

Universitat Autònoma
de Barcelona

Annual report for the 2021-2022 academic year



Annual Report for the 2021-2022 Academic Year

Edited by

Secretaria General
Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona

Coordination

Gabinet del Rectorat
Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona

Design

Mètode Design

Photographs

Antoni Bofill
Amics UAB
Àrea de Comunicació i de Promoció
Àrea de Relacions Internacionals
Fundació Autònoma Solidària
Parc de Recerca UAB

Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona

Campus de Bellaterra
08193 Bellaterra (Cerdanyola del Vallès)
www.uab.cat/memoria

Information in this report for the 2021-2022 academic year is accurate at 7 June 2022.

This report also has versions in Catalan and Spanish, which can be downloaded from the version of the UAB Annual Report webpage (www.uab.cat/memoria) in these languages.

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Presentation



The 2021-2022 academic year has been the year of the return to the campus and the return to normal academic life. Our physical presence on the campus has been of great benefit in carrying out the fundamental missions of the university in the areas of teaching, research and the transfer of knowledge, and has favoured the relationship of the university with society and the surrounding region.

The facts, data and events that are contained in this Annual Report for the 2021-2022 Academic Year of the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (UAB) reflect the impact of that physical presence and, especially, demonstrate the importance of the campus as a place for participation and as the backbone of the region and the social fabric.

This year's report is an exercise in transparency and accountability of the last year and an invitation to reflect calmly on the role of the university as a generator of change to advance towards motor for change to progress towards the knowledge society. Of course, reading the different chapters of this report shows the remarkable results that the UAB has achieved in all areas and how the alliances with different actors in the regions has intensified to be able to contribute jointly to progress in society.

In the area of teaching, with the objective of promoting strategic joint projects with the surrounding area, this year we presented the Urban Campus of Life and Health Sciences in the vicinity of the Artèxtil building in Sabadell. Also, in the field of health, we signed an agreement to increase the number of places on the Bachelor's degree in Nursing in the teaching units of the Parc Taulí and Germans Trias i Pujol hospitals, thereby satisfying one of the needs of our country.

At the proposal of the students, this year we approved the possibility of a single assessment for subject whose content and teaching methodology permit it. We have also reinstated face-to-face activities for professional orientation and signed an agreement with the municipal employment and entrepreneurship agency Barcelona Activa to improve job opportunities for our graduates.

Our quality assurance policy is a priority and this year four UAB centres obtained positive evaluations for the establishment of their management systems, bringing to nine the number of centres who have obtained this recognition from the Catalan quality assurance agency, AQU Catalunya.

In the area of research, the 2021-2022 academic year has been particularly positive in terms of attracting talent. We have had a significant increase in the number of Ramón y Cajal researchers and have achieved notable success in the receipt of Next Generation funding through the grant competition for the requalification of the Spanish university system.

The participation of the UAB in the Horizon 2020 programmes closed with a total of 86 million euros received/raised, doubling the economic return achieved in the seventh European framework programme. We would also like to highlight the fact that this year the UAB obtained 9 ERC grants under the new Horizon Europe programme.

In terms of knowledge transfer, the UAB Research Park has provided support for the seven start-ups created as a result of research carried out on the UAB campus. Also, during 2021, the UAB applied for 8 new single priority patents and has signed 13 transfer agreements with national and international companies.

Internationally, this year the UAB approved the CIU University Strategic Plan and has continued to work on the rolling out of this innovative project which promotes a methodology of challenge-based learning with teams of international and interdisciplinary students. This focus will also be gradually introduced into the UAB course programmes.

As I have mentioned, our physical presence has revitalised campus life: cultural activities, acts of solidarity and social awareness have encouraged participation by all members of the university community. The opening of the SiS Space for Health and Sustainability has represented a decisive step forward for the UAB towards a campus model of good health and commitment to the environment, which prioritises sustainable mobility to reduce the university's carbon footprint.

Despite initial optimism following improvements in the epidemiological indicators after Covid-19, the outbreak of war in Ukraine as a result of the Russian invasion has rocked international stability with grave economic and human consequences. At the university we have manifested our opposition to the military aggression in Ukraine and have launched several initiatives for information and awareness-raising, as well as proving support to members of the UAB community affected by the war.

The UAB is a socially committed university with a firm desire to be involved in finding solutions to the big social challenges, in line with the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations. I am satisfied that this year we have advanced in that regard.

Javier Lafuente

Rector of the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona

Key figures for the 2021-2022 academic year

Courses

Bachelor's degrees	109
Master's degrees	136
PhD programmes	67
Lifelong learning programmes (2020-2021)	422
UAB faculties and schools	15
Attached university schools	14

Teaching

First-year Bachelor's degree students	6,976
Total Bachelor's degree students	27,203
Bachelor's degree graduates (2020-2021)	5,081
Master's degree students	2,987
Master's degree graduates (2020-2021)	2,126
First-year Bachelor's degree students in affiliated centres	1,476
Total Bachelor's degree students in affiliated centres	5,134
Bachelor's degree graduates in affiliated centres (2020-2021)	990
Master's degree students in affiliated centres	703
Master's degree graduates in affiliated centres (2020-2021)	501
Lifelong learning students (2020-2021)	5,835

Research (2021)

Research groups recognised by the Government of Catalonia	204
Departments	57
Study and research centres	24
UAB research institutes	9
Associated research centres	37
PhD students	4,629
Doctoral theses defended (2020-2021)	831
Articles published in indexed journals (WoS, Clarivate Analytics)	5,846
Priority patent applications	8
New companies attached to the UAB Research Park	12
Resources destined for research (in €M)	109.6

Internationalisation

Foreign Bachelor's degree students	1,434
Foreign official Master's degree students	898
Foreign UAB Master's degree students (2020-2021)	848
Foreign PhD students	1,775
Outgoing UAB students on exchange programmes	1,204
Incoming students on UAB exchange programmes	1,441
Foreign students on the Study Abroad programme	1,954

Human resources (2021)

Teaching and research staff	4,02
Trainee research staff	590
Administration and services staff	2,29

Budget (2021)

Expenditure budget (in €M)	332.3
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Notes:

- The figures for the 2021-22 academic year are from 7 June 2022.
- The number of full-time equivalents Bachelor's degree students is 25,537.
- The number of students does not include students from interuniversity programmes who are not directly registered at the UAB.
- Teaching and research staff include postdoctoral researchers (Ramon y Cajal, Juan de la Cierva, Beatriu de Pinós, etc.), and total 260.
- The number of full-time equivalent teaching and research staff is 2,760.

Governance and institutional activity



The UAB returns to the campus for the new academic year

On 27 September the inauguration of the academic year took place in the Conference Hall of the Rectorat building. Elvira Dyangani Ose, Director of Barcelona Contemporary Art Museum (MACBA) gave the opening speech entitled “That absent person”. The institutional event also included speeches by Esther Zapater, General Secretary of the UAB; Gabriel Masfurroll, Chair of the UAB Board of Trustees; Carlos Cordón, Mayor of Cerdanyola del Vallès; Javier Lafuente, Rector of the UAB; and Gemma Geis, Councillor of Research and Universities.

Governance agreements

During this academic year, the governing and representation bodies of the university have continued with their activities.

The **Senate** met twice: on 20 December 2021 and 12 May 2022. In the first of these meetings the annual report by the rector on the general policy lines of the university was approved and the annual reports of the Ombuds Office and the Observatory for Equality were presented. In the second meeting the rector’s report was presented and Dr. María Jesús Espuny was chosen as the ombuds officer of the university.

The **Governing Council** met eight times in ordinary sessions: on 30 September, 28 October and 1 December 2021, and on 3 February, 15 March, 28 April, 1 June and 7 July 2022. There were 111 agreements adopted and points of information and debate were dealt with. The following are some of the main ones:

- Approval of the structures for administrative support to the departments and institutes of the UAB, and the finalisation of the Contingency Plan and Organisational Protocol of the UAB.
- Election of members of the Governing Council to the Board of Trustees, of members of the General Electoral Board and of the committees of the Governing Council in representation of the different groups in the university community.
- Nomination of Monica Heller and Juan Manuel Lema Rodicio to receive honorary doctorates.
- Approval and referral to the Board of Trustees of the basic criteria for drawing up the UAB Budget for 2022; of the basic criteria for the extension of the UAB Budget for 2021 until the UAB Budget for 2022 was approved, of the UAB Budget project for the 2022 financial year, and information about the financial report, balance sheet, income statement and UAB budget settlement for the 2021 financial year.
- Approval of the general regulations and plans of the UAB in the following areas: the new model of prioritisation of chairs, the UAB Plan for anti-Fraud Measures, the Regulations for UAB branding, the new academic regulations of the UAB and the Plan for Languages for 2021-2025.



