



Multilingualism at the *Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona*

Marta Estella. Language Service

UAB

Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona

Linguistic diversity

European Union

- 27 Member States
- 23 official languages
[\[link\]](#)
- Around 45 regional languages
- 50,000,000 people whose mother tongue is different to that of the official state language
- 10% of the world's population
- 1% of the world's languages



EU languages (I)

Some EU regional languages. Number of speakers:

Catalan	9.118.000	Friulian	400.000
Galician	2.420.000	Luxembourgish	350.000
Occitan	2.100.000	Breton	180.000
Sardinian	1.300.000	Corsican	125.000
Basque	683.000	...	
Welsh	508.000	UE total	49.000.000
Frisian	400.000	(EBLUL)	~ 10 % UE



Source: Lingcat

EU languages (II)

EU official languages. Number of speakers:

1. German	90.200.000	13. Swedish	9.300.000
2. French	62.700.000	Catalan	9.118.000
3. English	62.200.000	14. Bulgarian	7.500.000
4. Italian	57.400.000	15. Slovak	5.400.000
5. Castilian	39.800.000	16. Danish	5.200.000
6. Polish	38.700.000	17. Finnish	5.100.000
7. Romanian	22.300.000	18. Lithuanian	3.700.000
8. Dutch	21.200.000	19. Latvian	2.400.000
9. Greek	11.400.000	20. Slovenian	2.000.000
10. Hungarian	10.500.000	21. Estonian	1.400.000
11. Czech	10.300.000	22. Irish	1.240.000
12. Portuguese	9.800.000	23. Maltese	400.000



Source: Lingcat

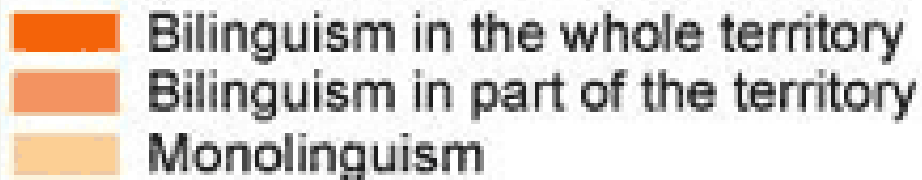
Languages in Spain



Barcelona

Some figures

- 41 % of the population lives in territories with two official languages.
- One in every four Spaniards (27.5 %) lives in a Community in which Catalan is the official language.



Source: Lingcat

The Catalan language



Catalonia



Valencia



Balearic islands



Eastern Aragon



**South-Eastern
France**



Andorra



**Alghero
(Italy)**

Some figures

- Area covered: 68,000 Km²
- Population: 13,529,127
- Those who understand Catalan: 11,011,168
- Those who speak Catalan: 9,118,882

Source: Lingcat



Languages in Catalonia

A multilingual society
250-300 languages spoken

Two widespread languages
Catalan and Spanish

Additional languages



Mass media and culture

Use of Catalan in Catalonia

- The only language in Catalan public broadcasting
- 62% of theatre performances
- 50% of radio programmes
- 36% of newspapers and magazines
- 30% of TV programmes
- 30% of published titles
- 1.09 webpages per speaker
- 2% of films screened in Catalonia
- 15th most published language in the world
- 22nd most translated language in the world



Legal framework

Statute of Autonomy (1979)

- Catalan is Catalonia's **own language**.
- Catalan is the official language of Catalonia, as is Spanish, which is official throughout Spain.

Language Policy Act (1998)

- Catalonia's **own language**: commits the **public institutions** to **use** Catalan in a general manner.
- **Official** languages: guarantees the **rights of the citizens** to learn both languages, to use them, and to be served in the language of their choice.

Education

Preschool / Primary / Secondary

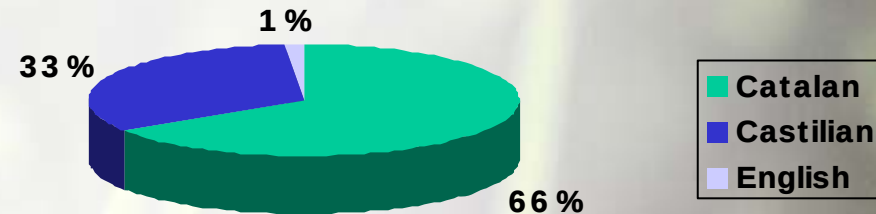
- Catalan is the vehicular language of teaching
- Spanish is used to teach at least one subject
- Trilingual experiments: subjects in English



