



Handbook for international students



Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona
www.uab.cat

UAB
Universitat Autònoma
de Barcelona

UABCEI
CAMPUS OF INTERNATIONAL
EXCELLENCE



Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona

The UAB is renowned for its research excellence and the quality of its teaching, being a benchmark centre in Europe. The UAB is located just 25 minutes by public transport from the centre of **Barcelona**, a cosmopolitan metropolis on the Mediterranean coast. The main campus is in Bellaterra, at the heart of one of the main technological and industrial hubs of Mediterranean Europe.

The UAB covers all aspects of **university life**. The campus is a true knowledge city, with almost 50,000 inhabitants: students, teaching staff, researchers and administrative staff. It has all the services necessary for a university community.

The UAB promotes **innovation, employability and entrepreneurship**. It endeavours to promote research and transfer in all branches of knowledge and works side-by-side with the surrounding business and industrial community, and with scientific centres such as the ALBA Synchrotron Light Laboratory.

The international dimension of the UAB can be seen in the number of foreign students, especially on master's degree and PhD programmes. Over 45 master's degrees are taught 100% in English.

In the 2015-2016 edition of the Times Higher Education World University Rankings, the UAB is the best Spanish university, occupying position 146 in the world ranking.

The UAB is a sustainable university. It makes an effort to improve the health of the university community, promotes **healthy environments and lifestyles** and, moreover, is committed to responsible consumption and is a leader in the implementation of sustainable actions.

[Consult the UAB in the main international rankings](#) →

[About the UAB](#) →

[UAB Contact](#) →

Barcelona, university city

Barcelona is among the world's best cities in classifications of quality of life, safety and fairness.

Barcelona has established itself as a prestigious brand identified with aspects such as creativity, talent, quality of life, modernity and economic, technical and social progress.

According to the **Barcelona City Brand Programme** survey, it is the world's fourth **most creative** city.

According to the **QS ranking of the world's 50 best student cities** (2015), Barcelona is in 19th position. This ranking assesses criteria such as: reputation of the centres, price, quality of life of the city, employment prospects and the characteristics of its student community.

With five public and three private universities, Barcelona is home to **over 25,000 foreign students and researchers** each year: a unique opportunity to experience different cultures and enrich your personal and professional relations.

40% of master's degree and graduate studies students and 30% of PhD students in Barcelona come from different international destinations.

Barcelona university city 

Barcelona culture 

Studying at the UAB

University studies are divided into three cycles: bachelor's degree, master's degree and PhD


The UAB divides the academic year into two semesters. The first semester tends to begin in the middle of September and finish at the end of February, and the second semester begins at the end of February and finishes at the end of June.

Registration is carried out just once a year, at the beginning of the academic year.

The assessment system in Spain uses a scale of marks from 0 to 10, with 10 being the highest mark.

If you wish to access bachelor's degree, master's degree, graduate and/or PhD studies, do not forget to find out whether you need to follow the official recognition or legalization process

The best option before beginning official recognition or legalization proceedings is to consult the corresponding consulate

Information on the official 
recognition of qualifications

Information on the legalization 
of documents



Bachelor's degree

The UAB offers over 80 bachelor's degrees from all spheres of knowledge. Our bachelor's degrees are recognized for their quality, their commitment to internationalization and their practical side.

Some bachelor's degrees are offered 100% in English.

[Consult all the bachelor's degrees on offer](#) ➔

[Consult all the bachelor's degrees on offer in English](#) ➔

How to apply for admission

You need to carry out the following formalities:

- Official recognition of the access degree.
- Verification of the access requirements and/or tests **with the National Distance Education University (UNED) ***
- Process the pre-registration with the **Oficina de Orientación para el Acceso a la Universidad.**

* Some bachelor's degrees can be accessed directly without taking the entrance tests, just with the official recognition of your upper secondary-school education qualification.

When to apply for admission

The application for admission (pre-registration) to bachelor's degree studies is carried out online in June, and some bachelor's degrees also accept applications in September.

[Consult how to apply for admission to bachelor's degrees](#) ➔

[UAB Contact](#) ➔



Master's degree

There are official university master's degrees and UAB-specific master's degrees. Their purpose is for students to acquire advanced education of a specialized and multidisciplinary nature, geared toward both professional specialization and an initiation into research.

[Consult all the master's degrees on offer](#) →

How to apply for admission

Applications for admission are made directly with the UAB. The applications are submitted online, attaching your personal and academic details in order to form part of the selection process.

When to apply for admission

Starting in January for official master's degrees and in April/May for UAB-specific master's degrees.

[Consult how to apply for admission to UAB-specific master's degrees](#) →

[Consult how to apply for admission to official master's degrees](#) →



PhD

PhD programmes offer advanced training in research techniques, culminating in a doctoral thesis. They usually last three years, and consist of preparing and defending a thesis.

International PhDs and **industrial PhDs** stand out among the PhD programmes on offer at the UAB.

International Doctoral Research Component

This involves a stay in various European countries by the PhD student and the participation of teaching staff from international universities.