María Jesús Espuny – the new Ombuds Officer of the UAB

On 12 May 2022 the Senate appointed María Jesús Espuny, lecturer in the Area of History of Law and Institutions, as the new Ombuds Officer of the UAB. A driving force behind the study of Labour Relations at the UAB, Dr Espuny has been Deputy Dean of the Faculty of Law and Director of the Centre for Women’s Studies and Research. María Jesús Espuny takes over from Professor Manuel Gerpe, who held the position of Ombuds Officer from 2017.

Board of Trustees

During the 2021-2022 academic year there were changes in the composition and structure of the Board of Trustees. Montserrat López was appointed by the Government of Catalonia as a new member of the Board of Trustees, replacing Mario García. In the plenary session of the Board of Trustees it was also agreed that Mariona Serra will represent the Board on the committee to promote the Barcelona Deep Tech Node programme.

With the aim of improving innovation and transfer at the University, the Board of Trustees has continued to contribute to the B30 Hub project with the new Venture Building in Cleantech, which set out from the stage of seizing transfer opportunities in the territorial area of influence of the UAB to materialise ideas and opportunities in start-up companies. The second stage of the *Challenge-Based Learning in Sustainability* project has also been developed. The Board of Trustees continued to support the promotion of sport at the UAB by defining a strategic plan to for that purpose and increasing the resources aimed at promoting the UAB Games project.

In addition to all the actions carried out within the framework of the University-Society Programme (see the chapter on “Social and environmental commitment”), the Board of Trustees has used the powers conferred on it by the Law on the Catalan Universities for programming and management, and finance in the different areas of the university community. Specifically, during this academic year a total of five committee meetings and six plenary sessions were held, and 239 agreements were reached.



Award of the 2022 Medal of Honour of the Vives University Network

On 12 July 2022 the Rectorat building of the UAB hosted the ceremony for the award of the 2022 Medal of Honour of the Vives University Network. The recipients of this year's award were the industrial and computer engineer **Alícia Casals** and the singer and composer **Maria del Mar Bonet**. The event was presided over by the president of the Vives University Network and rector of the UAB, **Javier Lafuente**.

Recognition for teaching staff at the UAB

This year **Ignacio Arroyo**, lawyer and professor of mercantile law at the UAB received an honorary doctorate from the Universitat Jaume I in Castellon in recognition of his prestige and his scientific work in the field of mercantile and transport law.



The Government of Catalonia approved the award of the Narcís Monturiol medal for academic and technological merit to **Raquel Piqué**, professor in the Department of Prehistory and **Salvador Ventura**, professor in the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology of the UAB. As part of the same awards the **Vall d'Hebron Research Institute (VHIR)** received the Narcís Monturiol plaque for its contribution to scientific and technological progress in Catalonia.

The Catalan government awarded the Creu de Sant Jordi to three members of the UAB teaching staff: **Mercè Izquierdo**, emeritus professor in the Department of Didactics of Mathematics and Experimental Science Teaching; **Jesús Alturo**, professor of Palaeography, Codicology and Diplomacy in the Department of Ancient and Medieval Studies, and **Enric Larreula**, lecturer in

the Department of Language and Literature, and Social Science Teaching for over twenty years. The Government of Catalonia also awarded the Gold Medal, posthumously, to **Arcadi Oliveres**, lecturer in the Department of Applied Economics at the UAB, in recognition of his academic and personal career.



Finally, economist **Joan Martínez Alier**, a researcher at the Institute of Environmental Science and Technology (ICTA-UAB), received the prestigious Balzan Prize in Rome, in the category "Environmental challenges: responses from social sciences and humanities", for his contribution to the institutionalisation of ecological economics.

Highlight



Vicente Salas, honorary doctor of the UAB

On 18 November 2021, economist **Vicente Salas Fumás** was awarded an honorary doctorate by the UAB, at the proposal of the Faculty of Economics and Business, in recognition of his contribution to the creation of a school of economic analysis of Spanish business. **Antoni Serra Ramoneda**, retired professor and former rector of the UAB, was the sponsor.



The UAB confers an honorary doctorate on Cristina Gallach

On 17 May 2022, the journalist and diplomat **Cristina Gallach Figueras** was awarded an honorary doctorate by the UAB, at the proposal of the Faculty of Communication, in recognition of her significant professional career in the field of journalism, both in the media and in international institutions; for defending gender equality and contributing to the promotion of women in positions of responsibility, and for being a global reference in the dissemination of the Sustainable Development Goals within the framework of the United Nations Agenda 2030. **Carmina Crusafon**, professor at the Department of Journalism and Communication, was the sponsor.

Teaching



Academic policy

During the 2021-2022 academic year, the UAB demonstrated a growing capacity for attracting students based on quality and innovation, in a unique learning environment. The range of undergraduate and postgraduate courses on offer is wide and diverse, and is notable for its interdisciplinary programmes and studies in English.

This year saw the presentation of the Urban Campus of Life and Health Sciences project, which aims to create an environment for training, research and innovation in the area of the Artèxtil building in Sabadell. In the field of health, an agreement was also reached to increase the number of places on the Bachelor's degree in Nursing at the teaching units of the Parc Taulí and Germans Trias i Pujol hospitals.

At the proposal of the students, this year we approved the possibility of a single assessment for subject whose content and teaching methodology permit it. The UAB has also committed to increase the presence of the Catalan language in Bachelor's degree teaching and has taken action to ensure linguistic rights among the university community.

In the area of quality, most UAB centres have already obtained the certification of their own internal quality assurance systems and institutional accreditation.

This academic year, face-to-face career guidance activities have been restored and an agreement has been signed with the employment and entrepreneurship agency Barcelona Activa to strengthen job opportunities for students and graduates. Also, the first Awards for the Best Final Degree Projects related to social entrepreneurship were announced.

This academic year the introduction of an article in the Academic Regulations on the option of single assessment for those subjects which, due to their content and teaching methodology, allow it, was approved. The aim is to respond to a need expressed by some students regarding the impossibility of complying with the continuous assessment system in some cases due to work or illness or certain family situations.

In relation to the Plan to strengthen the Catalan language in the university system, promoted by the Department of Research and Universities, it should be noted that the UAB has worked in a coordinated way to increase the presence of the Catalan language in the syllabus. This action is part of the commitment to resist the educational crisis, agreed between the student movement and the Catalan public universities. Actions have also been taken to ensure the linguistic rights of the university community and the fulfilment of what is indicated in the teaching guides regarding the language used in the classroom. One of these actions is the inclusion of a specific field called "linguistic rights" in the Opina UAB channel for managing complaints, suggestions and praise.

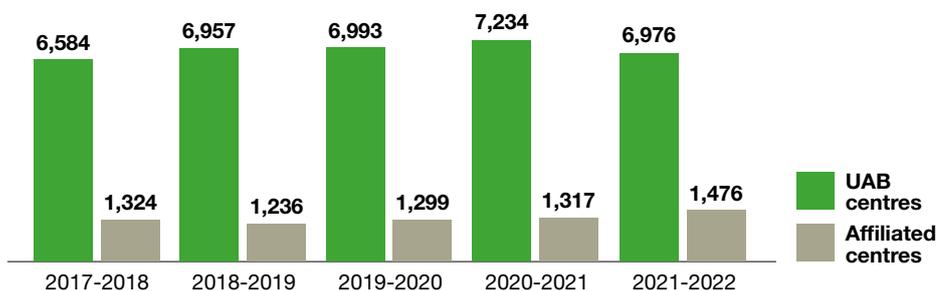
Finally, challenge-based learning methodology linked to the territory, which is one of the pillars of the ECIU University, will be introduced, as a pilot test, from the next academic year, in the Faculty of Art and Humanities, and the Faculty of Biosciences in undergraduate subjects and final degree projects.



