and actions to generate financial resources. This tremendous effort is led by the Alumni office, which has managed the crowdfunding campaigns of the Mecenas UB platform and has directed a specific communication campaign to Alumni members to inform them about sponsorship at the UB.

**The crowdfunding campaign Apadrina un Llibre** (Sponsor a book) was launched again this year. In the 4th edition and with the commemoration of the 20th anniversary of the CRAI, it achieved an impressive increase in donations compared to previous editions. This joint undertaking demonstrates the consolidated support of the university community and society in general for the restoration of the works stored in UB’s CRAI library historical archive.



## Entrepreneurship and innovation

**StartUB!**, the University of Barcelona’s institute for innovation and entrepreneurship, continued to maintain its commitment to the development of entrepreneurial potential and innovation. Thus, it worked to offer quality training and comprehensive support to the UB community, with the mission of inspiring a transformative and impactful culture of inclusive, sustainable and innovative entrepreneurship at the University.

The objectives of StartUB! are to promote innovation and entrepreneurship among all UB groups (students, teaching and research staff, and technical, management, and administrative and service staff); to coordinate the promotion, visibility and dissemination of both technological and social innovation and entrepreneurship that arises in the University community; to coordinate the activities of the UB’s innovation and entrepreneurship centres, and to organize activities of interest across schools and faculties.

Its activities align with four major **areas of focus**: promoting entrepreneurship training throughout the UB community; supporting the creation of companies by incubating ideas and start-ups and providing guidance for entrepreneurs; generating knowledge through research in entrepreneurship; and fostering collaboration with the entrepreneurial ecosystem.



A team of UB students won a gold medal at the iGEM synthetic biology competition.

Several **entrepreneurship training** activities took place during the year linked to self-discovery, such as Innovation Day; the Explorer and Akademia programmes; training activities, such as the Innovation Toolkit; and numerous other actions including workshops and contests.

The challenge posed for the first **Innovation Day** in 2023-2024 was health challenges, and the event was held in 33 European educational centres. Nearly 150 participants took part in the 9th edition held in November. They were tasked with responding to challenges such as avoiding food waste, improving the experience of menstruating women and adapting work environments to the new generations. The 10th edition, held in May, also enjoyed the participation of about 150 people and focused on sustainability. In this case, those who took part had to respond to challenges formulated by the UB Danone Healthy and Sustainable Food Chair (to educate others about the importance of probiotics and microbiota for health), the UB COIB





UB spin-off Nimble Diagnostics is recognised as the best deep tech start-up at the second Barcelona Deep Tech Summit.

## ENTREPRENEURSHIP ACTIVITIES

60

projects incubated at StartUB!

380

hours of entrepreneurship mentoring

16

start-ups created

## PEOPLE TRAINED IN INNOVATION AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

1,297

students

70

members of PDI and PTGAS

Nursing Chair (to improve the societal recognition of the contribution of nurses) and the European Urban Agenda Smart City Classroom, in which Telefónica participates (to respond to the challenges posed in SDG 11 in Barcelona).

Twenty projects participated in the two editions of the **Explorer programme** held during the year. This is a twelve-week programme in which participants work on their own idea in order to transform it into a solution that contributes to the achievement of the SDGs. In addition, as part of the **Akademia programme**, aimed at students from different universities, an eight-session online course was held to analyse and apply future trends such as artificial intelligence and quantum computing.

The launch of the **Innovation Toolkit** merits special attention. It is a tool for anyone without prior knowledge or training in innovation or entrepreneurship to help them apply sustainable innovation through a guided process. Several activities were organized using this method, including UBring, with workshops and personalized mentoring; the 10alamos9 Festival, aimed at first-year secondary school students; and a specific workshop to create the communication plan for the new Faculty of Nursing. Training was also offered for teaching and research staff to use the tool and it was shared with the teaching staff at the professors of the State University of Campinas and the Pontifical Catholic University of Campinas, both in Brazil.



StartUB! participated in the Mobile World Congress.

In addition, to encourage creativity among the university community, the **first StartUB! Short Story Contest** was launched and several **round tables were organized with entrepreneurs** as part of the welcome sessions and fairs hosted in UB faculties.

Also in the sphere of training, and in relation to **creation**, specific courses were organized during the academic year, like a course on **personal data protection in entrepreneurship**, in which participants had the opportunity to analyse the latest regulations. Several different programmes also took place, such as the scientific communication and dissemination programme **Emprèn FCRI-UB!**, which, in collaboration with the Catalan Foundation for Research and Innovation, supported five entrepreneurs in the scientific communication sector. The **Consolidat** programme, aimed at self-employed workers and microenterprises, offered 80 hours of training and 488 hours of mentoring to 38 workers, while 25 students participated in the 7th edition of the programme **From Science to the Market**, aimed at the transfer and promotion of scientific entrepreneurship for university PhDs and doctoral students.

In the framework of StartUB!'s second line of action, **support for the creation and growth of compa-**

**nies**, the StartUB! Lab was launched as an innovation hub and as a tool for incubating projects. The initiative involved several different activities, including **personalized mentoring** for more than 60 entrepreneurial projects and the participation of StartUB! in the **Mobile World Congress**, where the UB had a stand including 16 places for start-ups and spin-offs of the Bosch i Gimpera Foundation (FBG), in order to give international visibility to the projects. The **3rd StartUB! Investment Forum** was also held in coordination with the FBG, in which 12 start-ups took part (10 from the University of Barcelona). During the Forum, start-ups with the greatest scalability and with the highest impact as well as the most innovative new companies received the awards for 2023. In addition, with the collaboration of the Euro-Mediterranean Economists Association (EMEA), a summer school was organized at StartUB! for entrepreneurs from North Africa, in which 27 participants took part in training sessions, in addition to several visits and personalized mentoring.

**StartUB!**  
UNIVERSITAT DE BARCELONA





2

# A university at the forefront of education

Course offering

Other academic opportunities

Student support

Teaching innovation, assessment and improvement



# A university at the forefront of education



44,974 STUDENTS in 72 bachelor's degree courses (including affiliated centres)

## Course offering

In the academic year 2023-2024, the UB offered 72 **bachelor's degrees** and received 17,514 **first-preference applications** for 10,883 places, putting the demand ratio for places at 1.6. The highest numbers of first-preference applications were received for Medicine at the Medicine Campus-Hospital Cl nic (1,668), Psychology (1,167), Business Administration and Management (1,013), Nursing-Bellvitge Campus (811), Dentistry (784) and Law (774). In total, 41,078 bachelor's degree students enrolled at UB schools and faculties (the figure also includes students enrolling in the UB-specific degree in Private Investigation) and 10,313 have enrolled for the first time, in addition to a further 3,896 who enrolled at affiliated faculties and schools.

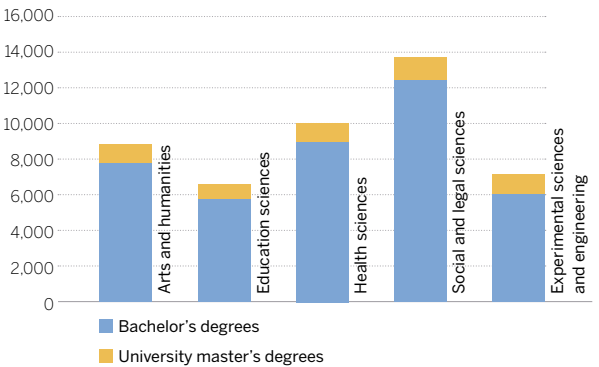
The University also offered 172 **university master's degrees**, of which 75 were interuniversity degrees and 25 were coordinated by the UB. A total of 5,679 students enrolled at UB-specific faculties and schools and 462 students at affiliated centres. Of these, the courses that attracted the highest enrolment were the master's degrees in Teacher Training in Obligatory Secondary and Upper Secondary School Education, Vocational Training and Languages (491); Women, Gender and Citizenship (200) and Law (136). Of the total number of students who enrolled (including those from affiliated faculties and schools), 2,214 (36.1%) are from outside of Spain: mainly from Latin America, China and (within Europe) Italy. Teaching in foreign languages was also strengthened, particularly at master's degree level, where 23% of instruction was in English.

A total of 7,236 bachelor's degree students and 27 UB-specific degree students **graduated** from UB faculties, while 3,238 university master's degrees were awarded. **Special academic achievement awards** for courses completed in the academic year 2022-2023 were given to 212 bachelor's degree students and 103 university master's degree students.

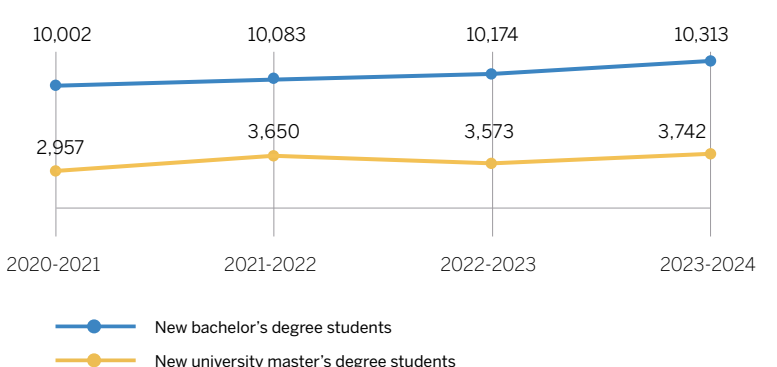
**The accreditation of UB degree programmes**, a process which began in the 2014-2015 academic year, has resulted in five bachelor's degree courses being assessed and accredited by 2023, one of which was rated as 'progressing towards excellence'. In total, 60 degrees are accredited, 13 with excellence. In addition, the UB now has 120 accredited master's degrees, 22 of which are rated as excellent.

In 2024, five faculties and schools received external accreditation visits, during which four bachelor's degrees and five master's degrees were evaluated. Also during the academic year 2023-2024, in the first stage of the accreditation process, the Faculty of Earth Sciences was awarded a certificate for the implementation of its internal quality assurance system (IQAS) from the Catalan University Quality Assurance Agency (AQU Catalunya). The second phase is currently underway. If institutional accreditation is granted by the Council of Universities during this stage, the accreditation of all the Faculty's bachelor's and master's degrees will be renewed for a period of six years, at which time accreditation can again be renewed. In addition, the Faculty of Philology and Communication is currently finalizing the IQAS cer-

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	Lifelong learning master's degrees	Specialization courses	Advanced university courses	Expert courses	Microcredentials	Total
Arts and Humanities	37	80	246	10	0	373
Social and Legal Sciences	1,114	343	220	245	0	1,922
Experimental Sciences and Engineering	84	0	210	88	0	382
Health Sciences	2,407	605	481	331	0	3,824
Education Sciences	178	203	51	179	0	611
Institute of Professional Development (IDP)	54	60	5	0	0	119
Institute for Lifelong Learning (IL3-UB)	2,737	620	46	81	70	3,554
Affiliated centres	63	80	78	117	24	362
Total	6,674	1,991	1,337	1,051	94	11,147
% women	67.7	71.9	62.6	62.6	44.7	67.2



A COMMITMENT TO INTERNATIONALIZATION

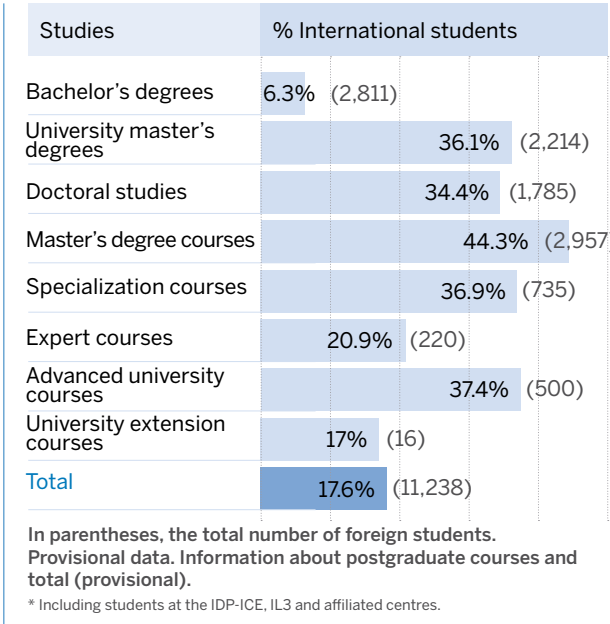
36% of university master's students are international

tification process to become eligible to later apply for institutional accreditation. The University of Barcelona currently has a total of six accredited faculties and schools, a number that will have increased to eight by the end of 2024.