Industrial PhD

The doctoral thesis is carried out in the framework of a collaboration agreement between the university and a company.

[See all the PhDs on offer](#) ➔

How to apply for admission

Applications are sent directly to the department or centre responsible for the PhD programme. Please consult the programme's website for important dates and specific application requirements.

When to apply for admission

Each PhD programme may have its own admissions calendar. Please consult the programme's website for important calendar dates. Registration takes place each year in October.

[How to apply for admission to PhD programmes](#) ➔



Courses and programmes for international students

Specific programmes for international students

The UAB offers several programmes for international students who wish to study for a semester or a complete academic year in Barcelona.

[Selected Course](#)

[Pre-established Programme](#)

[Tailor Made Programmes](#)

[International Summer term](#)

Consult the programmes for international [students](#)

Exchange programmes

The UAB has student exchange agreements with universities worldwide, especially in Europe, Latin America and Asia. [See map of all the programmes.](#)

There are currently three exchange programmes, distributed according to the geographical area.

Consult the exchange programmes [➔](#)

Language courses

Intensive and extensive beginners' and advanced Catalan and Spanish courses during the academic year.

The courses provide the student with the basic knowledge necessary to understand the language and be able to communicate from the first day of class

Language courses [➔](#)



Legal formalities in your country of origin

The UAB provides its students with admission documentation with which they should begin **the visa application in the Spanish consulate office** of their country of origin or the country in which they have legal residence.

Depending on the duration of the studies, the visas can be:

- Stay of up to 90 days (type C)
- Visa for stay of up to 6 months (type D code SSU).
- Visa for stay longer than 6 months (type D code SLU). In this case it is necessary to process a **foreigner's ID card (TIE)**, within one month from entering Spain.

Those non-Community citizens who reside in a European country at the time of admission can regularize their situation in the **Oficina de Extranjeros** of Barcelona within one month from entering Spain. For this it is essential that the card from the European country is still in force and that there is an entry stamp in Spain. This can be obtained in the Comisaría de Policía Nacional of the airport or in the Comisaría of Rambla Guipúzcoa, 74 (Barcelona), within a period of 72 hours from entering.

The law on foreigners is constantly being renewed, and it is therefore very important for future students of the UAB to contact the UAB [International Welcome Point \(IWP\)](#) before their arrival so that they can be informed about possible changes to the law.

Legal formalities for citizens from a country of the EU →

Legal formalities for students from a country which does not belong to the EU →



Planning your stay in barcelona

Accommodation

On campus: Vila Universitaria is a residential complex of **812 apartments** located on the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona campus.

Off campus: we have a support service to contact different accommodation options off the UAB campus.

[Application for reservation with Vila Universitaria](#) →

[Application for accommodation off campus](#) →

Calculate accommodation and living expenses

In general, you should count on the following monthly expenses:

- Food: €250 to 350
- Personal and leisure expenses: €160 to 220
- Transport: €60 to 80
- Accommodation: €250 to 500

TOTAL: €720 to €1,200 per month for accommodation and living expenses

Study expenses

All academic expenses are included under “registration”. In public universities this is a separate expense from accommodation and living expenses. The prices are calculated in accordance with the credits for which you have registered. You can consult the approximate cost of your registration at the following link:

[Enrollment simulator](#) →



Grants, financial aid, work placements and working as a student

Grants and financial aid

The UAB web portal has a grant search engine www.uab.cat/grants-financial-aids. The search engine includes not only all the financial aid offered by the UAB but also some calls for applications from other institutions which may be of interest.

[Information on grants and financial aid](#) ➔

UAB Employment Portal

UAB students have a set of resources geared toward enabling employment and seeking work and/or work placements related to their studies. All these resources are available on the **Treball Campus**.

The main aim of the **Treball Campus** is to help UAB students and degree holders to access the labour market through companies and institutions seeking the most appropriate professionals and talent for their companies at the University.

[Treball Campus](#) ➔

How to apply for a work permit

Those non-Community students who wish to work in Spain and have a job offer can do so by applying for a work permit. This permit only allows you to work part-time or full-time for a maximum three months, provided that it is compatible with your academic timetable. Its expiry is subject to the contract termination date and/or to the expiry date of the TIE (foreigner ID card), although it can be renewed.

[Application for work permit](#) ➔

Getting here

To plan your arrival on campus we recommend that you visit the mobility and transport web page.


There you will find maps, different options to access the campus, transport prices, and other information of interest related to mobility.

[Check web accessibility and transportation of the UAB](#)

The UAB campus in Bellaterra is the University's main campus. Discover all the spaces which make up the campus at the following links:

[UAB Services](#)

[Schools](#)



Avinguda de
l'Eix Central

Zona 2

UAB

First steps

On arriving on the **UAB** campus, **the first step is to visit the International Welcome Point office**, specifically for students, teaching staff and administrative staff from other countries.

Each UAB faculty also has an **office to help international students**. This office will offer you information about the faculty or university school where you are going to study.