Sabadell's Artèxtil to host the Urban Campus of Life and Health Sciences

On 8 October 2021 the UAB, Sabadell City Council, the Parc Taulí Health Corporation and the FUNDIT-ESDi Foundation signed a protocol to promote an Urban Campus of Life and Health Sciences in the area of the Gran Via in the city of Sabadell. This is a wide-ranging project that includes a whole series of training, research, innovation and business creation actions that will generate knowledge and economic activity, with Sabadell as the epicentre of training, research and entrepreneurship linked to the medical sciences. Among the projects to be carried out in the new campus, it is planned that the former Artèxtil factory in Sabadell will house the Parc Taulí Teaching Unit of the Faculty of Medicine. The protocol was signed by the Mayor of Sabadell, Marta Farrés; the Rector of the UAB, Javier Lafuente; the President of the Parc Taulí Health Corporation Consortium, Mariona Creus, and the President of FUNDIT, Juan José Pérez.

Headcount for new students on Bachelor's degrees



Bachelor's degree students registered in UAB centres, 2021- 2022

Centre	Students registered		
	Women	Men	Total
School of Engineering	482	2,024	2,506
Faculty of Economics and Business	1,327	1,624	2,951
Faculty of Biosciences	1,286	580	1,866
Faculty of Science	978	1,434	2,412
Faculty of Education	1,945	343	2,288
Faculty of Communication	1,160	646	1,806
Faculty of Political Science and Sociology	706	504	1,210
Faculty of Law	1,398	562	1,960
Faculty of Arts and Humanities	2,342	1,392	3,734
Faculty of Medicine	1,855	684	2,539
Faculty of Psychology	1,464	305	1,769
Faculty of Translation and Interpreting	993	258	1,251
Faculty of Veterinary Medicine	705	206	911
Total	16,641	10,562	27,203

Bachelor's degree students registered in UAB affiliated centres, 2021- 2022

Centre	Students registered		
	Women	Men	Total
Eina, University Centre for Design and Art in Barcelona	296	115	411
Escola Massana. Municipal Art and Design Centre	258	67	325
School of Prevention and Integral Safety and Security	88	240	328
US Gimbernat	909	638	1,547
US for Nursing Sant Pau	296	55	351
US for Nursing and Occupational Therapy of Terrassa	745	148	893
US Salesiana de Sarrià	80	554	634
US for Tourism and Hotel Management	467	178	645
Total	3,139	1,995	5,134

US= University School

Highlight



The Faculty of Communication , honoured at the National Communication Awards

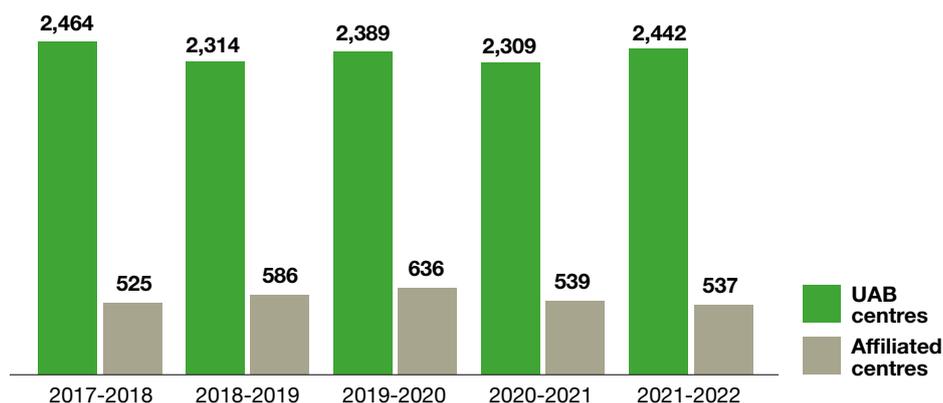
On 23 November 2021, the Dean of the Faculty of Communication, María José Recoder, accompanied by other members of the faculty, received an honourable mention at the 20th National Communication Awards of the Government of Catalonia, in recognition of its fifty years' experience in the training of communication professionals in Catalonia. The ceremony took place at the Palau de la Generalitat and was presided over by the President, Pere Aragonès.



The Faculty of Law celebrates its 50th Anniversary

On 20 May 2022 the Faculty of Law celebrated its 50th anniversary in the Aula Magna of the faculty. The event was chaired by the rector of the UAB, Javier Lafuente, and included speeches by the dean of the faculty, Enric Fossas, the former dean Francesca Puigpelat, and prominent academics and lawyers who are alumni of the faculty. alumni de la Facultat.

Headcount for new students on Master's degrees



Undegraduate studies

The UAB offers a wide and diverse range of Bachelor's degrees in all areas of knowledge, which include 13 double degrees and 5 interuniversity degrees.

In the 2021-2022 academic year the UAB launched new degrees that promote English language and interdisciplinary training. The joint degree in **Science, Technology and Humanities** (UAB, UAM, UC3M), within the framework of the 4 University Alliance, will therefore enable students to analyse science and technology with critical humanities tools and is designed to have a broad relation with the European postgraduate course offer.

The Bachelor's degree in **Contemporary History, Politics and Economics** is taught between the faculties of Philosophy and Literature, Political Science and Sociology, and Economics and Business, and 80% of the teaching is in English. This new degree will train versatile professionals with an international outlook and the ability to analyse and propose solutions to political issues and their economic consequences in a given historical context.

This academic year also saw the launch of the **Artificial Intelligence** degree, in which a number of teaching and research centres are participating. Teaching is in English, and the aim of these studies goes beyond the training of professionals with the necessary technical knowledge to design intelligent systems and focuses on the human, social, legal and ethical implications of the application of AI, within the framework of the so-called human-centred artificial intelligence. It is expected

to be offered as an official Bachelor's degree in the next academic year.

Two degrees offered by the Faculty of Art and Humanities have been renewed:

English Studies and Spanish Language and Literature.

It is worth mentioning that this academic year the UAB has offered 30 additional places on the **Bachelor's degree in Medicine** (a total of 350 places), which correspond to half of the 60 places that are expected to be added after the degree in Medicine that was taught jointly with the UPF at the Parc de Salut Mar Teaching Unit is no longer offered.

In the pre-registration process, a total of 12,809 students chose the UAB degree programme as their first choice. Of these, 11,486 applied to study UAB centres, a very similar figure to the previous academic year (11,649), when applications increased by 22%. A total of 8,574 students were able to register at the UAB after the first assignation of places, 6,664 of them in UAB centres.

The number of new students in UAB centres has decreased slightly (-3.6%), but has remained at around 7,000 students (6,976). In the case of the affiliated centres, the evolution of newly admitted students strongly maintained the positive trend, with an increase of 12.1% (from 1,317 to 1,476 students).

In terms of total registrations, the number of students in private centres stands at over 27,000, with 27,203 students in 2021-2022 (27,135 in the 2020-2021 academic year). The number of students registered- in affiliated centres increases by 3.7% (from 4,952 to 5,134 students).

The number of students graduating in 2020-2021 increased by 10.1% in UAB centres (from 4,614 to 5,134), following a year in which the figure had already increased by 2%. In the affiliated centres, the number of students graduating in 2020-2021 also increased for the second consecutive academic year, with an increase of 4.5% (from 947 to 990).

In the 2022-2023 academic year the double degree in **Law + International Relations** will be introduced, which will offer a complete legal training and at the same time specialise in international law and policies. The five **combined philology degrees** have been renewed in order to better adapt the content of some subjects to the mixed profile of these degrees, and there are minors aimed at focussing training in a certain area, which include subjects with a more clearly professionalising nature. The degree in French Studies, offered jointly by the UAB and the UB, the only one of its kind in Catalonia, has also been renewed: it has changed its name to **French Philology and Culture**, and has brought its studies more in line with the demand for jobs, reinforcing not only of French language skills but also French culture and reinforcing training in broad areas of knowledge (sociology, philosophy, etc).

Finally, as part of the expansion of places on the Bachelor's degree in Nursing, approved by the Department of Research and Universities, the UAB will offer 150 more places for these studies in the 2022-2023 academic year, divided between the Germans Trias i Pujol and Parc Taulí teaching units of the Faculty of Medicine.