Subject content was also updated this year to allow students to gain **transferable skills related to the SDGs** in eight bachelor's degree subjects.

UB lifelong learning courses served numerous members of the community during the academic year: 345

International scope of the student body\*



**lifelong learning master's degrees** were offered to 6,674 students, 162 **specialization diplomas** to 1,991 students, 158 **university courses and advanced diplomas** to 1,337 students, 95 **expert courses** to 1,051 participants and 7 **micro-credentials** to 94 students (provisional data). The high number of international students (40% of the total) underscores the strong degree of internationalization that continues to characterize postgraduate studies. In addition, one master's degree, one specialization diploma and one advanced university course were approved for delivery in other countries.

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. Campaigns were also conducted in general and specialist education media to raise awareness and attract students to bachelor's and master's degree programmes (also in Latin America), to the courses offered by the School of Modern Languages, the School of Hispanic Studies, and the University of Experience, and to events such as the Night of Music and the season of talks on Ukrainian culture.

In addition, improvements were made to the University of Barcelona's **institutional welcome messages** at the beginning of the academic year. Not only were emails sent to all the secondary school students accepted to the UB, a welcome event was also held in the UB's Historic Building, which featured an immersive virtual reality game and was attended by 300 students.

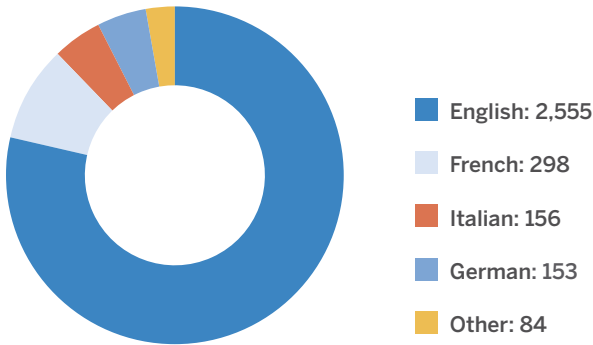
COMMITMENT TO LANGUAGE LEARNING AND CERTIFICATION

3,246 students enrolled at the EIM

The **new SocUB personal space** was also introduced this year, a unique digital environment to improve communication and access to services for students. The space also serves as a student intranet accessible via the **SocUB** mobile application or the UB website. Since its launch in May, the app has attracted nearly 48,000 users, with email, timetables, student IDs and academic records being the most frequently accessed features.

The academic year 2023-2024 also ushered in the first phase of the **CRM tool** for recruiting students for university master's programmes, lifelong learning master's programmes and postgraduate programmes. CRM streamlines pre-enrolment campaigns, quickly collects data and enables it to be processed for decision-making. Surveys were published in student interest forms to collect data from prospective students, and automated notifications were sent to them to help them with pre-enrolment.

Students enrolled in courses at the EIM



Other academic opportunities

The **School of Modern Languages (EIM)**, Catalonia's oldest university language school, offered courses to 3,246 students in a variety of formats: face-to-face, blended learning, by video conference and fully online. A total of 1,323 candidates sat the 25 EIM and Cambridge Assessment language accreditation exams.

Through the EIM, the University of Barcelona administered a **second-language level test** for all first-year bachelor's degree students, as established in the Plan to Improve Foreign Language Skills in the Catalan University System of the Catalan Ministry of Research and Universities. English was the top language chosen for the test (84%) and the average level was between B1 and B2 (36%).

In addition, the School of Modern Languages accredited several language teaching centres, located in 17 municipalities throughout Catalonia, to ensure the quality of English language instruction, and 29 new English teachers were certified after obtaining the CELTA and DELTA qualifications from the University of Cambridge. Lastly, the EIM's Department of Language Teacher Training put on the 8th Multilingual Conference, the ELTRIA (ELT Research in Action) Conference and three workshops

The **Hispanic Studies** unit has been active for over 70 years and is in charge of courses in Spanish lan-





guage and culture for students at the UB. It also offers Spanish revision and translation services for specialized texts, as well as training for foreign teaching and administrative staff. Over the course of the academic year, a team of 22 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. Erasmus+ scholarship holders studying at the UB were offered intensive Spanish courses as part of their training. Courses in business, communication and society were also made available.

In conjunction with the Cervantes Institute, the Institute of Hispanic Studies oversaw 10 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 3,440 students enrolled in Spanish language and culture courses, 1,134 students sat DELE examinations and 1,510 people took the CCSE examination. The number of students and the number of courses offered has increased due to relationships with new universities, mostly in the Americas.

In addition, the Hispanic Studies programme welcomed students from the bachelor's degree in Communication and the Culture Industry and the university master's degrees in Spanish as a Foreign Language in Professional Contexts and in Training of Teachers



of Spanish as a Foreign Language, as part of the placement agreements with the University of La Rioja (UNIR) and the Distance-Learning University of Madrid (UDIMA).

Catalan language training provided by the UB's **Language Services** consists of annual, half-yearly and intensive summer courses in different modalities (including the Government of Catalonia's online programme Parla.cat) and at all levels. The courses are officially recognized and carry ECTS credits. A total of 116 courses were offered to 2,069 students; in the academic year 2023-2024, as part of the implementation of the UB's Catalan Language and Cultural Orientation Plan, the range of intensive courses for beginners at the start of each semester (primarily aimed at incoming exchange students) was expanded to a total of 49 A1-level courses, with 845 enrolments; and 9 A2-level courses, with 208 enrolments

Within the framework of the Catalan Interuniversity Commission for Language Training and Certification (CIFALC), open exams were offered for teaching and research staff and other members of the university community for the fourth consecutive year. Language training support for UB staff was also provided through seven specific and seven focused language courses offered to technical, management, administration and service staff, and eight specific courses were given for C1-level accreditation for teaching and research staff (with 129 participants), five information sessions were held, and one extraordinary official exam was held in addition to



the three ordinary ones. Two-hundred and eighty-one people registered for these exams. Six specific courses for level B2 certification were also offered to teaching and research staff (with 127 participants) and two ordinary official exam sessions were offered, in which 72 people participated.

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 degrees Teacher in Early Childhood Education and Teacher in Primary Education was maintained, with personalized tutoring and six language workshops.

In order to promote multilingualism in the university community, the online self-learning programme "Multi-lingualize with Rosetta Stone" continued to be offered, with 1,168 people enrolled (728 ordinary enrolments and 440 within the PDI training plan). In addition, the self-access language learning centres promoted informal peer-to-peer activities in different languages; specifically, a total of 115 conversation groups were organized with 504 participants.

Informal Catalan language learning activities included a language exchange programme for international students, with 504 participants and 13 languages exchanged with Catalan, while CATclub had 474 new participants in its 19 scheduled activities. Thirty-two language orientation sessions were also held for international students upon their arrival in

Students enrolled in other course types

	Students
Els Juliols: summer courses	746
School of Modern Languages	3,246
Hispanic Studies	3,440
Gaudir UB courses	4,352
Language Services: Catalan language courses	2,069
Language Services: Occitan language courses	29
University of Experience	2,151
Language certification exams	Examinations
School of Modern Languages: foreign languages	1,323
Hispanic Studies: CCSE	1,510
Hispanic Studies: DELE	1,134
Language Services: Occitan	29
Language Services: Catalan	1,814

the UB's various faculties. The UB's collaboration with the Institut Ramon Llull's Catalan lectureships at the universities of Birmingham, Bristol, Liverpool, Cardiff, Cork, Durham, Edinburgh, Leeds, Los Angeles, Maynooth, Oxford and Sheffield was extended, making it possible to create 56 Catalan-English exchange pairs.

With regard to the study of Occitan (Aranese variant), 2023-2024 marked the third academic year in which the UB sought to promote this official language



COMMITMENT TO SOCIETY

2,151 students enrolled in 15 programmes at the University of Experience

among the university community. Three six-month courses for beginners (A1, A2 and B1) were offered, with a total of 29 participants, and three official exam sessions were held (one for each level), which are recognized by the General Council of Aran.

The **University of Experience** for learners over the age of fifty-five from educational backgrounds of all kinds consisted of fifteen study programmes over the academic year, offering a total of forty-five courses. Six hundred and nineteen teachers took part, along with 2,151 students, of which 1,059 were participating for the first time (aged 54–88). In addition, 879 people enrolled in the advanced seminars and complementary activities.

At the Badalona site, the third courses in Art History and Psychology were provided, while in Barcelona the third courses in Interdisciplinary Sciences, a second course in Health Sciences and a third one in Literature and Communication were offered. Partici-

pants could also sign up for nine complementary activities, some of which are already well established, such as Qigong, choir, theatre, healthy movement and the reading club, while others were new this year, including two creative writing workshops. It was also possible to take part in activities at the Conservatori Liceu and to enrol in English or French classes exclusively for senior citizens. The range of advanced seminars also grew substantially, with 25 new seminars, making a total of 46: 4 in sciences, 33 in the humanities and 9 in the social sciences. In addition, 81 candidates submitted short stories for consideration in the University of Experience’s third Sant Jordi Short Story Awards.

The number of **Gaudir UB** courses increased to 209, with an accompanying rise in enrolments, with a total of 4,352 students. The **Els Julols** summer programme offered 64 courses in which 746 students participated.

The **Institute for Lifelong Learning (IL3)** reduced the number of courses on offer by five, for a total of 977 courses in the academic year 2023-2024, though the number of students increased to 17,329. This figure, already impressive, does not include the 289 courses and 25,677 participants from the joint training programme with the Training and Advisory Services (FYSA) of the Federation of Health and Social Health (FSS-CCOO). In total, 1,266 courses have been offered to 43,066 students. New courses in sports, mental health and artificial intelligence were also added to the IL3 catalogue.

IL3 students

Course type	Open courses		Corporate solutions	
	Courses	Students	Courses	Students
Online	618	34,245	16	954
Face-to-face	340	5,927	19	258
Blended learning	69	888	24	734
Total	1,207	41,060	59	1,946



The University of Barcelona once again took part in the Saló de l’Ensenyament education fair.

Student support

Information and orientation activities

In the area of **information actions for the university community**, the UB responded to 41,648 queries concerning the academic and service offer and issues accessing the student intranet and associated services. The Món UB portal registered 37,674,983 visits before it was replaced by the new student portal, which received 346,076 visitors in the first few months it was up and running.

The Student Support Service (SAE) conducted several information and orientation activities for **future students** to facilitate their transition to the university world, as well as to provide new students with the tools they need to successfully adapt to university education.

To showcase the **range of courses** it offers, the University of Barcelona participated in the Saló de l’Ensenyament, the Aula education fair in Madrid, and other university information and orientation fairs and fairs in Catalonia, Andorra and the Balearic Islands. At the Saló de l’Ensenyament, the University inaugurated a new 180 sq m stand that provided information to visitors and displayed innovative technological and audiovisual media to present its courses. The stand was staffed by 66 UB students mentors who answered queries from some 18,000 people.

In addition, the **La UB s’apropa** programme was developed as part of the information and advising poli-

cies for pre-university students and provided guidance to 11,780 students from 204 secondary schools, upper secondary schools and advanced vocational training centres. The programme also organized **15 activities in 11 faculties**, including in-person **open days**, which were extended to twice the duration this year, reaching 2,702 participants in the February sessions and 4,394 in the April sessions.

In the fifth edition of the UB-Santander Awards for the best **upper-secondary school research projects**, 930 projects were submitted and 85 prizes and 5 special mentions were awarded across 17 categories (one for each faculty). Staff were also involved in disseminating and managing several competitions and awards promoted by the faculties in relation to upper secondary school research work, such as the Concòrdia-FedeFarma Prize from the Faculty of Pharmacy and Food Sciences or the Peace Research Award from the UB Solidarity Foundation.

This year, a new edition of the **Secondary and Upper-Secondary Debating League**, coordinated by the Vives University Network, was held face-to-face. Twenty-four teams from different upper secondary schools attended the local phase of the debating league, held in the Historic Building, and each team participated in three debates. The winning team, Institut Pedralbes, represented the UB in the final phase with Universitat Jaume I.

The **accommodation programme** continues to offer information about a variety of accommodation options, including UB residences, affiliated halls of





residence, and private residences with which the UB has agreements. The University continued to collaborate with Barcelona Centre Universitari (BCU).

### Careers advice and employment

Within the scope of the different programmes for professional orientation and careers advice, 7,977 students received guidance on decision-making, career design and skills development.