University: up to now

- Catalan is the University's own language
- Catalan and Spanish are the official languages
- Students and teaching staff can use the official language of their choice
- The teaching staff must know both official languages sufficiently
- Students are not divided by language
- Catalan is used in local communications
- Spanish and English are used in international communications

**Language uses in teaching.
Undergraduate courses. UAB**



University: from now on

The mainstream

- English as a vehicular language (CLIL), too
- English via mobility or certification
- English as a requirement for staff
- Legal status for English
- Linguistic security



Some other trends

- Pluricultural competence
- Romance-language comprehension
- Linguistic skills in Catalan and Spanish
- Internationalisation at home

University: instruments

UAB

- Language-Policy Commission
- Plan for languages [[link](#)]
- Language Service (coordination)



University: instruments

UAB Plan for Languages

A strategic pledge for multilingualism

Key ideas

- definition of a multilingual outlook (undergraduate and postgraduate)
- promotion of plurilingualism in the classroom and transparency of information
- regulation of multilingualism in institutional communications



**Pla de Llengües
de la UAB**

Aposta estratègica pel multilingüisme

University: instruments

UAB Plan for Languages

A strategic pledge for multilingualism

Four broad areas

- institutional and management area
- teaching area
- linguistic and cultural integration area
- research area

44 main activities
(2008-2010)



University: instruments

UAB Plan for Languages

A strategic pledge for multilingualism

Participation in the Plan design

- diagnosis (2007 April – July): reports, interviews, benchmarking
- consultation (2007 November – December): online forum and questionnaire
- working meeting (2007 November): presentations by a speaker and discussion
- writing and approval (2008.07.18)



University: instruments

OBJECTIUS

Valora el grau d'importància que tenen per a tu els objectius que es presenten a continuació:

Per cada ítem marca un dels colors:

-  Molt important
-  Bastant important
-  Poc important
-  Gens important
-  Ns/Nc

Per ajudar a prioritzar, com a màxim pots marcar **2 respostes en verd** 😊

(Pots modificar qualsevol valoració clicant la icona )



1.- Esdevenir una universitat multilingüe, en la qual s'utilitzin de manera regular almenys tres llengües (català, castellà i anglès)

Valora aquest article:     

 Comentaris (2)



2.- Consolidar l'ús del català com a llengua pròpia de la Universitat

Valora aquest article:     

 Comentaris (11)



3.- Fomentar i gestionar el multilingüisme en la documentació institucional (publicacions, certificats acadèmics, directius, etc.)

Valora aquest article:     

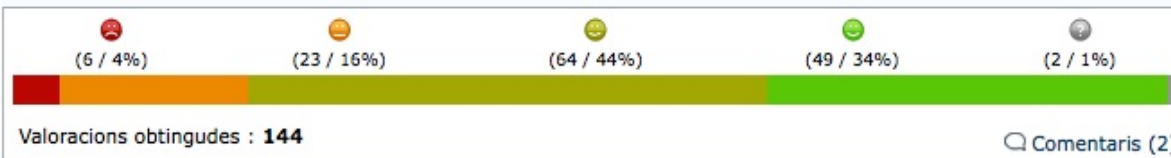
 Comentaris (2)



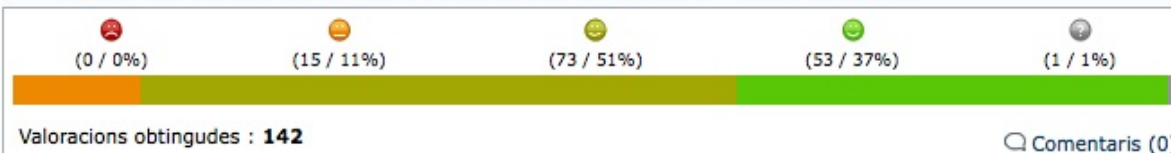
University: instruments



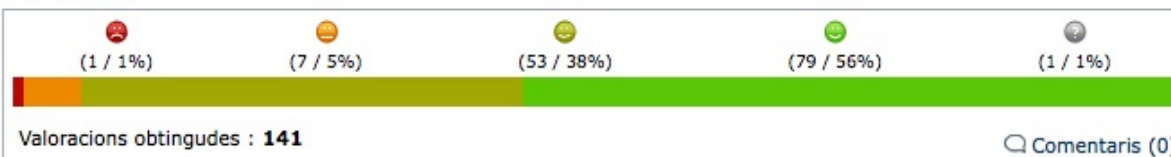
6.- Donar a conèixer la diversitat lingüística i cultural del campus com un valor afegit de la UAB