Postgraduate programmes and students

	Estudiants			
	Programmes	Dones	Homes	Total
Official postgraduate courses (2021-2022)				
Master's degree in UAB centres	112	1,819	1,168	2,987
Master's degrees in affiliated centres	24	423	280	703
PhDs	67	2,576	2,053	4,629
TOTAL	203	4,818	3,501	8,319
UAB postgraduate courses (2020-2021)				
UAB Master's degrees	129	1,399	647	2,046
Postgraduate diplomas	80	747	300	1,047
Specialisation courses	213	1,776	966	2,222
TOTAL	422	3,922	1,913	5,315

Postgraduate studies

The UAB has a consolidated offer of **official Master's degrees** (136 in the 2021-2022 academic year), covering all areas of knowledge and training orientations (professional, research and specialisation).

The diversity of the offer is evident again in the six Master's degrees that have been launched this academic year:

Prehistoric Archaeology; Social Entrepreneurship; Nursing Innovation Applied to Vulnerability and Health; Quantum Science and Technology, taught in English jointly with the UPC and the UB (coordinator), and two **Erasmus Mundus** Master's degrees, one in **Interdisciplinary Mathematics** and the other in **Aquacultural Health**.

Half of the new Master's degrees are taught in English meaning that almost a quarter (24%) of the official Master's degrees at the UAB are taught in this language. With regard to the figures for internationalisation of students, although they have not yet returned to those prior to the pandemic, they already represent one third of the total number of students registered for official Master's degrees.

It must be said that there has been a recovery in the number of new students, which has increased overall by 4.6% compared to last year (from 2,848 to 2,979) thanks to the growth in UAB centres (from 2,309 to 2,442 new students). This increase, however, was not reflected in the total registration figures, which are very similar to those of the previous academic year, with a total of 3,690 students (3,659 in the academic year 2020-2021).

This year 422 **postgraduate study programmes** were taught, broadening and updating knowledge for the more than

5,300 students and professionals who took part in them.

It is worth highlighting our commitment to the quality of **in-house postgraduate** training. Our own Master's degrees have incorporated monitoring processes equivalent to those of the official Master's degrees, so that the monitoring reports are now a necessary condition for renewal. At the same time, the **Graduate School's** internal quality assurance system (SGIC) has been developed and is expected to be implemented in the coming academic year.

The UAB considers it strategic to promote its own training linked to the needs of the region. With this in mind, since last year the UAB has been registered as a training centre with the Catalan Employment Service (SOC). In addition, this academic year the **catalogue of lifelong learning** and training offered at the B30 Hub has been updated. The catalogue has been presented to business associations, with whom we have worked to detect new training needs linked to the business sector, and to municipal officers.

In the field of lifelong learning, it is also worth mentioning the UAB **MOOCs** (Massive Open Online Courses), which have been offered since the 2013-2014 academic year through the international digital platform Coursera. The UAB offers a total of 56 courses and 2 specialised programmes. During the 2021-2022 academic year four new courses were launched, with 221,562 enrolments, and there has been a new call has to select and produce new MOOCs.

Highlight



Service Learning Projects (SLP) in the university environment is the focus of its 3rd Seminar

On 4 May the 3rd SLP Day took place at the UAB, during which various activities were held to raise awareness among students and lecturers of the service-learning methodology at university level. The meeting, organised by the Fundació Autònoma Solidària (FAS) and the SLP Office of the UAB, with the support of Barcelona City Council, included a talk by Roser Batlle, pedagogue and expert in service learning, and the first Awards for the best final degree project using the SLP methodology.



EINA opens a new building in Collserola Natural Park

EINA, University Centre of Design and Art of Barcelona, affiliated to the UAB, has inaugurated this year the new building EINA Bosc. The building is located in Collserola Natural Park and houses various versatile workshops open to non-disciplinary experimentation, sets for audiovisual projects and spaces for holding exhibition and performance programmes. With the extension of the facilities, EINA hopes to respond to the increase in the number of students and, at the same time, offer new opportunities to the whole of its community.



The UAB and Barcelona Activa reinforce professional opportunities for graduates

On 19 May 2022 the UAB and municipal employment and entrepreneurship agency Barcelona Activa signed an agreement for sharing job offers and company work placements between the two organisations and personalising the options for improving skills and training to acquire new knowledge for entrepreneurship.

Employability and entrepreneurship

This year the **Employment Service** has continued to support students' entry into the labour market through professional guidance activities and the management of job offers and work placement agreements. The UAB Emprèn programme has been responsible for providing students with tools to stimulate creative and entrepreneurial skills. Special mention should be made of the recovery of face-to-face activities and the signing of a new agreement with Barcelona Activa that will strengthen job opportunities for students and graduates.

Over the course of the academic year, 39 group employment guidance activities were carried out, with the participation of a thousand students, and 128 individual career guidance activities. There were 1,252 job offers made and 1,345 internship agreements managed.

With regard to activities to improve the employability of students and alumni, it is worth highlighting the organisation, for the second year running and thanks to the collaboration with Barcelona Activa, of a series of free online sessions given by experts to provide useful knowledge to enter the labour market with the best chances of success. The topics were chosen by UAB teaching centres to complement the study plans and included emotional management of uncertainty, job search channels, the CV and cover letter, the elevator pitch (or micro-presentation) and the selection interview, among others. A new Preparation Course for Competitions

and Examinations of the European Union and International Organisations was also held.

The **UAB Emprèn** programme has continued to encourage entrepreneurship among students through workshops, presentations and competitive activities. There have been five workshops, given by experts, dealing with creativity and idea-generation techniques, the most valued aspects of an entrepreneurial project when it comes to investing in it and alternative sources of funding for companies. There were also four UAB Sessions, in which UAB students and alumni shared their experiences as entrepreneurs.

The Social and Collaborative Entrepreneurship Workshop, organised by UAB Emprèn in collaboration with the Federation of Work Cooperatives of Catalonia, took place in March. The students learned, through successful cases and examples of good practice, the steps to follow to undertake a social project with the tools and elements of a collaborative platform. The sessions covered both the generation of the idea and the skills and competences necessary for the initial development of the project.

Once again this year the Virtual Course on Generation of Ideas and Social Entrepreneurship, aimed at all UAB students, is once again on offer and consists of 15 audiovisual panels. Among the course content there are creativity techniques, the cooperative company model and a selection of entrepreneurial experiences narrated in first person.

The UAB to award prizes for the best Final Degree Project related to social entrepreneurship

The Board of Trustees of the UAB, with the support of the Vice-Rector's Office for Students and Employability, has announced the first Awards for the best final-year dissertations related to social entrepreneurship. The aim of these awards is to promote the development of final projects on this subject and to give visibility and recognition to students with entrepreneurial interests.

The University will award a prize of 400 euros and a diploma to the four best projects, one in each field of knowledge: experimental and technological sciences, social sciences, humanities and health sciences. The dissertation must have been presented during the academic year 2021-2022 by undergraduate students from the UAB centres, must have obtained a grade higher than 8 and must be directly related to social entrepreneurship in any of its aspects (preparation of a business plan, feasibility studies of an entrepreneurial project, entrepreneurial skills and abilities, etc.).





End of the PATHBIO project

On 2 and 3 December 2021 the final meeting of the European consortium PATHBIO (Precision Pathobiology for Disease Models), led by the UAB, was held in Naples to train researchers in the use of mice as animal models for human diseases. The meeting included the participation of Professor Mario Capecchi, winner of the 2007 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine for his discoveries on the principles of introducing specific genetic modifications in mice through the use of stem cells.

Highlight



New MEMEnginy technology fair

On 21 April, the MEMEnginy 2022 technology fair took place, organised by the School of Engineering with the aim of connecting young talent with the world of work. More than 15 talks and workshops were held to raise awareness of the latest technological trends, and more than 35 stands allowed attendees to have first-hand contact with each company, try out their demo versions and participate in raffles. In total, more than 45 companies and 1,300 attendees took part and more than 400 interviews were held.



Award ceremony for the CIEU-FEIE Prize to the most enterprising person of 2022

On 9 May the UAB Centre for University Entrepreneurial Initiatives, together with the Faculty of Economics and Business and UAB Alumni, presented the **10th CIEU-FEIE Award for the most enterprising person of 2022**, to recognise the entrepreneurial careers of students and graduates from the university community in seven categories: Tourism, Hotel Management, EPSI, ESAGED, Faculty of Economics and Business, UAB General and UAB Alumni. The academic event took place in the auditorium of the Faculty of Economics and Business and was attended by around a hundred people.