[International Welcome Point](#)

[Offices for international students](#)



International Welcome Point

The International Welcome Point (IWP), located in the Plaza Cívica of the UAB campus, provides information and assistance with immigration formalities for students, teaching staff and administrative staff from other countries.

Before arriving

- Information and assistance with practical issues (accommodation, medical insurance, cost of living, etc.)
- Information on study, research and work visas.
- Practical guide for international students.
- Assistance for international graduate studies grantholders

On arrival

- Assistance for all foreign students, teaching staff or administrative staff and information on the first steps to take.
- Arrival register for exchange students and guest students, teaching staff and administrative staff.
- Assistance with immigration procedures (obtaining the ID card for foreigners, register of Community citizens, etc.)
- Welcome pack with practical information.
- Information on UAB welcome days.
- Assistance for organized groups (Study Abroad Programme, international visits, etc...).

During the stay

- Resolution of incidents and coordination between different units of the UAB.
- Management of renewal of authorization of stay for study purposes.
- Information and processing of work permits for students.
- Management of renewal of residence and work permit.
- Support for international graduate studies grantholders.

[International Welcome Point](#) 



Legal formalities on arrival

Obtaining the ID card for study purposes (TIE)

The TIE is a temporary stay authorization card valid for the duration of the studies in Spain. This authorization is granted for a maximum of one academic year and is renewed annually, provided that the requirements stipulated in the law are fulfilled. This document regularizes the stay of those who are going to remain in Spain for more than six months and have previously obtained an open study visa.

On entering the European Union, you have a maximum of 30 calendar days to apply for the TIE.

[How to obtain the ID card for study purposes](#) →

Authorization of stay for holders of a study permit in another country of the EU

Those non-Community citizens who reside in a European country at the time of admission can regularize their situation in the Oficina de Extranjeros of Barcelona within a period of one month from their entry in Spain. For this it is essential that the card from the European country is still in force and that there is an entry stamp in Spain. This can be obtained in the Comisaría de Policía Nacional of the airport or in the Comisaría of Rambla Guipúzcoa, 74 (Barcelona), within a period of 72 hours from entering.

This formality can be carried out through the International Welcome Point, which submits this type of dossier on a weekly basis in the Oficina de Extranjeros of Barcelona.

Medical insurance

All foreign students studying at a Catalan university must be covered by medical insurance. The formalities to obtain the medical insurance vary in accordance with the country of origin.

[Medical insurance for EU students](#) →

[Medical insurance for non-EU students](#) →



Registration

Registration is carried out just once a year, at the beginning of the academic year. Registration is carried out in person in the **Academic Management Service** of the Faculty where you are carrying out your studies.

Payment of the registration is by **direct debit***. If, before leaving your country, you need to advance money, consult the payment methods with the Academic Management Service.

*All **banks in Spain** can open a **bank account** for you. Each bank has its own conditions, but one essential requirement is to present your passport or residence card.

You will be given a **university card** on registration. This is a single ID and accreditation tool for students, giving you free access to various University services. The card is valid throughout your studies.

With the **University ID number (NIU)** which appears on the card and your access code, you will be able to access the UAB intranet and use the Virtual Secretary (consult marks and academic transcript, access the Virtual Campus, etc.) and other campus services (library, reservation of material, etc.)

[Bachelor's degree registration](#) →

[Official master's degree registration](#) →

[UAB-specific Master's Degree registration](#) →

[Information on the student card](#) →

[Academic Management Service](#) →

[UAB Contact](#) →



Activities intended for international students

The **International Welcome Days** are intended for the international students of the UAB. They consist of a week of activities, workshops and talks offering an initial introduction to the academic, social and cultural life of the campus for recently arrived students, and they are also a good way of getting to know other both local and international UAB students. Two are held, one in September and the other in February, at the beginning of each semester.

Mentor (buddy programme) offers international students arriving at the UAB the support of local students with a mobility programme to facilitate integration into the academic, social and cultural world of the UAB.

Tandem offers you the opportunity to practise different languages and get to know other cultures and ways of doing things, having a language partner and participating in the activities that are organized. It is a useful way to practise languages and help other people to practise the language they want to improve or learn.

Various **trips** to different locations in Catalonia are organized during the year, so that you can get to know Catalan society and culture better and in greater depth, at the same time as meeting other exchange students.

[Consult the activities of the International Welcome Days](#) ➔



Contact the UAB

If you have any questions you can contact us by phone, on the social media, using the enquiry forms on the website www.uab.cat or by e-mail.

For inquiries about legal formalities please contact the UAB International Welcome Point (IWP)

- Phone + 34 93 581 11 11
- e-mail: informacio@uab.cat
- Information forms: www.uab.cat
- Facebook: [Facebook.com/uabbarcelona](https://facebook.com/uabbarcelona)
- Twitter: [@uab_info](https://twitter.com/@uab_info)
- In person: Plaza Cívica (Campus de Bellaterra) 08193 Cerdanyola del Vallès