As part of the **Orienta't a les facultats** programme, students were provided career guidance with the aim of improving the development of valuable skills and enhancing their employability. In total, 2,556 students showed interest in the courses. However, due to the limited number of places, only 1,248 students were able to participate. Twenty-two virtual courses, 19 monographic orientation courses and 13 workshops on CVs and interviews were offered.

Moreover, 203 **counselling interviews** were held on professional development, choosing lifelong learning and the changes in teaching related to the **Orienta't** programme. Over the course of the various bachelor's degree programmes, 97 actions were conducted at business fairs and through tutor action plans, as well as other activities, in which 6,526 students participated.

For the ninth year in a row, the UB also played an active role in the working group on Guidelines and

Tools for University Orientation, which is part of Spanish University Information and Orientation Services (SIOU), and in the recently created Catalan University Orientation Advisors Group, which held its first meeting at the University of Girona. Also, as mentioned earlier, the Student Support Service (SAE) returned to take part in both the **Education Fair** and the **Job Fair**.

**External academic placements** continued to play an important role at the University this academic year with a total of 12,993 UB students in company and institutional placements, 10,612 of which were curricular placements and 2,381 extracurricular. Through GIPE, the UB's external professional placement application, companies offered 13,517 placements, for a total of 20,420 places. In addition, 1,514 queries were answered through the UB's Feina UB mailbox and 2,694 through the GIPE mailbox.

On 1 January 2024, additional Provision 52 of the General Social Security Law came into force, which determines the inclusion of students on academic placements in the Social Security system. In accordance with the new legal framework, the UB has taken on the task of **registering students in unpaid academic placements** in the **Social Security system**; a total of 8,544 students were registered as of 30 June. During the first quarter, the initial period for contributing to the Social Security system, 194,095 days of work were declared for 7,115 students, with contributions corresponding to a total of 118,598 days for the 3,942 students whose situation at the

time of their placements warranted inclusion in the Social Security system.

The UB also made substantial contributions to fostering employment through the seventh call for applications for placement grants from the ONCE Foundation and the CRUE. Three grants were awarded to students with a degree of disability equal to or greater than 33%, while the Government of Catalonia's Odisseu programme awarded 16 UB students grants for placements in rural companies. It is important to add that this year the UB took part in the Campus Rural Programme for the second time, thanks to which six students received a grant to complete their professional placements in rural companies. In addition, 126 students from other educational institutions completed professional placements in UB units.

With regard to inter-university **working groups**, the University of Barcelona continued to participate in the working and employability groups of the Coimbra Group, the Inter-University Council of Catalonia, and the Conference of Rectors of Spanish Universities (CRUE).

### Support for diversity

The **Integration Programmes** unit provides care for students with special educational needs (SEN) and facilitates initiatives to make the UB an inclusive university. To this end, it provided support to the 839 students with certified disabilities enrolled at the UB

as well as to 668 students who, although they may not be certified as disabled, have SEN.

Over the academic year, the University undertook 4,815 **advisory actions** and/or interventions (3,348 with students, 1,141 with teaching and research staff or academic and service staff, and 326 externally) and designed 325 personalized study plans.

In terms of **material resources**, 34 students were provided with support products and 22 software licences were loaned to libraries to facilitate reading and writing. In the area of personal support, 21 support students were coordinated, 1,229 hours of sign language interpreting were offered to five students with hearing impairments, and the financial support programme for students with reduced mobility was renewed.

**Meetup Workshops** were held for the fifth time, this year hosted by the UB. Aimed at students with autism spectrum disorder, the workshops are led by experts from the Integration Programmes Unit of the Autism Spectrum and Asperger's Association of Catalonia. Thirty students from 26 different academic courses took part.

Besides these direct measures serving students with special educational needs, **training and awareness-raising** actions for students (such as the Parlem sobre TEA workshop, in English 'Let's talk about autism spectrum disorder'), for teachers (such as the conference 'How should we address functional diversity in the classroom?' at the Faculty of Philosophy)





and for technical, management, administrative and service staff (such as the course ‘Serving university students with special educational needs’).

Likewise, the University spearheaded several **projects and working groups**, including the driving force behind the first Plan for Inclusion and Diversity at Catalan Universities (PIDUC), the working group created to develop the *Guide on Serving Specific Educational Needs at the UB*, as well as projects conducted in inter-university networks, such as the 13th meeting of the SAPDU Network at the University of Oviedo, and the 9th SAPDU Network Workshop of the SAPDU Network at the University of Alcalá. It has also continued to work with third sector organizations to create a more inclusive university environment through activities such as the provision of special software for computer equipment used for testing created by the ONCE Educational Resource Centre and participation in the discussion group between the Catalan Association of Families and People with Deafness (ACAPPS) and Catalan universities, and the 6th International University and Disability Congress, organized by the ONCE Foundation.

During the academic year, the CRAI Libraries continued to make tools available to users with special needs: BBAlly, which enables teachers to improve the accessibility of the documents they upload to the Virtual Campus, and ClaroRead, which simplifies access to CRAI resources for people with dyslexia. The University of Barcelona’s Digitization Centre (CEDI) is currently helping to digitize the recommended bibliography for students with special needs.

### Grants and financial aid

Over the past academic year, 21,397 applications were received for **general grants for bachelor’s degree and university master’s degree courses**. A total of 9,505 grants were awarded for a combined amount of 32,741,440 euros.

Additionally, 5,362 applications for means-tested Equity grants were received, 1,861 of which were successful. These grants subsidize between 70% and 80% of students’ enrolment fees.

The Santander **Progreso grant programme** offers funding to bachelor’s and master’s degree students. This year, 4,758 applications were received and 23 grants of 1,000 euros were awarded.

The **Connecta UB programme**, which was launched during the pandemic and now well established, processed a total of 190 applications (174 of which were granted) in the three current 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 have been given free access to paid facilities. With the application period now closed, 276 grants have been awarded.

The Spanish Ministry of Education, Vocational Training and Sport awarded 117 **departmental col-**

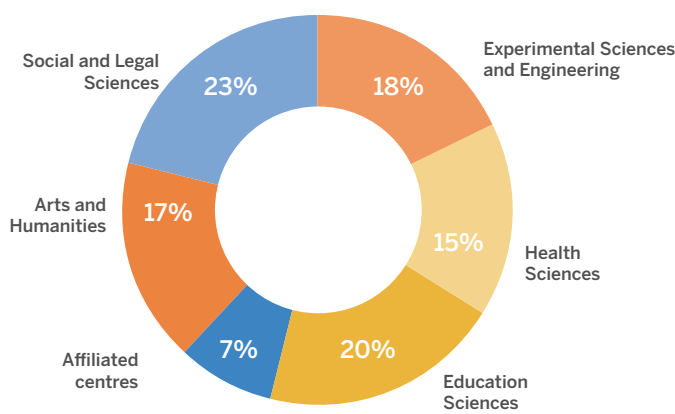
**laboration grants**, with a total value of 234,000 euros, 347 **collaboration grants for UB services and units**, with a total value of 1,049,430 euros; 121 **grants for collaboration with UB schools and faculties**, amounting to 462,038 euros, and 10 **professional placements** in companies managed by the Grants and Financial Aid for Students unit, in which 22,200 euros were invested. In the area of collaboration grants with UB services and units, the **Màster+ UB programme** has been introduced to attract talent and foster the vocational pursuit of scientific enquiry in the UB’s research groups.

The UB awarded 317 grants for **mobility programmes**, with a total value of 100,200 euros: 271 were for placements in European institutions within the Erasmus+ programme (200 euros per grant) and 46 for placements at universities in Europe and the rest of the world as part of the Global UB Mobility and Global Faculty UB programmes (1,000 euros per grant).

In the framework of **Santander Bank** international mobility grants, 53 supplementary grants were awarded to students who had completed an Erasmus+ exchange and two to students with special educational needs. In addition, 95 people received a subsidy from Erasmus+ funds to take a language course at the School of Modern Languages.

In order to promote academic mobility between the universities that make up the Vives University Network, 10 DRAC grants were awarded, with a total value of 4,195 euros.

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



Amount (in euros) of general grants for bachelor’s degree and university master’s degree courses, by type

Grant type	Total value (€)
Excellence grant	189,625
Tuition exemption	7,724,199.15
Fixed amount (income-based)	6,499,100
Fixed amount (residence-based)	2,537,500
Amount for air travel	227,730
Variable amount	15,514,926
Minimum variable amount	48,360
Total	32,741,440

bkUB programme: grants awarded by type

Type of grant	Number
Grants for repeat subject enrolment	123
Study grants for extraordinary circumstances	25
Foreign-language study grants	128
Total	276





In the **SICUE national mobility programme** (for exchanges between Spanish universities), 209 UB students travelled to participating institutions and 364 students were hosted at the UB.

Grants and financial aid awarded

Grants awarded	Number	Total value (€)
General grants	9,505	32,741,440
Collaboration with UB departments	117	234,000
Collaboration with UB services	347	1,049,430
Collaboration with UB faculties/ schools	121	462,038
Company placements	10	22,200
Grants and financial aid awarded	10	22,200
UB grants for mobility programmes	317	100,200
Equity grants	1,861	—
bkUB programme	276	—
Connecta UB programme	174	—
DRAC programme	10	4,195
Santander grants for SEN	2	2,000
Santander financial aid grants	23	23,000
Santander grants for Erasmus+	53	26,500
Erasmus+ subsidy for EIM courses	95	47,128

Teaching innovation, assessment and improvement

This year, the **Teaching and Learning Research, Innovation and Improvement (RIMDA)** programme had a total budget of 152,000 euros. This year, 54 new **teaching innovation proposals** were presented: 29 were recognized as teaching innovation projects, while 18 received direct funding. All of the proposals were supported by grants for the dissemination of results and assistance with the creation of learning materials. In addition, 40 new **teaching improvement proposals** were presented, 26 of which were recognized as teaching improvement projects and 13 received direct funding. All proposals received grant funding for the dissemination of results, and support was provided for the creation of learning materials. There were 147 active teaching innovation projects, with the participation of 796 members of the UB community (PDI, PTGAS and collaborating staff).

Of the 134 **teaching innovation groups** recognized by the RIMDA programme, 97 were accredited as consolidated teaching innovation groups and 37 as teaching innovation groups. Specific **financial assistance and support staff** were again allocated to the consolidated groups with the highest scores, while funds continued to be made available for the dissemination of innovation actions by all groups.

TEACHING IMPROVEMENT AND INNOVATION

97 Consolidated teaching groups

147 Active teaching projects

A total of 2,075 members of the university community were engaged in the activities of the recognized teaching innovation groups.

Within the framework of the **strategic faculty teaching project** (PEDC), 12 faculty projects and two joint faculty projects were launched during the year. The projects run for two to four years and provide the faculties with the resources and support they need to implement aspects of their teaching they consider to be strategic priorities. The faculties conducting strategic faculty teaching projects are: Biology, Earth Sciences, Law, Economics and Business, Education, Philosophy, Geography and History, Nursing, Information and Audiovisual Media, Mathematics and Computer Science, Medicine and Health Sciences, and Chemistry.

In addition, a **grant call was announced to support digitization projects** (RIMDA-Digitalització) aimed at creating learning resources, environments, tools and materials using digital technologies and applying them in teaching practice. In the first call for project proposals in the academic year 2022-2023, nine projects were approved and are currently under way. Over 100 teachers from six faculties are involved in the projects.

In 2023-2024, **grants were announced for projects on university social responsibility in teaching (RIMDA RSU)** to recognize projects that promote measures related to sustainability, the climate emergency, equality, the gender perspective and inclusion, and their application to teaching.

Seventeen **massive open online courses (MOOCs)** were offered through an agreement with the Coursera platform. Nearly 32,000 people enrolled, and over 1,500 participants received certificates.

This year marked the 21st iteration of the UB’s **teaching evaluations**. In total, of the 920 eligible members of teaching staff (from the ordinary call for participation and prior calls), 518 requested to participate in the assessment (56.3%) and 451 were ultimately evaluated; 434 (96.2%) received a positive evaluation. Of all of the eligible members of teaching staff, 523 opted to take part through the ordinary call for participation; 409 educators took part this year, representing 78.2% of the teaching staff. Of these 369 (97.0%) received favourable 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 on the process; the responses gave an average satisfaction score of 8.01.