International educational projects

In 2021, the UAB continued to promote the participation of teaching and research staff in international educational innovation programmes.

As part of the Erasmus+ programme, a total of 17 projects were awarded in 2021, with a total budget of €627,720. It is worth highlighting the participation in the Key Action 2 - Cooperation partnerships call for applications, with nine selected projects, one of which is coordinated by the UAB: D-EMIND ("Promoting digital entrepreneurial mindsets in Higher Education"). This project, led by the Centre for Research and Studies in Organisational Development (CRIEDO-UAB), aims to encourage higher education institutions to design, develop and deliver a methodology, strategies and learning tools based on online challenges to promote entrepreneurial mindsets in higher education. The UAB also coordinates the D-Eva project, also led by CRIEDO, of the EU call for Strategic Partnerships in response of the COVID-19 situation.

With regard to the results obtained from the current projects, it is worth highlighting that within the framework of the Brighter Future project, coordinated by Professor Beatriz San Román, from the Department of Social Psychology, a handbook has been published for primary school teachers and secondary school teachers with information and strategies to facilitate the inclusion in schools of minors under the care of the State or who have arrived in their families through

adoption, including those who arrived in the country without parental figures to accompany them.

The INTERSTICE project, coordinated by lecturers Gemma París and Sílvia Blanch from the Faculty of Education, aims to influence the initial and continuing training of early childhood and primary school teachers in order to incorporate quality art into education, has included different activities to promote meeting points between teachers, artists and children with the aim of improving learning processes and building a pedagogy based on co-creation. It is worth mentioning the participation of the artist Rosa Llop in different sessions of the project.

It is also worth highlighting the completion of the European Erasmus+ Knowledge Alliances project entitled PATHBIO (Precision PathoBiology for Disease Models), a consortium of 23 members coordinated by Professor Jesús Ruberte, from the Department of Animal Health and Anatomy, with the aim of training researchers in the use of mice as animal models for human diseases. Over three years, PATHBIO has organised nine summer courses on mouse anatomy, embryology, pathology and imaging, with a total of 385 students from 47 countries participating. In addition, the consortium has developed innovative teaching material, such as a mouse lymphatic system identification test, a mouse X-ray annotation test, or the 3D deconstruction of a mouse embryo.



Carme Mangiron receives the 4th Teaching Excellence Award

On 10 May 2022, Carme Mangiron, lecturer in the Department of Translation and Interpreting and East Asian Studies, received the 4th UAB Teaching Excellence Award at a ceremony held at the Auditorium of the Rectorat building as part of the 4th Teaching Innovation Day. The UAB Teaching Excellence Award, which has the support of the Board of Trustees, aims to place value on the teaching activity of the lecturing staff and to promote innovation and constant improvement in university teaching.

Teaching quality

In line with the quality requirements established in the European guidelines for quality assurance in higher education (European Standards and Guidelines, ESG), in 2021 four of the UAB centres obtained a favourable evaluation for the implementation of their management systems. They are the faculties of Communication, Education and Arts and Humanities, and the School of Engineering, which join the five centres that had already obtained this recognition in 2019 and 2020. The second review of the UAB Internal Quality Assurance System (IQAS) was also carried out in 2021.

have been carried out. Special mention should be made of the management and assessment of the creation of seven Bachelor's degrees, eight Master's degrees and two Doctoral degrees.

In 2021 self-assessment reports were drawn up as part of the degree accreditation process, and visits were made by external assessment committees to one UAB centre and three affiliated centres to obtain accreditation for three Bachelor's degrees and four official Master's degrees. Currently, in its own centres, the UAB has the accreditation of excellence for 13% of its Bachelor's degrees, 38% of its Master's degrees and 52% of its doctoral programmes.

Student satisfaction during the 2021-2022 academic year was measured through semesterly surveys to evaluate the teaching performance of the lecturing staff and the subjects, and more than 8,000 students responded.

A total of 367 graduates took part in the satisfaction surveys for Bachelor's and Master's degrees in the previous academic year. 44% of new PhDs took part in the doctoral degree satisfaction survey.

Surveys aimed at teaching staff included the satisfaction survey of supervisors of doctoral theses defended during the 2020-2021 academic year which was answered by 453 people, while 1,400 lecturers took part in the satisfaction survey of Bachelor's and Master's degree teaching staff.

In relation to the teaching activity assessment process corresponding to the 2021 call for applications for teaching premiums, 247 were assessed, 93% of which received a favourable response.

With regard to quality training, activities were carried out for staff from UAB and affiliated centres with responsibilities for quality, for a total of 30 hours, in addition to two information sessions.

In 2021, twenty-one joint agreements were managed and fifteen signed: twelve inter-university Master's degrees, two Erasmus Mundus Master's degrees and one international double Master's degree.

Finally, with regard to participation in quality projects and conferences, it is worth highlighting the participation in the ECIU University project, the HEInnovate Webinar "Transforming higher education: the role of microcredentials and collaboration", the "Conversations with ANECA" on the DOCENTIA programme and different meetings of the technical quality units of the Catalan universities.

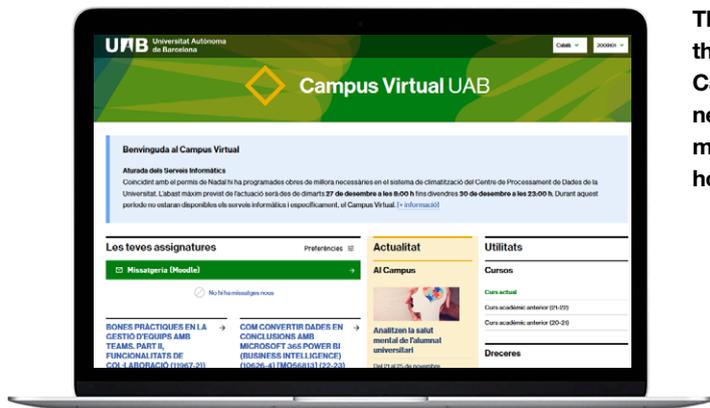
Teacher training and teaching innovation

During 2021 the Teacher Training and Innovation Unit of the Institute of Education and the Professional Training and Development Unit of the UAB organised 457 training activities aimed at lecturers, with 3,861 participants, and trained 1,461 lecturers.

With the aim of promoting and supporting innovation and teaching quality improvement projects, grants for developing innovation projects related to official degree courses was organised once again. Sixty-five projects were presented, of which 19 received financial support and 14 were recognised as good teaching practice.

There was also a call for grants for centres to organise tailor-made training activities that received 38 applications, of which 18 were approved.

It is worth highlighting the **4th UAB Teaching Innovation Conference**, which took place on 10 May 2022. The conference included an inaugural lecture by Dr Carles Freixa, a round table on the challenges of teaching innovation at the UAB by Dr Sònia Parella, Dr Jessica Jaques, Dr Aura Hernández and Dr Sònia Casillas, and the awarding of the 4th Teaching Excellence Prize, presented this year to Dr. Carme Mangiron. In the afternoon, three workshops were held: "Project ECIU: the gender perspective in learning through challenges and micro-modules", "How to work on the SDGs in teaching" and "Promoting emotional well-being in university classrooms".



This academic year the UAB Online Campus launched its new, clearer, and more modern and attractive homepage.

Highlight



Orientation and promotion activities

This academic year, the UAB has carried out a promotional campaign combining face-to-face and online activities. Some on-campus face-to-face activities related to the promotion of Bachelor's degrees have been reinstated, while online activities have been maintained for those cases where it has been shown to be more profitable, such as the promotion of Master's degrees and postgraduate courses.

The Bachelor's degree campaign has combined face-to-face and online activities. The Open Days offered two days of face-to-face activities and one day of online activities. The UAB returned in person to the Education Fair, but with digital catalogues that can be downloaded with QR codes. There was also a return to face-to-face visits to the campus for secondary school groups and visits to UAB teaching centres, as well as Family Day.