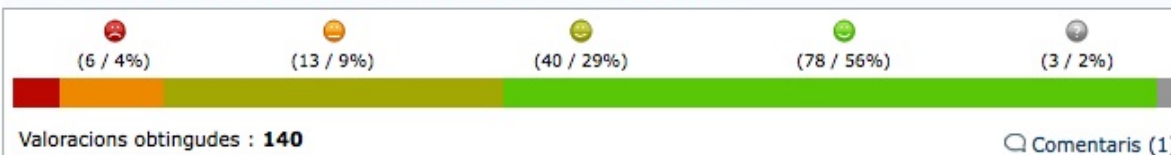
7.- Promoure el coneixement mutu de les llengües i cultures que coexisteixen al campus



8.- Afavorir la transparència informativa (donar a conèixer els criteris establerts en relació amb la política lingüística universitària)



9.- Fer públic quines són les llengües de docència de cada grup classe



University: in & out

Resources

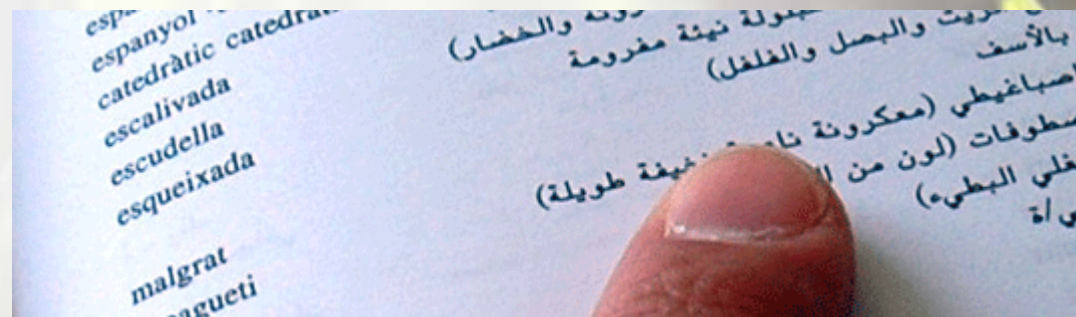
- Language courses
- Communication skills
- Self-access centre
- Online resources
- Level test

EEESGLOSSARI

crédit europeu
student portfolio
suplemento al títol

simtest

diagnòstic de nivell d'anglès



University: linguistic integration

inter_cat

Accessibility | A - Å

Sitemap | Your opinion

Català | Castellano

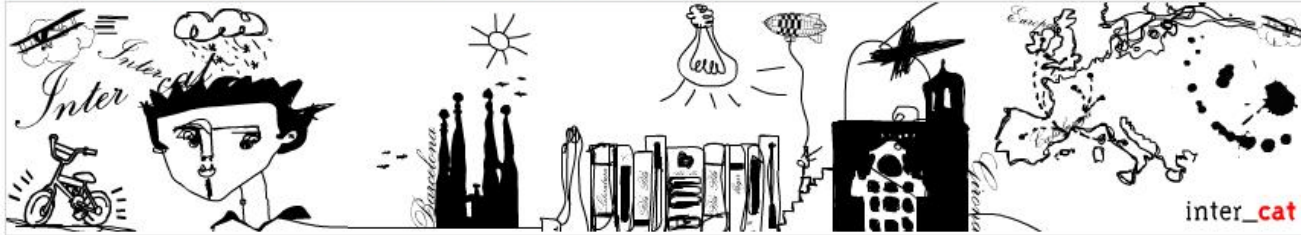
WHAT IS INTERCAT?

I'M LEARNING CATALAN

SIGN ME UP!

I LIVE IN CATALONIA

HOME



University conversation guide

Speakcat. On-line Catalan course

Catalonia and the world

80 tips

Online resources before arrival

Resources at the UAB

- Courses
- Resources, as conversation guides
- Outings
- Language voluntary support (help in class)



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Thank you.

**Marta Estella
Language Service**

marta.estella@uab.cat

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