In the area of **satisfaction surveys**, the UB has continued to seek feedback from students over the course of their studies and after graduation, whether at bachelor’s degree, master’s degree or doctoral level. The **surveys for new bachelor’s degree and university master’s degree students** were completed by 13.6% and 30.3% of students, respectively: of the new bachelor’s degree students surveyed, 88.5% said that the UB was their preferred choice of university, while 82.6% of new university master’s degree students declared the UB their first choice.

AVERAGE STUDENT SATISFACTION  
SCORE FOR TEACHING STAFF

7.72 in bachelor's  
degrees 8.35 in university master's  
degrees

This year, a series of actions were implemented to encourage greater participation in the **survey on bachelor's degree and university master's degree subjects and teaching staff**. Over the two semesters, the participation rates were 22% for bachelor's degrees and 36.3% for university master's degrees:

Satisfaction and opinion surveys

- New bachelor's degree students
- New university master's degree students
- New doctoral students
- Student satisfaction with bachelor's and university master's degree teaching staff and subjects
- Student satisfaction with services and facilities
- Satisfaction survey for the bachelor's degree final project (TFG)
- Satisfaction survey for the university master's degree final project (TFM)
- Bachelor's degree graduates
- University master's degree graduates
- Doctoral graduates
- EIM students
- Students enrolled in Gaudir UB courses
- University of Experience students
- Postgraduate students
- Teaching staff satisfaction with the teaching assessment process
- Teaching staff satisfaction with bachelor's and university master's degree courses
- Doctoral thesis supervisors and tutors

172,266 online responses were received and 16,025 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 7.72 among bachelor's degree students and 8.35 among university master's degree students.

A **student satisfaction survey on bachelor's and university master's degree final projects** was conducted for the first time, which was completed by 23.2% of bachelor's degree students and 25.9% of master's degree students. The score for the item "In general, I'm very satisfied with the bachelor's/master's degree final project" was 7.58 for the bachelor's degree final project and 7.61 for the master's degree final project, while satisfaction with final project supervision was 7.87 and 8.10, respectively.

The results of the **survey on services, activities and facilities** were broadly positive, students giving an average overall satisfaction rating of 7.34 out of 10, scores of 8 and 7.96 for the Connecta UB grants programme and StartUB! services, and a score of 8.35 for the CRAI libraries. Participation this year was 14.96%.

Finally, after **graduation**, students express satisfaction with their studies. In the 2023 edition, 85.1% of master's degree graduates and 79.9% of bachelor's degree graduates indicated that they would choose the UB again for their degrees. The **doctoral student satisfaction survey** was completed by 41.1% of the doctoral students who read their thesis in the academic year 2022-2023.



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 as well as the postgraduate courses.

Elsewhere, the **Institute of Professional Development (IDP)** has continued to analyse the training requirements of teaching staff and design proposals, as well as working to promote educational innovation and research support, alongside the publication of good practices and the creation of training materials in a range of formats. These training activities were offered to 461 participants, with 15,493 total registrations.

Enrolment in IPD training activities

Training activities	Enrolments
Lifelong learning for early childhood, primary, secondary and vocational training teachers	4,399
University teacher training	9,591
Training in the research section area	61
Training in the community and sustainability area	1,322
Postgraduate courses and master's degrees	120
Total	15,493

The **Learning and Research Resources Centre (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. The CRAI has been awarded the EFQM 500+ European seal of excellence. This year it made 6,443 reading points available to users, as well as a collection of 1,688,640 monographs and journals in hard copy.

The UB **Virtual Campus** was updated to Drupal 9.5.9, and the information offered was reorganized and the independent learning area was redefined. In addition, all of its content is now available in Catalan and Spanish, and will soon be available in English. The application Wooclap was introduced this academic year, a tool for teachers to create activities in which students can actively participate on their mobile devices, with answers in real time. The increase in the number of users of **TÀCTIC** is also noteworthy. 44,356 people used the portal, representing an increase of 247%.





3

# A university at the vanguard of research

Promoting research: internationalization  
and attracting talent and resources

Research and scientific output

Technology, knowledge and innovation transfer

Doctoral studies

Dissemination of scientific culture



# UB research and the 2030 Agenda



## Promoting research: internationalization and attracting talent and resources

Several initiatives were promoted over the course of the year that enabled the consolidation of research structures, the creation of cross-disciplinary structures and the maintenance of competitive projects. These measures also enabled research staff to participate in scientific activities crucial to their career advancement.

In this regard, the UB has increased the financial resources allocated to the **annual research programme contracts** signed by the Office of the Vice-Rector for Research and the UB's faculties, institutes and research centres, documentation centres and observatories. The funding makes it possible for these structures to undertake activities designed to improve their external visibility as competitive agents for research.

Updates to the **regulations for the creation and operation of the University of Barcelona's internal research structures and cross-disciplinary research alliances (hubs)** were also approved during the academic year. Specifically, the new version revises aspects of the organization and functioning of research structures and regulates the creation and organization of cross-disciplinary research alliances.

With the aim of implementing **policies to stimulate and improve the transdisciplinarity of research**, the UB created the new Food Action and Research Observatory and support was given to establish the first hubs at the University of Barcelona: the Hub on Global Sustainability and the Hub on Alternative Methods to Animal Experimentation. These **new structures** promote alliances for the purpose of generating joint projects between research groups from different disciplines, as well as promoting multidisciplinary studies.

This academic year saw the launch of the UB's **Citizen Science** website to promote and share information about UB projects involving citizen participation in research. The platform serves as a showcase for communities and organized citizens, offering new avenues to develop and justify actions and policies on socially relevant issues.

The UB also implemented two key initiatives to **strengthen its technical research staff**: the new Research Committee Support Office, and as part of the Recovery, Transformation and Resilience Plan, a new round of recruitment through the Investigo Programme, offering 31 positions for young job seekers in research and innovation projects.

To promote stimulus policies for high-quality research and research into unique subjects, 52 grants of 3,000 euros each were awarded to principal investigators of projects not funded in the PID 2021 call of the State Plan of the Ministry of Science, Innovation

and Universities. This allows these leaders to maintain part of their essential activity until the next round of grants is adjudicated. In parallel, a mentoring service was set up to improve the success rate of proposals submitted in future calls.

In addition, several new initiatives were launched this year to support the professional careers of researchers, including calls for proposals for grants for people with special needs to conduct research activities outside the UB and grants to facilitate work-family balance when carrying out research activities outside the UB.



Horizon Europe/Horizon 2020 and other EC directorates-general	Projects	Amount (in euros)
Individual projects	11	6,590,393
Starting grants	1	94,300
Consolidator grants	1	1,900,285
Advanced Grants	2	3,452,250
Proof of Concept	1	120,000
Marie Skłodowska-Curie individual actions	6	1,023,558
Collaborative projects	25	12,634,652
Programmes of other EC directorates-general	12	2,479,331
Total projects	48	21,704,376

The University of Barcelona also acquired unique **new research infrastructure** through the **UB Science and Technology Centres (CCiTUB)**: two new state-of-the-art mass spectrometers, specifically designed for small molecule analysis, have been installed thanks to 1.2 million euros in Next Generation funding. The Jeol NeoARM microscope, valued at 3.35 million euros, was put into operation as part of the MERIT project, one of seven cooperative initiatives in the Catalan knowledge system, co-financed 50% through the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) in Catalonia (2014-2020). Additional funding of 1.25 million euros came from the Ministry of Science, Innovation and Universities for a scanning photoelectron spectroscope (ESFOSCAN). Lastly, this year the University installed the first 1 GHz nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) equipment in Spain, with a value of 8.9 million euros, financed with Next Generation funds.





The UB was also very active in the area of **research funding** during this period, committing to a total of 48 projects with the European Commission (EC) totalling nearly 22 million euros in **European and international research projects**. Of these projects, 33 are part of the **Horizon Europe programme (2021-2027)** and another three are part of the previous Horizon 2020 programme. In total, the 36 projects signed with the EC in these programmes have amounted to more than 19.2 million euros, in addition to the 12 projects funded through other EC directorates-general, for a total of around 2.5 million euros.

In addition, in the 2021 TV3 and Catalunya Ràdio **La Marató** campaign dedicated to mental health, nine projects involving members of the UB obtained funding, while the 2022 call of the **ICREA Academia** programme recognized the scientific careers of 12 researchers from the University with a total grant of 2.4 million euros to conduct their research over a period of five years.

In 2023, the UB intensified its participation in the **League of European Research Universities (LERU)**, as an activity that contributes to the **international visibility of research** at the University of Barcelona. The 33 UB representatives in LERU actively collaborated in the various working groups and in 46 of the 57 meetings convened by the association. To help publicize the University of Barcelona’s work in LERU, UB and LERU open days were organized in the UB community. Events in July focused on the new pro-

cesses of evaluation for research staff and research, risk assessment in research, the dual use of research results and doctoral supervision. In addition, the UB organized two workshops on doctoral supervision, in which more than 110 experts from 22 European institutions took part, and hosted the policy group meeting on doctoral studies.

From a more political and network management perspective, in 2023 the UB contributed decisively to the updating of the LERU Statutes and the renewal of the Board of Directors, resulting in governing bodies formed by means of an elective process and a more pluralistic association.

In addition, the University of Barcelona was one of the first LERU universities to join the two new policy groups created in 2023: the internationalization group and the risk management group for international research collaboration. This participation gave rise to an initiative to create an internal working team to incorporate the assessment of these risks and opportunities in the framework of UB research projects and, in this way, to advance in the planning of new processes to improve management and decision making.

In the **Eurolife Network**, the DataEthics project (Changing Landscapes in Health and Life Sciences: Ethical Challenges of Big Data) of the Erasmus+ programme concluded this academic year. This strategic partnership project, in which all members of the network participated, fostered collaboration with European and international partners from various sectors.

RESEARCH-INTEGRATED TEACHING STAFF  
**2,561** professors involved in competitive or non-competitive research teams

Staff involved in research, by grant type

	Women	Men	Total		Women	Men	Total
Senior researchers	51	79	130	Predocctoral researchers	319	309	628
CIBER	8	4	12	Marie Skłodowska-Curie (MSCA-IT-N-ETN)	6	3	9
ICREA (research professors)	10	33	43	PREDOCS-UB	61	62	123
Beatriz Galindo	–	4	4	FI (Government of Catalonia)	50	40	90
Ramón y Cajal	33	35	68	FI-SIDUR (Government of Catalonia)	33	36	69
Project-specific, other calls or no grant	–	3	3	FPI (Spanish Ministry of Science, Innovation and Universities)	100	92	192
Junior researchers	34	48	82	FPU (Spanish Ministry of Science, Innovation and Universities)	33	43	76
Beatriz Galindo	1	1	2	Government of the Basque Country	1	0	1
Beatriu de Pinós	9	12	21	La Caixa	8	7	15
María Zambrano	13	26	39	Project-specific, other calls or no grant	27	26	53
Requalification (lecturer)	2	2	4	Research technicians	197	166	363
Juan de la Cierva (incorporation)	3	1	4	CIBER technician or grant recipient	5	2	7
SECTI postdocs (UB)	6	6	12	Research technician	192	164	356
Postdoctoral researchers	131	122	253	Research assistants	159	111	270
Young researchers (MINECO)	1	2	3	Total UB personnel	891	835	1,726
Margarita Salas	61	53	114	Bosch i Gimpera Foundation researchers	154	154	308
Juan de la Cierva (training)	12	9	21	Bosch i Gimpera Foundation research technicians and assistants	77	28	105
Marie Skłodowska-Curie (MSCA-IF)	7	7	14				
Junior Leader postdoctoral fellows (La Caixa)	1	6	7				
Postdoc	2	–	2				
Project-specific, other calls or no grant	47	45	92				

SECTI: Spanish Science, Technology and Innovation System

# RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER

# €223,983,098

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

The project constitutes an example of cooperation for innovation and the exchange of good practices, which has resulted in the publication of four online and open courses the ethical, legal and sociological aspects of the collection and processing of mass bio-medical data. Initiatives have also been promoted to strengthen the collaborations among Eurolife partners, including a call for mobility grants for bachelor's and master's degree students and for postdoctoral research staff.

## Research and scientific output

The **research funds raised in competitive calls for proposals** by the University's 17 faculties and 18 research institutes and UB institutes amounted to 95,116,898 euros, financing a total of 900 research activities. Of these funds, 52% came from the Spanish government, 24% from the European Commission, 13.5% from the Catalan government, and the remainder from private non-profit organizations or other institutions. Of particular note, 23 million euros were obtained for projects through the call proposals in the area of knowledge generation of the State Plan for Scientific and Technical Research and Innovation 2021-2023, as well as 35 grants to promote the consolidation of research totalling more than 4.5 million euros.