On the other hand, for the Master's, postgraduate and doctoral programmes, the online fair formula has been maintained, which allows prospective students to contact the coordinators of each Master's programme directly, whether they are from Catalonia or from any other country in the world.

Once again, the figures corroborate the success of the campaign: 89,317 people left their email address to receive information about the activities and content of the promotional campaign. 34,940 were interested in Bachelor's degrees and 54,948 in Masters, postgraduate and doctoral degrees.

ICT tools for teaching

Despite the cyber-attack of 11 October, and the use of Microsoft Teams during the contingency period, the 2021-2022 academic year has ended with 3,612 active classrooms on the **Online Campus**. It should be noted that 30,662 students made use of the Online Campus – 98% of students in official studies. The figures also show that the level of access has reached sustained daily peaks of over 20,000 students.

As part of the improvements made to the Online Campus during this academic year, it is worth highlighting the redesign of the homepage to make it more up-to-date and attractive and the incorporation of new functionalities, such as the possibility of incorporating and editing video in the e-learning environment using the Kaltura tool. Emphasis has also been placed on providing lecturers with classroom engagement tools, in particular the JazzQuiz tool. Usability and content management have also been improved. Finally, it should be noted that a new tool has been launched to help manage and monitor end-of-studies work.

The Dev Tools for Teaching service has been made available to teaching staff and students, and includes a multitude of resources for developing software and working with big data.

With regard to the management of computerised classrooms, it should be noted that the Faculty of Translation and Interpreting has carried out a pilot teaching test with a laptop for each student in the conventional classroom with Wi-Fi connection, and the School of Engineering has carried out a pilot test of online laboratories.

Language training

During the 2021-2022 academic year, 5,670 students enrolled in the courses offered as part of the UAB Idiomes programme: 3,345 at UAB Idiomes Campus and 2,325 at UAB Idiomes Barcelona. Exams at the Language Service (UAB Idiomes Campus) to accredit a level of language or linguistic competences were taken by 1.877 people.

The Language Service has continued to update the official UAB nomenclature with new terms, based on the inter-university work carried out within the framework of the Vives Network. With regard to the correction and translation of texts, 894 documents were handled in 2021.

As is the case every year, the Language Service has been present in institutional activities such as the UAB Festa Major and the Sant Jordi celebrations, as well as in activities to support internationalisation: the International Welcome Days, with representation at the institutional welcome session and the organisation of the Catalan from Zero workshop, Catalan and Spanish sessions at the Erasmus Staff Week, and the Mentor programme with sessions to welcome new mentors.

Within the current framework of the Plan for Languages, in 2022 the UAB published five calls for applications for grants to promote the improvement of the university community's competence in third languages and the use of English as a working language. There were also grants for UAB academic staff for language learning and for the correction of teaching materials in Catalan and English. In addition, 77 grants were awarded to study languages at UAB Idiomes Campus.

Research and the transfer of knowledge and technology



The impact of the activity of UAB research groups and associated centres and institutes is crucial in attracting national and international research funds. It is therefore worth highlighting that the UAB was the first generalist university in Spain in terms of the return obtained in the Horizon 2020 programme (H2020), with a total of 86 million euros raised.

During the 2021-2022 academic year the UAB achieved 68 international research projects (7 as coordinator, 32 as partner and 29 individual projects) with total funding of 26 million euros. Specifically during this period the university obtained 22 H2020 projects, worth 10.4 million euros, and 11 Horizon Europe projects with funding of 16 million euros. Also, within the new framework programme the UAB obtained 9 grants from the European Research Council.

The attraction and retention of talent was one of the research priorities of the UAB this year. In 2021 the number of Ramon y Cajal researchers doubled, with the incorporation of 14 new researchers, and there was a significant increase in the contracting of postdoctoral researchers thanks to the programme for the requalification of the university system.

The excellent results obtained in both UAB and external calls for applications have strengthened the research potential of the university and have facilitated the rolling out of strategic cross-disciplinary and collaborative research lines.

Promoting cooperation among the attached research centres and institutes has this year led to the opening of the UAB - Sant Pau Research Institute Joint Research Unit in Genomic Medicine.

In the framework of the ECIU University, this year the UAB hosted the first face-to-face meeting of the SMART-ER Institute, which promotes the focus of research on the solution of the big social challenges. Participative and co-creative methodologies have also been fundamental to the active contribution of the UAB Labs in creating open-innovation ecosystems.

The B30 Hub has launched a new model of governance to reinforce participation by all actors in the B30 region innovation system and has moved forward with the Specialisation and Regional Competitiveness Project “B30 Hub, beyond circularity”, which has become a model of interactions among universities and research centres, companies and the public.

With regard to the transfer of technology and knowledge to society and to the production fabric, there have been 13 transfer agreements signed with national and international companies. Also, the UAB Research Park has supported transfer, innovation and entrepreneurship, has organised programmes for thinking up solutions to the challenges of industry and society, and has promoted the creation of new companies. Specifically, this year five new companies moved into the Eureka building and Research Module B, and the research Park has given support to seven companies set up as a result of research activity at the UAB.



UAB participation in the H2020 programme of the European Union (2014-2020) resulted in an income of €86M through participation in 191 research programmes. This result means that the UAB has doubled the funding obtained in the seventh framework programme and it is ranked number one generalist university and seventh state organisation to gain H2020 funding.

By area the funding received by the UAB for projects related to the environment and resource efficiency, worth €7.22M is worth a special mention, along with those linked to food safety, agriculture and sustainable forestry, marine and maritime research, and continental waters, worth €4.18M, and research into inclusive, innovative and reflective societies, worth 3.36 €M. European Research Council programmes have supported this research with 33.35 €M and Marie Skłodowska-Curie grants have offered €22.34M. For the latter programme the UAB is ranked second in the receipt of funds in the whole of Spain, only behind the Spanish National Research Council.

In terms of the pillars of the H2020 programme, the UAB has received 58.99 €M from Excellent Science, €20.39M from Societal Challenges and €3.82M from Industrial Leadership. The UAB has also obtained €1.29M in the area of Science with and for Society.

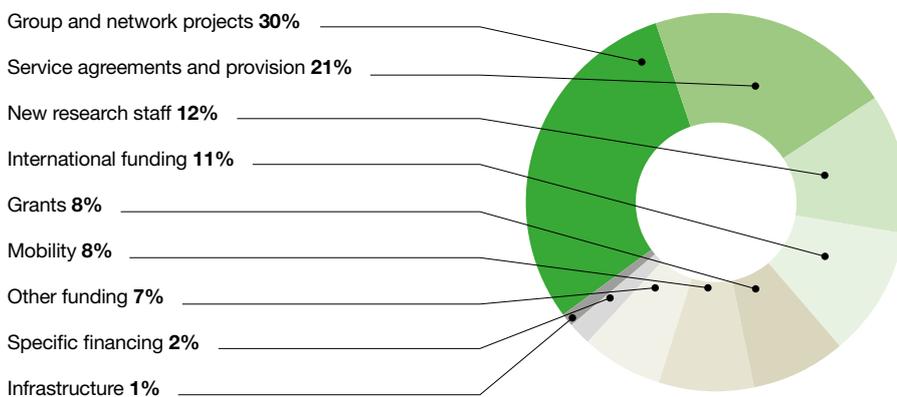
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ERC grants to researchers of the UAB and the UAB Sphere



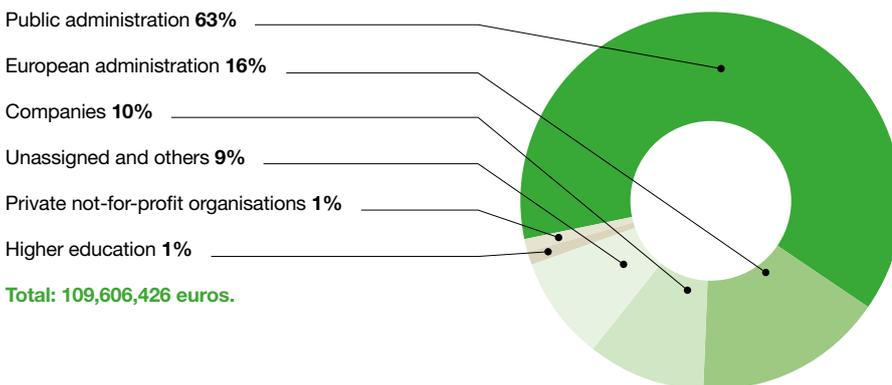
European Research Council
Established by the European Commission

Research funding by main categories in 2021



Total: 109,606,426 euros.