In relation to regional funding, 12 ICREA Academia grants were awarded totalling 2.4 million euros. 2023 also saw the adjudication of grants to support the scientific activity of research groups in Catalonia (SGR-Cat 2021), in which the UB was awarded more than 6 million euros and 243 non-inter-institutional groups and 23 inter-institutional groups were recognized, 15 of which are coordinated by the University of Barcelona.

As mentioned above, EC funding was secured for 3 European projects linked to the **Horizon Europe programme (2021-2027)** and 3 projects from Hori-

# SCIENTIFIC OUTPUT

# 7,751

scientific publications indexed in the Clarivate Analytics Web of Science (WoS)

### Funding secured for research and technology and knowledge transfer

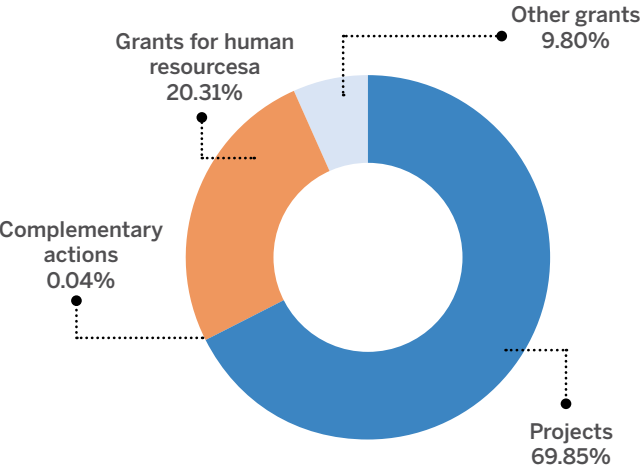
Item	Amount (in euros)
Projects	66,436,225
Complementary actions	42,395
Grants for human resources	19,314,092
Other grants	17,317,085
Research contracts	13,352,499
Research agreements	3,151,256
External CCiTUB services	3,036,844
Funding secured by UB researchers at institutions with UB participation*	101,332,702
Total	223,983,098

\* Includes funds awarded for research conducted by UB research staff in competitive and non-competitive research activities at CRAG, CREAM, IBEC, IBEI, Clinic Foundation, IBIBAPS, IDIBAPS, IDIBELL, IEB, IEEC, IJC, IRB, IREC, IRSJD and ISGlobal.

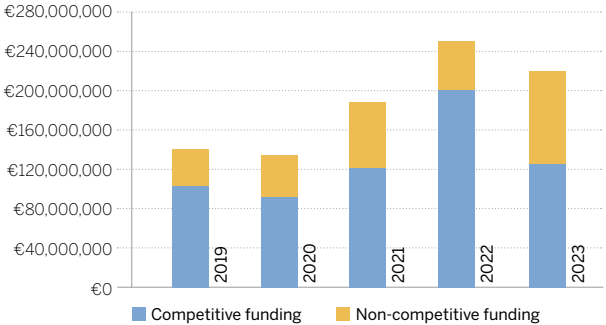
zon 2020, the predecessor of the current programme, for a total amount of 19 million euros. Four projects were funded by the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT), for a total of more than 130,000 euros. Funding from other European projects this year totalled over 6.6 million euros.

Research at the UB is promoted and coordinated through **research structures**, in 2023 consisting of 16 UB research institutes, two university institutes, five research centres, an inter-university research centre, 12 observatories and three documentation centres. The UB also participates with other institutions in 10 CERCA system research institutes, among others, two observatories and five inter-university institutes. Among these structures, three UB research institutes and one inter-university institute were recognized with the **María de Maeztu accreditation of excellence**, which provides total funding of 10 million euros for these five institutes.

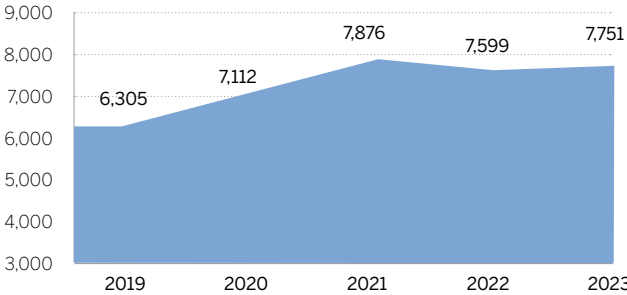
### Research funding secured through competitive calls



### Research funding secured



### Scientific publications





Research institutes and centres

UB research institutes

- Institute of Archaeology (IAUB)
- Institute of Biomedicine (IBUB)
- Institute of Cosmos Sciences (ICCUB)<sup>1</sup>
- Institute of Nanoscience and Nanotechnology (IN2UB)
- Institute of Nanoscience (UBNeuro)<sup>1</sup>
- Institute of Theoretical and Computational Chemistry (IQTIC)<sup>1</sup>
- Water Research Institute (IdRA)
- Institute for Research on Biodiversity (IRBIO)
- Institute for Research on Medieval Cultures (IRCVM)
- Institute for Research in Economics (BEAT)
- Institute for Research on Applied Regional and Public Economics (IREA)
- Institute of Research in Education (IRE)
- Nutrition and Food Safety Research Institute (INSA)<sup>1</sup>
- Institute of Complex Systems (UBICS)
- Geomodels Research Centre
- Institute for Legal Research (TRANSJUS)

University research institutes

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

Research centres

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

- Polis Research Centre for Art, City, Society and Sustainability
- Interdisciplinary Studies Research Centre (ISREC)

Interuniversity research centres

- Barcelona Institute of Analytic Philosophy (BIAP)<sup>1</sup>

Research institutions and centres in which the UB participates

- Research Centre for Ecology and Forestry Applications (CREAF)<sup>2</sup>
- 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)<sup>2</sup>
- Institute of Biomedical Research (IRB)<sup>2</sup>
- Josep Carreras Leukaemia Research Institute (IJC)<sup>2</sup>
- 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)<sup>2</sup>
- Inter-University Institute of Women's Studies and Gender Research (IIEDG)

<sup>1</sup> Awarded the María de Maeztu accreditation of excellence. <sup>2</sup> Awarded the Severo Ochoa accreditation of excellence.



In terms of **research groups**, as part of Spain's Pact for Science and Innovation and the Catalan Research and Innovation Plan, 258 consolidated research groups took part in the 2021 call for grant proposals; of these, 243 are solely managed by the UB. Fifteen inter-institutional groups managed by the University of Barcelona were also recognized, in addition to the eight in which the UB participates.

For yet another year, the research conducted at the University of Barcelona involved the **Bioethics Commission (CBUB)** which aims to assess methodological, ethical and legal aspects of research projects and doctoral theses.

According to data collected by Web of Science (WoS), run by Clarivate Analytics, the **scientific output of UB research personnel** stood at 7,751 scientific publications: 6,092 in the Science Citation Index-Expanded; 594 in the Social Sciences Citation Index; 941 in the Emerging Sources Citation Index, and 124 in the Arts & Humanities Citation Index.

The **CRAI Research Unit** participated in several different **projects**, like the Data Tags Project, a process of assigning tags to datasets jointly undertaken with the Data Protection Office; and the European project DIAMAS in relation to the status of journals published by the University of Barcelona. A data management plan (DMP) was also developed for trainee researchers, in accordance with the Research Plan of the UB Doctoral School and for which a spe-

cific free tool was developed (CORA eiNa DMP Research Data Management Plan).

In the area of **research management**, the Research Information and Evaluation System (SIRA) and the research management application Current Research Information System (CRIS), which replaces GREC and brings together all the functionalities related to research information management, were launched as UB-specific programs.

In addition, the **EspaiCrea**, located in the CRAI Library of the Campus Clínic, offers UB teaching staff; researchers; technical management administration and services staff; and students 3D printing services and has acquired a new piece of equipment, the Ultimaker S3, with a dual extruder.

The CSUC, the American Institute of Physics (AIP), the Conference of Rectors of Spanish Universities (CRUE) and the Spanish National Research Council (CSIC) signed several **transformative agreements** with Wiley Publishing, the UB and the American Institute of Mathematical Sciences (AIMS). These agreements allow UB research staff to publish in open access in hybrid and open access journals.

The **University of Barcelona's Scientific Journals portal (RCUB)** brings together specialized publications in different subject areas that are published or co-published by the University of Barcelona. The RCUB was recognized in the 15th edition of

## OPEN ACCESS

40,561

articles in the UB  
Digital Repository

76,865

open-access documents  
published

310

grants for open-access  
publishing

10,776

doctoral theses in the  
UB Digital Repository



RCUB Revistes científiques  
de la Universitat de Barcelona



A university at the vanguard of research

## UB SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY CENTRES

€4,404,291

income from services

1,320

users

the Transparent Ranking of Repositories, in which it ranked 101st out of the 372 resources analysed. Also in this academic year, the RCUB portal participated in Open Access Week and updated its website to highlight the presence of its journals in two of the largest and most well-known indexing platforms: Web of Science and Scopus, as well as its reception of the prestigious seal of quality from the Spanish Foundation for Science and Technology (FECYT).

Sixty-four journals were submitted in the **call for applications for grants** to publish the University of Barcelona's scientific journals, 61 of which received funding. The grants aim to support journals edited or co-edited by members of the UB and to promote their professionalization and internationalisation. A total of 70,000 euros in grants were available and, for the first time, the 11 journals that met all the requirements of the University of Barcelona's Scientific Journal Regulations were awarded funds.

In 2023, 59 publication requests were submitted based on research data from the **Digital Repository**, housed within the data repository of the Consortium of University Services of Catalonia (CSUC), resulting in 31 datasets.

The **Barcelona Science Park (PCB)** promotes innovation and knowledge transfer by strengthening rela-

tionships between the University, public research organizations and businesses. The total **constructed area** of the PCB is 101,486 sq m, with a usable surface area of 59,687 sq m for clients and services, and a leased surface area of 31,406 sq m, of which 22,311 sqm are laboratories and 10,942 sq m are offices.

In 2023, there were 118 **user** organizations, 93 of which were companies; 7 were research centres; 11 were non-profit organizations, and 7 were UB groups, units and services. Together, these organizations accounted for a total of 3,453 professionals. A total of 1,308 users accessed the PCB's Common Scientific Services through technological platforms over the course of the year to take advantage of its high added-value **scientific and technological services**.

Regarding the **dynamization activities of the PCB community**, 27 networking activities were organized, in addition to training events and social (networking) activities. In total, 1,035 participants attended. In addition, **scientific dissemination** and the promotion of scientific careers continues to be actively encouraged through the Research in Society programme, which drew the participation of over 7,400 children and young people.

The **Science and Technology Centres** of the University of Barcelona (CCiTUB) are a national and in-

ternational benchmark in supporting research in the fields of biosciences, materials sciences and chemistry, with 164 specialists who manage a state-of-the-art instrumental park and multidisciplinary research infrastructures covering an area of more than 12,000 sq m on UB campuses. The CCiTUB have been **ISO 9001-certified** since 2005 and are registered with the Government of Catalonia as an agri-food laboratory and with the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) as a contract analytical laboratory.

In the academic year 2023-2024, the CCiTUB collaborated with **1,320 users**, owners and principal investigators (38% from the UB, 40% from other public entities and 22% from private companies), resulting in a turnover of 4,404,291 euros for the **provision of services**. These users have rated the service received with a score of 8.29 out of 10 in annual satisfaction surveys; the expertise of the staff and the quality of the facilities were the most highly rated features.

Also this year, 10 young people secured employment contracts to allow them to begin learning the techniques practised at the centre, thanks to participation in the Investigo Programme of the State Public Employment Service (SEPE) – an initiative under the Recovery, Transformation and Resilience Plan to recruit young job seekers for research and innovation projects.

Changes were also implemented in the centre to bring it in line with its new organization, including the creation of the In Vivo Experimentation Unit and assistance to research committees including specialized technical staff to support the Animal Experimentation Ethics Committee and the Bioethics Committee.

Some of the CCiTUB facilities were recognized by the Ministry of Science, Innovation and Universities as **unique scientific and technical infrastructures** (ICTS). The University of Barcelona was the only Catalan university to be granted this recognition for two different ICTS: ELECMi (Integrated Infrastructure for Electron Microscopy of Materials) and R-LRB (Biomolecular Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Laboratory Network). Changes were also made in the areas of in vivo techniques, as the CCiTUB incorporated the Animal Experimentation Unit as a member of the Biobanks and Biomodels Platform of the Carlos III Institute of Health, through the award of the MAXCARA project (Xenopus-based Alternative Models and Advanced





Characterization Services). The project will result in new models and innovative techniques with extensive impact on preclinical research, aligned with the development and use of alternative methods.

Moreover, with the aim of responding to new research needs, the **instrument suite has been updated and expanded** with several pieces of equipment: an inductively coupled plasma mass spectrometer (ICP-MS), an automatic liquid scintillation counter (LSC) and cellular scale immunoassay equipment.

Also, **with the aim of supporting research and teaching** in all areas related to the Catalan Pyrenees, in 2023 the CCiTUB took over the management of the High Mountain Scientific Station (ECAM), located in Vielha, in the Vall d'Aran.

Throughout the year, collaboration continued in the **European R-NMR project**, in which the CCiTUB participate with 25 other European nuclear magnetic resonance facilities. The project has funding of 1.5 million euros from the Horizon Europe framework

programme and aims to facilitate remote access to European NMR research infrastructures.

In addition, **19 training activities** were carried out in 2023, including the Barcelona Integrative Resonance Symposium (BIR), in which more than 150 researchers and experts in magnetic resonance from all over the world took part; the Spanish Bruker Resonance Users Meeting; the 11th Computer-Optimized Microscopy Workshop; seven new equipment demonstration meetings; and the first open day for the scientific-technical platforms of the CCiTUB and IDIBAPS at Campus Clínic.

In the area of **social return on investment**, the CCiTUB continued to collaborate with **Escolab**, and with the **Magnet** programme, sponsored by the Government of Catalonia. The year also saw the continuation of the informative programmes NanoEduca, 10alamos9 and Nanoinventum. Lastly, a new educational project for secondary students was launched called the Core Sustainability Lab: Operation Delta S 2150 (ODS 2150), a tool designed to bring experimental laboratories closer to the public.

RESEARCH AND TRANSFER

€19,259,818  
in contracted projects

538  
contract R&D&I projects

Knowledge, technology and innovation transfer

The **Bosch i Gimpera Foundation (FBG)**, created in 1983, celebrated its fortieth anniversary as one of the University's leading centres for knowledge transfer and innovation with an event held in the auditorium of the Historic Building. The FBG was reorganized during the year in order to improve its management processes, foster greater university-business/institution collaboration, improve the generation and management of patents and licenses, and promote the crea-

tion of companies. The overarching aim of this restructuring is to achieve greater efficiency in the services offered to the University community and in its impact on society.

In 2023, the FBG contracted 663 **research, transfer and other service** projects for the UB, for a total amount of 19.26 million euros, and contracted 735 people to carry out tasks linked to research projects. Of these projects, totalling 12.48 million euros, 538 are part of the **contract research programme** that enables companies to develop and implement innovative projects to improve the products or services they offer. A total of 37 **grants** were awarded, with a total value of 5.24 million euros.

The FBG also made advances in the protection of research results and technologies developed by UB researchers, with 11 **licensing contracts** for UB technologies signed this year. Over the course of the year, these licences and other previous ones have yielded revenues of 336,070 euros. Of the 153 **patent applications** submitted, 32 were priority patents, 10 were international extensions, and 111 entered national phases abroad. By field, the biotechnology and health sciences sectors are of note, accounting for 52% of the patents applied for, chemistry and pharmacy account for 19%, followed by electronics, sensors and information and communication technologies with 10% each. Moreover, researchers submitted 51 **inventions** to the FBG for evaluation, 1 software products were registered and 8 material transfer contracts were formalized.

Projects and amounts managed for research, technology and knowledge transfer and other FBG services

	Projects	Amount
Contract research	538	12,447,529
Contracts and agreements	352	10,892,014
Services delivered	186	1,555,515
Projects and grants	37	5,241,043
European projects	3	4,091,169
National and international projects	34	1,149,874
Licences	51	266,862
Management of programmes and services	37	1,304,384
Total	663	19,259,818

CREATION OF SPIN-OFFS

26

active spin-offs

€10,858,524

in public and private funding

In addition, the FBG is responsible for promoting the **creation of innovative companies** by UB researchers. In 2023, two spin-offs were created: Disrupt Therapeutics and the Smart Classroom Project. Sixteen new company ideas were received and assessed, and the UB participated in 26 active spin-offs. These companies obtained 10.8 million euros in public and private funding, generated 10.9 million euros in aggregated turnover, and were responsible for creating 272 new jobs. Through the company

**Innovative and Scientific Culture (CIC-UB)**, the FBG is responsible for monitoring the spin-off companies in which the University of Barcelona invests and is actively involved in the StartUB! unit.

With the aim of **fostering relationships with companies and organizations**, 11 activities were organized, which reached 800 people. The ninth Science + Partners was held this year, as well as the eighth iteration of the Fund to Promote Innovation (F2I) initia-

SUPPORT FOR THE TRANSFER OF RESEARCH RESULTS

16

business creation ideas received and assessed

tive, which consists of a series of UB grants totalling, over the years, an investment of 927,000 euros in 34 projects resulting in 7 newly created spin-offs, 14 licensed technologies, over 7 million euros in public and private funding and the creation of over 35 jobs. A total of two innovation vouchers were also awarded, aimed at promoting joint R&D&I projects among companies, institutions and research groups.

Several developments took place during the academic year in relation to the **UB Living Lab**, the UB's social innovation laboratory, including the 6th Living Lab on Good Governance and Regulatory Quality and the Social Innovation Lab. The 5th edition of the **From Science to Market** programme included both technological and social business proposals linked to health, environment and education, among other areas. The programme aims to promote technology and knowledge transfer through doctoral students or researchers who wish to transform their thesis or dissertation into a business project. In 2023, 32 doctoral students participated and, over the five editions of the programme, 8 start-up companies have been created.

The first **Conference of the Transfer Offices of Catalan Universities** took place in 2023, with the participation of more than 100 professionals from all over Catalonia involved in the promotion and management of knowledge transfer.

In order to encourage teaching and research staff to participate in transfer, innovation and entrepreneur-

ship programmes, **two conferences** were organized: one in the Faculty of Chemistry and the other in the Faculty of Economics and Business. In addition, several sessions were held on the basic aspects to be considered when transferring research results to companies and institutions.

In addition, the FBG participates in several **clusters and networks** that facilitate contact between UB research staff and research groups and companies, other stakeholders and the other research groups in the networks. The UB is also part of several **communities**, including the Deep Tech Community, which aims to position science-based entrepreneurship in the city. In 2023, the community hosted the 2nd Deep Tech Summit (Barcelona Deep Tech Summit) during which the UB spin-off Nimble Diagnostics was recognized as the best deep-tech start-up.

The UB has 7 **TECNIO groups**, which bring together more than 200 researchers. Throughout 2023 these groups earned 10 million euros, 54% of which came from R&D&I contracts with companies and through public grants, and 19 researchers were transferred to the business sector.

The University of Barcelona annually announced an aid programme to intensify transfer, which aims to support TECNIO groups and other transfer-intensive groups. The programme has two types of grants: one is aimed at groups that have the TECNIO seal and the other, the pre-TECNIO, is intended for research groups that meet certain requirements and

Active investee spin-offs

- Accure Therapeutics
- Advanced Nanotechnologies
- AlGecko Technologies
- BeCytes Biotechnologies
- Biocontrol Technologies
- Bluephage
- Braingaze
- ColorSensing
- Dapcom Data Services
- DBGen Ocular Genomics
- Disrupt Therapeutics
- Enantia
- Gate2Brain
- Impetux Optics
- Kumux
- Mind & Identity
- NeurekaLAB
- Nimble Diagnostics
- Nostrum Biodiscovery
- Oniria Therapeutics
- Qilimanjaro Quantum Tech
- Reveal Genomics
- Smalle Technologies
- Smart Classroom Project
- Virmedex Virtual Experiences
- Virtual Bodyworks

TECHNOLOGIES, MATERIALS AND LICENSES

11

license agreements

153

patent applications

51

invention disclosures



# 18 INDUSTRIAL DOCTORATE PROGRAMMES

## Doctoral studies

This academic year, 47 **doctoral programmes were offered**, 13 of which are interuniversity and all of which were offered in English. With regard to the quality of official university teaching, after the accreditation of the doctoral programmes coordinated by the University of Barcelona, work began in the academic year 2023-2024 on revising the documentation for nine doctoral programmes in order to adapt them to changes in the doctoral regulations and to update a number of sections at the request of the academic committees. In addition, an application for verification of a new doctoral programme was submitted.

In total, 5,186 **trainee researchers** were enrolled, 34% of whom were international students, and 745 **doctoral theses** were defended, 173 of which received **international doctorate certification**. In addition, the Governing Council awarded 75 **extraordinary doctoral prizes** and signed 8 **joint supervision agreements** for doctoral theses. For the third time, the **Antoni M. Badia i Margarit Award** was granted for the best doctoral thesis written in Catalan in all four categories.

The second **survey of doctoral thesis supervisors and tutors**, this time for the 2023-2024 academic year, was launched and will be completed during the next academic year. The first survey revealed satisfaction with the supervision plan and activities as well as with the annual monitoring of doctoral stu-

dents, with a rating of over 8 out of 10. In the new edition of the **doctoral student satisfaction survey**, overall satisfaction with students' programmes was rated 6.67 out of 10 and thesis supervision was given a satisfaction rating of 8.56; 91% of respondents said they would repeat their doctoral programme and 89% would enrol in it again at the UB. In addition, a survey of **new doctoral students** was conducted for the first time, with a participation rate of 42.5%: 90.2% of those surveyed said that the UB was their university of choice and 43.8% cited the teaching staff as their main reason for choosing the University.

In 2023-2024, **grants for predoctoral research trainees** were maintained with 628 contracts for predoctoral research staff, 123 of which are financed by the University (PREDOCS-UB).

### Doctoral School

This year the UB's **Doctoral Programme Regulations**, approved by the Governing Council in February 2024, were modified to adapt them to the modification of Royal Decree 99/2011 of 28 January, which regulates official doctoral studies by means of Royal Decree 576/2023 of 4 July. The modification process also provided the opportunity to review the regulations and simplify them so as to facilitate doctoral programme management. For example, the application for access and admission to doctoral programmes and documents related to doctoral procedures were updated to adapt them to the regulatory

change. And, as of 1 October 2024, doctoral candidates will be able to make use of the UB's online thesis deposit application.

As a result of the regulatory change, several meetings were convened for teaching and research staff and technical, management, administration and services staff linked to doctoral programmes to explain the key changes in the Royal Decree. As part of the cross-disciplinary training organized by the Doctoral School, **welcome sessions** were held for newly enrolled doctoral students, and the **Young Research Programme**, a set of training activities available to everyone starting out in research managed in conjunction with the UB's Institute for Professional Development (ID), was continued and expanded.

Within the framework of the **Industrial Doctorates Plan**, in the 2023 call the University of Barcelona finalized several projects with companies that culminated in 18 collaboration agreements, 15 of which are coordinated by the UB, while three have been signed in collaboration with research centres. To promote this project, the UB held a seminar on industrial doctorates for coordinators of doctoral programmes and heads of doctoral programmes in the UB's faculties.

The 2nd **UB Doctoral Research and Dissemination Conference** was also organized by the Doctoral Students' Representative Council – which has been renewed this academic year – for the purpose of promoting research, innovation and knowledge development among doctoral students.

have committed to apply for recognition as a UB transfer group and TECNIO certification within a certain period of time. This year, the four research groups selected in the pre-TECNIO mode were the Early Drug Discovery Unit (EDDU), the Enteric Virus Group – SAVCA Laboratory, ITMAS (Multidisciplinary Technological Innovation in Food and Health) and RADMAT.

### University of Barcelona TECNIO groups:

- Engineering Centre for Instrumentation and Communication Microsystems (CEMIC)
- Thermal Spray Centre (CPT)
- Centre for the Production and Validation of Advanced Therapies (Creatio)
- DataScience@UB
- Centre for Design and Optimization of Processes and Materials (DIOPMA)
- Applied Mineralogy and the Environment (MAiMA)





In addition, in 2023-2024, two **calls for grant proposals** were announced directed at UB doctoral students. One aims to offer financial assistance for the organization of training activities by doctoral students and the other consists of grants for research activities related to participation in conferences, seminars, research visits and other activities involving travel.