Research funding by type of body in 2021



Total: 109,606,426 euros.

Highlight

Enrique Hernández, awarded with an ERC Starting Grant

Enrique Hernández, Associate Lecturer in the Department of Political Science, has obtained a Starting Grant from the European Research Council to work on the DEMOTRADEOFF project, dealing with the attitudes of citizens towards the dilemmas and trade-off decisions of democracies.

Victoria Reyes-García and Albert Quintana are awarded a Proof of Concept grants from the ERC

Victoria Reyes-García, ICREA researcher at ICTA-UAB and lecturer in the Department of Social and Cultural Anthropology, has received a Proof of Concept grant from the ERC to carry out the project “Research on Indigenous Data Governance Protocols” (RIDaGoP).

Albert Quintana, lecturer in the Department of Cell Biology, Physiology and Immunology at the UAB and researcher at the UAB Institute of Neuroscience (INc), has obtained a Proof of Concept grant to develop and validate the ResisChip, a kit that allows the detection of pathogens in blood without the need for bacteriological cultures.

Three ERC Advanced Grants for UAB researchers

The ERC has awarded Advanced Grants to three UAB researchers: **Tess Knighton**, ICREA researcher at the Department of Art and Musicology, received a grant for the SOUNDSPACE project “How Processions Moved: Sound and Space in the Performance of Urban Ritual, c.1400-c.1700”; **Jordi Sort**, ICREA researcher at the Department of Physics, received a grant for the RE-MINDS project “Voltage-Reconfigurable Magnetic Invisibility: A New Concept for Data Security Based on Engineered Magnetolectric Materials”, and **Karen Hardy**, ICREA researcher at the Department of Prehistory, received a grant for the POWERFUL PLANTS project “The Power of Plants as Food, Medicine and Raw Materials Before Agriculture”.



The CARLA simulator, awarded with the National Public-Private Partnership Award

The Computer Vision Centre (CVC) and Intel Intelligent Systems Lab have been awarded the National Public-Private Partnership Award in Research and innovation for the joint development of the CARLA open-source non-profit simulator to train and validate autonomous driving systems. Josep Lladós, director of the CVC, received the award at the award ceremony that took place on 7 June at the National Theatre of Catalonia.

Research centres

The UAB promotes collaborative research lines in cooperation with related institutes and research centres. It is worth mentioning that this year saw the opening of the **UAB - Sant Pau Research Institute Joint Research Unit in Genomic Medicine**, which proposes a genetics-based approach for the development of therapies, diagnosis and study of genetic and oncological diseases and tumour predisposition syndromes. The UAB Governing Council has also approved the creation of the **IRTA-UAB Joint Research Unit in Animal Health** to promote joint research lines between the UAB and IRTA in the field of animal health.



Opening of the UAB - Sant Pau RI Joint Research Unit in Genomic Medicine

On 24 November 2021 the UAB - Sant Pau Research Institute Joint Research Unit in Genomic Medicine was opened. The event was attended by Javier Lafuente, Rector of the UAB, Manel Balcells, President of the Board of the Research Institute, Jordi Bachs, Managing Director of the Hospital de la Santa Creu i Sant Pau Private Foundation, and Jordi Surrallés, Director of the Sant Pau Research Institute.

The UAB campus is home to five Severo Ochoa centres of excellence and two María de Maeztu units of excellence. In addition, this year the **UAB Scientific Information Port (PIC)** has entered the list of unique scientific and technical infrastructures (ICTS) in Spain, as a node of the Spanish Supercomputing Network (RES). It joins the two infrastructures of this type that the UAB campus already has: the RSLAB of the CReSA and the MicroNanoFabs of the CNM-CSIC. Since its creation in 2003, the PIC has run a Tier 1 centre for the data processing system of CERN's Large Hadron Collider (LHC), the world's largest distributed scientific computing system, and manages data from international experiments and UAB research groups.

Finally, it is worth mentioning that the **Viable Tissue and Gametes Bank** of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine has been designated as one of the sites of the biobank promoted and coordinated by the Barcelona Zoo Foundation, a comprehensive project to preserve biological material and viable cells, and to facilitate the study of animals in a less invasive way. The initiative is has a clear international vocation and the ambition to become a European centre of reference.



The GRANBCN project receives funding from the Barcelona Science Plan

Barcelona City Council and the la Caixa Foundation have awarded GRANBCN project "Social isolation and loneliness among the elderly of Barcelona", led by **Pilar Zueras**, researcher at the Centre for Demographic Studies (CED) with the participation of **Anna Ortiz**, a researcher from the Department of Geography of the UAB, and the organisation **Amics de la Gent Gran (Friends of the Elderly)**. The project aims to analyse the impact of ageing, urban change and its interaction in the different neighbourhoods of the city, and examine the social intervention processes offered to give emotional support to elderly people who feel lonely.



On 4 and 5 November 2021 the first face-to-face meeting took place of the 12 universities participating in the institutional project of the ECIU University “Research Institute for Smart European Regions” (SMART-ER).

SMART-ER

The ECIU University’s “Research Institute for Smart European Regions” (SMART-ER) project aims to create a virtual research institute focused on the social challenges of the United Nations SDG 11, and with a clear commitment to work for and with society by incorporating public participation. Specifically, the institute works in four broad areas: circular economy, transport and mobility, resilient communities, and energy and sustainability.

During the 2021-2022 academic year, the project has made progress in the initial phase with the implementation of the research and innovation agenda that defines the identity of the institute. On the other hand, instruments have been created to facilitate inter-university collaboration, such as the Research Group Map, and work has been carried out on the launch of two SMART-ER calls for proposals, the implementation of the SMART-ER Academy, the deployment of the co-creation process of the citizen science pilots and the consolidation of the Public Participation Unit.



BOOGIE-U, innovation and entrepreneurship

This academic year saw the beginning of the first phase of the **BOOGIE-U «Boosting Innovation and Entrepreneurship through European Universities»**, the innovation and entrepreneurship component of the ECIU University.

This project, funded by the Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT), has as its main objective to promote innovation and entrepreneurship in the six higher education institutions that form part of the consortium, through the creation of innovation hubs. Beyond acting as spaces for co-creation and multidisciplinary support, these platforms allow fostering institutional commitment and change, strengthening existing alliances between the different actors (project partners, external collaborators, members of the ECIU University, among others), contributing to the development of business and innovation in the region, and improving the quality of education in entrepreneurship and innovation.

Within this project, the UAB is responsible for work-package 6, aimed at fostering the development of start-ups and scale-ups. During the first phase of the project, the services offered by the member universities of the consortium were analysed in order to detect good practices. In the second phase, which began in January 2022, work has begun on a methodological guide to improve the support given to start-ups and scale-ups, and work has also been done on defining the structure of the innovation platforms and on improving the quality of the teaching given in entrepreneurship and innovation.

Highlight

Umberto Lombardo receives a Consolidator Grant from the ERC

Umberto Lombardo, researcher at ICTA-UAB, has received a Consolidator Grant from the ERC for the development of the project “Drivers of Demographic Dynamics” (DEMODRIVERS), which aims to reconstruct the human demography of the south-west Amazon during the Holocene period.

In the same call, two researchers from centres attached to the UAB were also awarded a Consolidator Grant: **Andreu Font**, from the Institute of High Energy Physics (IFAE), and **Sergi Vidal**, from the Centre for Demographic Studies (CED).

The UAB receives five ICREA Academy Grants

The Catalan Institution for Research and Advanced Studies (ICREA) has awarded five ICREA Academy grants to the UAB. Specifically, in the 2021 programme, the following professors have been distinguished: **Carme Font**, from the Department of English and German Studies; **Lorena Chanes**, from the Department of Clinical and Health Psychology; **María Saña**, from the Department of Prehistory; **Roser Granero**, from the Department of Psychobiology and Methodology of Health Sciences; and **Rubén López**, from the Department of Cell Biology, Physiology and Immunology.