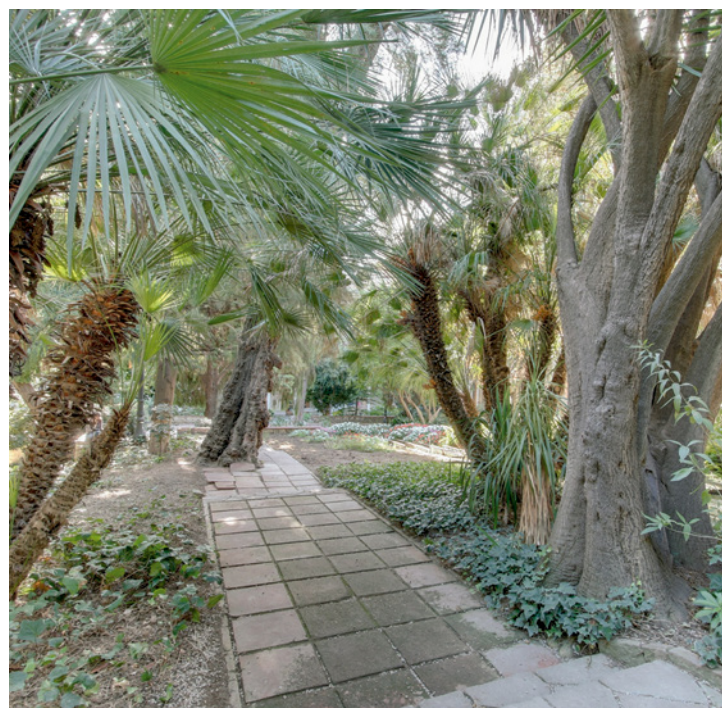


## Dissemination of scientific culture

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

The portal **published 105 outreach activities** over the course of the year and served as a platform to access 41 projects. Through its own profiles on **social networks** (X, Instagram and YouTube), UB Divulga offers content related to events and showcases researchers of excellence as well as outstanding research.

Some of the UB's most notable projects during the academic year include **Camins infinits** and **Toc-toc, informative talks held by UB researchers**. Both projects bring schools and the general public into contact with the UB's research staff. Trainee researchers visit schools to talk to primary, secondary and advanced secondary school students, and UB research staff hold talks arranged through different social institutions like schools, city and town halls, civic or cultural centres, retirement homes, etc. These two outreach projects have impacted approximately 3,000 people.



This year there have been botanical visits to the Ferran Soldevila garden.



Two activities were organized for the 2023 edition of the **European Research Night**. Firstly, the **Neuro-Concert**, entitled “The brain in movement” was organized in collaboration with the Escola Superior de Música de Catalunya (ESMUC) and held in the Auditorium of the Historic Building. Nearly 300 people attended the activity, which combined live musical performances and expert explanations from UB and ESMUC experts. Secondly, the cycle of six **Science Cafés** continued in 2023-2024. About 400 people took part in the events, which resulted in the production of new video clips for addition to the **Pòsits UB** collection.

To commemorate the International Day of Women and Girls in Science, the UB organized a new edition of the project **From Girls to Scientists** for primary school children as well as the contest **Elles poden, tu també!** on the UB Divulga Instagram account for the purposes of sharing the day-to-day life and work of women researchers.

The traditional **UB Science Festival** this year celebrated its tenth anniversary with record-breaking participation. With an offer of 78 workshops and activities and the involvement of 462 researchers, a total of 2,000 people took part in the two days, the maximum capacity.

**Botanical visits** to the Ferran Soldevila garden were also organized this year, and the **Didalets de botànica** video collection was expanded. A new edition of

**ArqueUB**, the programme of archaeological outreach activities held at the Raval Campus archaeological site, was also held.

This year saw a new edition of the **Mones de ciència** project, the result of a collaboration between the UB and the Barcelona Confectionery Guild. With biology as the theme, the traditional Catalan Easter-time chocolate figure was represented by a double helix of DNA and a small aquatic ecosystem accompanying Mia, the chocolate figurine that plays the leading role. The figure has taken the UB's research to 41 bakeries throughout Catalonia.

Work also continued on the **Focus** posters, a collection designed to reveal the scientific evidence, research and knowledge behind everyday aspects and concepts, as well as on the UB's **Cartipassos**, the collection of paper-format thematic magazines that aim to bring science closer to the public.

In actions aimed especially at researcher trainees, the UB once again took part in the **Thesis in 3 Minutes** competition, organized by the Coimbra Group; the **Thesis in 4 Minutes** competitions, managed by the Catalan Foundation for Research and Innovation and the social network contest **#HiloTesis: Your Doctoral Thesis in 20 Posts**, sponsored by the Scientific Dissemination and Culture Network (Red Divulga) of the Conference of Rectors of Spanish Universities (CRUE), along with the Ignacio Larramendi Foundation.





# An international university

Internationalization strategy

Internationalization actions

International mobility



# UB internationalization within the 2030 Agenda



## Internationalization strategy

The **Internationalization Committee**, a delegation of the Governing Council of the University of Barcelona, is responsible for coordinating internationalization actions, defining the internationalization strategy and monitoring its implementation. Having an **internationalization strategy** complies with the provisions of Organic Law 2/2023 of 22 March on the university system (LOSU) and responds to the need to establish priorities and expectations regarding the internationalization of training programmes, as required by the Catalan University Quality Assurance Agency (AQU Catalunya).

The **Erasmus+** programme remains the framework for the University’s international activity. This academic year, the UB achieved increases in several areas, such as student and staff mobility (key action 131), which obtained 4,189,898 euros (23.6% more than last year), and student and staff mobility between countries that are not members of the EU or associated countries (key action 171), which received 405,786 euros. The European Commission recognized the University of Barcelona’s contribution to the Erasmus Mundus programme, which recently celebrated its 20th anniversary. The award acknowledges the UB’s strong and sustained commitment to the initiative.

With regard to the **Erasmus Charter for Higher Education (ECHE)**, following the first diagnostic

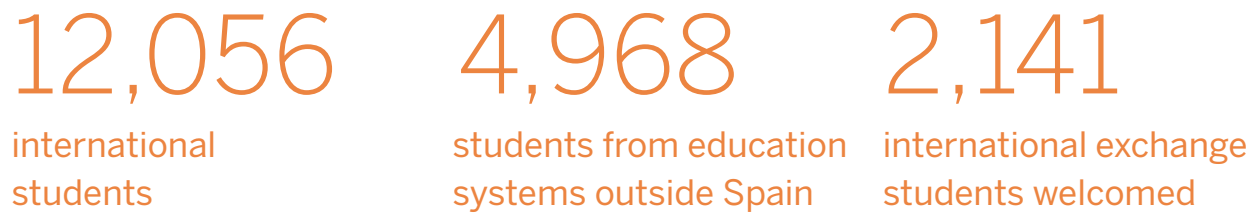
stage carried out by the working groups as well as the introductory phase, the Internationalization Committee ensured that the commitments made were adhered to and monitored the implementation of the ECHE at the University of Barcelona.

New mobility options for students, administrative and service staff and teaching and research staff were also offered in the 2021-2027 period, such as **blended intensive programmes (BIPs)** and virtual exchanges. This academic year, the UB’s internal procedures were modified to facilitate the incorporation of this new teaching and learning modality into the academic programme.

The UB promoted the **European Student Card Initiative (ESCI)**, above all through the implementation of Erasmus Without Paper (EWP). The University’s achievements in this area were presented at the Erasmus+ Higher Education Mobility Conference, organized by the Spanish Service for the Internationalization of Education (SEPIE). The UB was recognized for its efforts as an EWP Champion by the European Commission, a distinction awarded to institutions that have played a prominent role in advancing the project.

In order to foster national and international mobility and academic collaboration, and to coordinate efforts in the field of education, the University of Barcelona participates in **activities and conferences** organized by a variety of institutional and governmental stakeholders, such as the Sectoral Commission for

## A COMMITMENT TO INTERNATIONALIZATION



Internationalization and Cooperation of the Spanish Universities CRUE, the EduEspaña association, the Inter-University Council of Catalonia (CIC), the Catalan Association of Public Universities (ACUP) and the Spanish Service for the Internationalization of Education (SEPIE).

The objective of strengthening relations with Central and South America was furthered through the University’s participation in networks such as the Ibero-American Union of Universities (UIU). The UB’s academic ties with universities in Colombia, Mexico and Peru were also strengthened through the establishment of new academic cooperation agreements. Various measures were also taken to expand the UB’s relationships with Asian universities through regular cooperation with Casa Àsia and the Confucius Institute Foundation in Barcelona, and through actions specifically aimed at expanding student international mobility to countries in the region during their university studies as well as after graduation.

This year the first series of conferences on Ukrainian culture was organized. The Ukrainian teaching staff hosted by the UB Refugi programme presented their lines of research and the progress they have made during their time at the University of Barcelona.

Lastly, the UB Solidarity Foundation organized a seminar entitled ‘Collaboration for global justice and university commitment to societies’ which coincided with the visit of the rectors of two Senegalese universities, Gaston Berger University of Saint Louis and the

Assane Seck University of Ziguinchor. Various cooperation projects between the University of Barcelona and institutions in Senegal, Tunisia and Palestine were presented.

In the academic year 2022-2023, a total of 12,056 international students enrolled at the University of Barcelona. In addition, in 2023-2024, 1,796 bachelor’s degree students from foreign education systems came to the UB, and 1,750 master’s degree students and 1,722 doctoral students earned degrees that would allow them to attend a foreign university.

### International alliances and networks

Through its participation in international networks and alliances, the UB forges solid relationships with prestigious institutions, promotes student and staff exchanges, and supports joint research and collaborative projects.

The agreement signed during the previous academic year to restore the UIU alliance helped advance the governance model with the aim of fostering new cooperation initiatives in research among the participating universities.

As the current vice-chair of the Union of Mediterranean Universities (UNIMED), the University of Barcelona took part in this year’s UNIMED Week in Brussels, which was attended by more than 140 delegates from 20 countries. The event included discus-





PARTICIPATION IN NETWORKS

25 networks and alliances in which the UB is an active member

International networks and associations

- Francophone 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
- Euroregion Pyrenees Mediterranean (Eurocampus)
- European University Foundation (EUF)
- Confucius Institute Foundation of Barcelona
- Coimbra Group
- Tordesillas Group
- United Nations Academic Impact (UNAI)
- League of European Research Universities (LERU)
- New University in Exile Consortium
- PEACE programme
- Mediterranean Universities Union (UNIMED)
- Ibero-American Union of Universities (UIU)
- Universia
- Continuing Education Network of Latin America and Europe (RECLA)
- Network of European Universities in Life Sciences (Eurolife)
- Emprendia Network
- European Marine Research Network (EuroMarine)
- European University Continuing Education Network (EUCEN)
- Vives University Network (XVU)

sions with representatives from various European institutions about the future of Euro-Mediterranean policies. In this area, work has been done to advance the TESI initiative, which aims to support students and universities in Gaza in the current situation: the University of Barcelona joined the project and is working with coordinators from An-Najah National University (ANNU) on specific measures that are already being implemented.

The UB was also selected to be part of the International Call to Action (ICA) project of the Global University Network for Innovation (GUNI), a group of more than 40 universities from 20 countries. Within the ICA, the UB will work on strategic projects in the field of internationalization.

As part of the University Internationalization Hub initiative, launched in 2020 by the University of Barcelona and the European University Foundation (EUF) to improve university internationalization, the Student Mobility Summit was held in January under the motto ‘EWP Back to the Future’. The summit took place in the Aula Magna of the UB’s Historic Building and was attended by more than 200 people from some 50 higher education institutions from all over Europe. The University of Barcelona’s commitment to promoting the Erasmus Without Paper initiative was recognized, which complements the University’s selection for recognition as an EWP Champion, along with 48 European universities with extensive successful experience in the digitalization of the Erasmus+ programme.

INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIVENESS



Also during the academic year 2023-2024, the League of European Research Universities (LERU) created a new internationalization policy group, coordinated by the University of Barcelona, which aims to deal with issues related to the geopolitical situation and its impact on research conducted in cooperation with institutions in other countries.

The European university: CHARM-EU

The UB coordinates the **CHARM-EU European university alliance**, whose main objective is to promote cooperation and innovation in higher education.

Following the end of the TORCH project and the renewed funding of the CHARM-Eight project by the Erasmus+ programme (2024-2027 period), the alliance brought in four new partners for participation in various teaching and research activities: Julius-Maximilians-Universität Würzburg, Hochschule Ruhr West, Åbo Akademi University, and the University of Bergen. The presentation of last year’s results of EC-sponsored pilot projects to define the conditions that joint degrees must meet to receive the European seal of approval was of particular relevance, as was the presentation on the legal structures that are best suited for alliances to conduct activities more efficiently. CHARM-EU took part in the ED-AFFICHE project as well as the ESEU project. On the basis of the results, the European Commission adopted a package of measures to create a framework for further introduction of European degrees and interna-

tional academic cooperation. More specifically, the European Commission recently awarded the project to create a community of practice in the ForEU4All consortium, in which CHARM-EU and the University of Barcelona are actively involved, as part of their collaboration with other alliances.

Furthermore, CHARM-EU took part in the Second Forum of European University Alliances in Barcelona, organized by the Ministry of Science, Innovation and Universities as part of the Spanish Presidency of the Council of the European Union. Two seminars were organized through the Association of Catalan Public Universities to examine strategies to strengthen the knowledge economy in Catalonia through collaboration between universities and institutions, companies and other organizations.

In order to raise awareness of CHARM-EU activities and to facilitate the involvement of the UB community in this alliance, meetings were held with the faculties and various conferences were organized in connection with CHARM-EU and the TORCH project, including one dedicated to training in citizen science.



CHARM-EU participated in the 2nd Forum of European University Alliances, held in Barcelona

Internationalization, international cooperation, strategic alliances and knowledge transfer projects

Faculty	Projects
Fine Arts	2
Biology	4
Earth Sciences	1
Law	8
Economics and Business	7
Education	13
Pharmacy and Food Sciences	1
Philology and Communication	1
Philosophy	–
Physics	6
Geography and History	3
Nursing	–
Information and Audiovisual Media	3
Mathematics and Computer Science	2
Medicine and Health Sciences	3
Psychology	4
Chemistry	3
Total	61

Internationalization actions

The **call for grants for the internationalization of faculties and schools** was implemented in order to further the internationalization process. These grants offer direct support to faculties that will allow them to undertake their own international initiatives within a common institutional framework. The aim is to promote the active participation of faculties in networks and enhance their global presence. This year 17 internationalization projects were supported involving seven UB faculties and schools through the programme.

One hundred and sixty new **international agreements** were signed during the academic year, mainly with European (47) and Latin American institutions (37). Fourteen agreements were also signed with universities in the United States, five with China and others with institutions in Australia, Canada, Japan, the Republic of Korea and Tunisia. By type, there are 49 framework agreements and 45 research agreements, as well as 27 exchange agreements with universities outside Europe and 32 academic agreements, most of which are joint supervision agreements. These figures do not include the more than 3,400 Erasmus mobility agreements.

In collaboration with the Interuniversity Council of Catalonia (CIC), the University of Barcelona took

part in the three most prestigious **international education fairs**: the European Association for International Education (EAIE), whose event took place in Rotterdam (the Netherlands); the Asia-Pacific Association for International Education (APAIE) in Perth (Australia), and the Association of International Educators (NAFSA) in New Orleans (USA).

The image and messages of the mobility campaign were reformulated as part of the **UB’s efforts to promote mobility within the UB community**. With the slogan ‘Do you want to study abroad? The world is your campus’, the UB increased the number of communications via different media – physical media as well as social networks, email and the SocUB app – and the International Mobility Fair was promoted as the central event of the campaign. This year, the event was held in the outdoors space between the Faculty of Biology and the Faculty of Earth Sciences. As a result, 2,288 applications were received to study abroad in the academic year 2024-2025, an increase of 30% over the previous academic year.

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 international mobility, the Erasmus+ programme includes KA2 projects (strategic partnerships, knowl-

edge alliances, capacity-building, etc.), KA3 projects (social inclusion, education, training and youth), Jean Monnet activities (chairs, networks, projects and centres of excellence), Erasmus Sport activities (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.).

The UB is taking part in ten new projects that were granted in the academic year 2023-2024, which, added to those in which the University was already active, brings the total to 61. There are also 47 educational cooperation projects directly funded by the European Union with 33.31 million euros, of which the University of Barcelona receives 3.5 million euros. Highlights include 9 **capacity-building** projects, which seek to support the modernization, accessibility and internationalization of higher education in non-EU partner countries, and 26 **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 across Europe. In addition, there were 14 projects of the Erasmus Mundus programme, together with funding of 5.8 million euros, of which the UB receives a part corresponding to its actual academic activity in each edition.





• International mobility

The **Erasmus without Paper** (EWP) initiative continues to progress, with the ultimate goal of digitization and full interoperability of mobility management within 2021-2027. The UB is one of the institutions that has made the greatest progress in implementation in this area, in the number of procedures implemented as well as in the digitalization of management processes.

UB student mobility by programme

Programme	UB students	Temporary students
Erasmus+ KA131: BIP	11	69
Erasmus+ KA131: Studies	1,050	1,207
Erasmus+ KA131: Placements	87	103
Global Studies in Non-Associated Countries	–	56
Global Work Placements in Non-Associated Countries	–	5
Global Faculty UB	101	117
Global Mobility UB	60	62
Coimbra Group	–	15
CHARM-EU	–	4
Study Abroad	–	456
MAEC-AECID	–	13
Individual applications	2	34
Total	1,311	2,141

The University of Barcelona manages several **international student mobility programmes** through bilateral agreements with other institutions. Most prominent among them are Erasmus+, which provides exchanges within and outside the European Union; Global Mobility UB, which is based on bilateral agreements with other higher education institutions; the UB Global Faculty, based on agreements between faculties; individual petitions and Study Abroad, through which international students are welcomed to the University and which provides short teaching programmes and language and cultural activities.

For the **Erasmus+** programme, the study, professional placement and blended intensive programme exchange options begun in 2021 are expected to continue. This is the most important framework for international mobility at the UB, in terms of the number of people taking part in exchanges as well as the associated funding. In total, in the academic year, UB students went on 1,148 mobility exchanges and the UB received 1,379.

Also in relation to the Erasmus+ programme, the **United Kingdom’s** withdrawal from the European Union in 2020 posed a challenge for maintaining mobility exchanges, since the process had to be expanded to include immigration procedures. However, the university’s strategy has been realigned to return to previous levels of mobility between the two countries. Outgoing mobility (studies and placements) to universities in the United Kingdom are also included under the **Erasmus+** programme, even though

they now belong to non-associated third countries, while incoming mobility is included under the new programmes **Global Studies in Non-Associated Countries** and **Global Work Placements in Non-Associated Countries**.

Under the aegis of **Global UB** (which comprises the Global UB Mobility and Global Faculty UB programmes), 179 students were received at the UB and 161 UB students completed exchanges at other institutions.

UB students who participate in mobility programmes are eligible for various forms of **complementary financial aid**. During the academic year 2023-2024, a total of 320 travel grants were awarded, 274 for Erasmus+ students and 46 grants for study periods in the rest of the world through Global UB programmes.

The **MAEC-AECID** scholarship programme of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation and the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation for university master’s degree students has allowed the University of Barcelona to host eight students from Latin America and five from the ACP area (Asia, Caribbean and the Pacific).

The University of Barcelona has two student mobility programmes that do not involve reciprocal exchanges, but do involve welcoming incoming foreign students who are temporarily enrolled at the UB and sending UB students abroad. One non-reciprocal scheme is **individual applications**. Under this arrangement, 34 students from around the world were

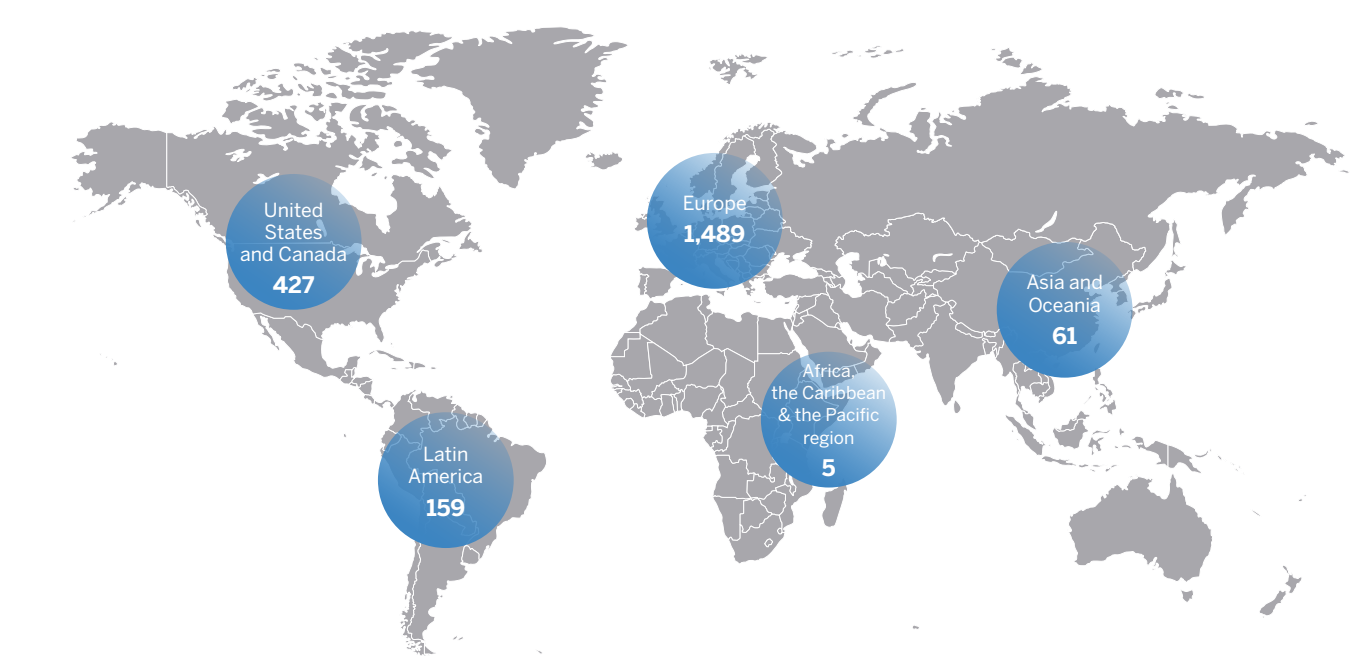
hosted and 2 UB students undertook periods of study abroad. The second is the **Study Abroad** programme, which covers agreements with consortia of universities. This programme experienced exceptional growth of nearly 75% with a total of 456 students welcomed to the University during the academic year.

In the academic year 2023-2024, the UB coordinated six **blended intensive programmes (BIP)** and took part in another three as a partner institution. In this vein, the eight BIPs applied for were approved as part of the Erasmus+ project presented this year. In these first three years of the European initiative, the University of Barcelona has been one of the leading universities, having taken part in 31 BIPs.

In the area of **international mobility of PDI and PTGAS**, during the academic year, 69 members of the UB’s **teaching and research staff** spent time abroad as part of the Erasmus+ programme, 10 of whom participated in exchanges outside the European Union. In addition, 246 foreign lecturers and researchers were welcomed at the University of Barcelona, and 3 researchers were accepted through the Coimbra Group programme for young researchers, with an endowment of 13,500 euros for the next call for applications. At the same time, a 60,000-euro grant programme was launched for the internationalization of the faculties and their academic programmes.

The UB’s **technical, management, and administrative and service staff** also took part in mobility

International exchange students hosted by the UB, by country of origin



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Incoming and outgoing mobility of PDI and PTGAS by programme

	PDI		PTGAS	
	Incoming	Outgoing	Incoming	Outgoing
Erasmus+ in the EU	–	61	68	34
Erasmus+ outside the EU (teaching mobility)	7	6	–	–
Erasmus+ outside the EU (training mobility)	–	2	5	3
Coimbra Group	3	–	–	–
Other programmes*	216	–	–	–
Total	246	69	73	37

\*For PDI: previously, reception programmes for international teaching and research staff (PDI).

programmes, with 37 members completing periods abroad in Europe and 9 outside Europe through the Erasmus+ programme. In addition, 73 colleagues from other European universities and 13 from other countries were welcomed at the UB.

An **International Staff Training Week** was also held, at which participants shared best practices and experiences in managing mobility and hosting foreign visitors. Sixteen managers and specialists from other European universities around the world took part in the event.

In the academic year 2023-2024, the UB completed procedures to secure **mobility authorizations for a total of 140 researchers and technicians from outside the European Union** and 48 accompanying family members. The procedures for 19 intra-European student exchanges were also managed.





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