Andreas Winter receives the Carl Friedrich von Siemens Award

Andreas Winter, lecturer in the Department of Theoretical Physics at the UAB Department of Physics, has been awarded the Carl Friedrich von Siemens Award by the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation as part of the Foundation’s Humboldt Research Award programme. The prize was awarded for his contributions in the field



Presentation of the One Health Platform

On 3 November 2022 the **One Health Platform** was presented at the UAB by its president, Maite Martín, Dean of the UAB Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Javier Lafuente, rector of the UAB, and Jaume Farrés, Dean of the UAB Faculty of Biosciences. The platform brings together professional organisations, associations, foundations, companies, research centres and universities that promote a holistic approach to health that takes into account the three components that sustain it: human health, animal health and environmental health.

Strategic research communities

The **Communities Oriented to Strategic Challenges (CORE)** are research networks, formed by research groups and centres of the UAB and the UAB Sphere, focused on strategic challenges. There are currently four activities: Smart and Sustainable Cities, Cultural Heritage, Mental Health, and Education and Employability.

Among the most important activities carried out this year, the Mental Health CORE organised, together with the UAB Institute of Neurosciences, a new edition of the “Cervella’t” lecture series as part of Brain Awareness Week. In addition, under the title “Mental health research: rethinking priorities?”, the Mental Health CORE devoted a seminar to address the challenges and prioritisation of the different areas of mental health research in order to respond to new approaches and new research methodologies.

The CORE in Cultural Heritage has taken part in the first conference of the RETOLD project on digitisation and archaeological heritage organised by the Centre for the Study of Archaeological Heritage and the Department of Prehistory, at the Digital Lab of the UAB.

The UAB and the Town Council of Palau-solità i Plegamans have presented the first project resulting from the agreement signed last year to promote education and heritage initiatives, which has the support of the CORE for Education and Employment and the CORE for Cultural Heritage.

Els **UAB Open Labs**, the Strategic Research Communities (CORES), the UAB Research Park and EINA, the University Centre for Design and Art of Barcelona, have collaborated with Molins de Rei Town Council to define the uses and services of the new Technological Innovation Space, located in the El Molí (Mill) building. The UAB COREs have also worked on the organisation of the digital ‘tastes’ and technological workshops organised by the UAB Open Labs.

Finally, it should be noted that, as part of Open Education Week, an annual global initiative that aims to raise awareness of the benefits to society of implementing open educational resources and practices, the Library Service and the CORE for Education and Employability have announced two UAB initiatives that are an example of open education: Open Labs and TEDx talks.



Libraries service

During the academic year 2021-2022 there were important technological and management improvements in the UAB libraries services with the beginning of the conversion project to radio frequency identification (RFID), which this year has been incorporated into the Science and Technology library, Veterinary Medicine library and the Communication library and General News Archive. In addition, with the implementation of the new Alma management system, a new, more efficient user search engine interface has been introduced.

With regard to the promotion of open access, the UAB has improved funding for the publication of open access journal articles with the allocation of 233 APCs (article processing charges) to teaching and research staff and doctoral students. Also, several talks were organised during International Open Access Week and Open Education Week. It should be noted that, with the improvement of the interoperability between the UAB scientific production data base, EGRETA, and the UAB Digital Document Database (DDD), the open research thermometer of the UAB shows the documents of the last three years in EGRETA with the link to the full text in the DDD.

During the 2021-2022 academic year, a total of 179 training sessions were held to support research, teaching and learning, with 5,276 participants. On the other hand, a contribution has been made to teaching activity and innovation in spaces such as the COMTEC of the Communication Library and General Newspaper Library or the Magazine Room of the Humanities Library, which have begun to host teaching, co-creation and experimentation activities.



10,000 doctoral theses from the UAB published in the TDX repository

On 15 February, the UAB and CSUC organised an event to celebrate the fact that the UAB was the first university to reach the 10,000 doctoral theses archived in the Tesis Doctorals en Xarxa (TDX) online doctoral theses repository, which is managed by the CSUC. The event was attended by the Vice-Rector for Research and Transfer, Armand Sánchez; the author of the 10,000th thesis, Marta Minguet; the Director General of CSUC, Montse Soler, and the Director General of Research, Joan Gómez Pallarès.

Highlight



First year of the Eines Awards for social change projects

The awards for the first year of the Eines Awards for the best social change projects were given out on 6 October 2021 in the Sant Cugat Auditorium. These awards are made by the Entrepreneurship and Social Innovation Chair, affiliated to the Centre for Studies and Research in Entrepreneurship and Social Innovation (CREIS), set up by the UAB, the town councils of Mollet del Vallès and Sant Cugat del Vallès, the regional councils of Vallès Occidental and Vallès Oriental and Barcelona County Council. The event was presented by journalist Marina Romero and included institutional participation by the Rector of the UAB, Javier Lafuente; the General Director of Entrepreneurship and Innovation for the Government of Catalonia, Lluís Juncà; the mayor of Sant Cugat del Vallès, Mireia Ingla; the Deputy Mayor for Governance, the Economy and Regional Services and Coordinator of Mollet del Vallès town council, Mireia Dionisio, and the presidents of the regional councils of Vallès Occidental and Vallès Oriental, Ignasi Giménez and Emilio Cordero, respectively.

Doctoral studies

831 doctoral theses were read during the 2020-2021 academic year, of which 20% were awarded an international doctoral research component. The 68 doctoral programmes at the UAB have attracted postgraduate students from all areas of knowledge and from all over the world. This is also reflected in a percentage of more than 38% of theses written by international doctoral students.

For the first time, the UAB is participating in a doctoral training programme on Advanced Functional Materials: towards a Better Future (DOCFAM+), this year awarded to the Barcelona Science Materials Institute (ICMAB-CSIC) by the European Commission through Marie Skłodowska-Curie (MSCA-COFUND) actions. Apart from the UAB, the new programme, led by ICMAB, involves participation by five other organisations: the ALBA synchrotron, the Catalan Institute of Nanoscience and Nanotechnology (ICN2), the Catalan Energy Research Institute (IREC), the Institute of High Energy Physics (IFAE) and the Barcelona Institute of Microelectronics (IMB-CNM-CSIC).

In terms of UAB participation in the industrial doctoral programme, during the 2020-2021 academic year, 12 doctoral theses were defended with an industrial doctoral research component.

This year the UAB Research Park and the School for Doctoral Studies organised the second year of the Validate Your Research programme to promote the transfer of knowledge between doctoral students as well as entrepre-

neurship. Through this programme, five UAB PhD student's projects were validated and developed to the prototype stage.

Finally, the ceremony to award PhD degree certificates and extraordinary PhD prizes was held on 3 June 2022. Dr Jordi Martínez, Professor of Ecology in the Department of Animal Biology, Plant Biology and Ecology and a researcher at the Centre for Ecological Research and Forestry Applications (CREAF), gave a talk entitled "The tree and the forest: an open look".



Ana Sánchez, winner of "Present your thesis in 4 minutes"

Ana Sánchez, a student from our Biotechnology doctoral programme recently won the final of the "Present your thesis in 4 minutes" competition organised by the Catalan Foundation for Research and Innovation (FCRI) and Catalan universities. At the final, held on 22 June in the Movistar Auditorium in Barcelona, the winner presented her thesis entitled *Think Blue to Prevent Pandemics*, focused on the use of synthetic cells to help control the flu virus.



Launch of the TECNIO association to promote technological transfer in Catalonia

TECNIO was launched at the UAB on 8 November 2021. It is an organisation that brings together 59 research groups from Catalan universities, from the CERCA Foundation and CSIC, which both have the TECNIO seal of excellence, awarded by ACCIÓ. The aim of this association is to provide visibility to activities undertaken in research groups, promoting cooperation between them and encouraging them to become a point of connection between the business and administration sectors.

UAB Research Park

The **UAB Research Park** encourages the transfer of knowledge to society in all fields, facilitates interaction between the university and the business world and promotes the use of innovative and cohesive methodologies to face challenges in both the local area and the business sector.

With this aim in mind, the UAB Research Park has promoted the development of cooperative projects undertaken by research staff in conjunction with businesses in the area. Specifically, the park has supported 40 business challenges, which have led to industrial doctorates, research contracts, agreements and contracting scientific and technical services. It has also participated in eight cooperative projects funded by European competitions as a strategic partner in charge of the communication and dissemination of the project and cooperation with industry.

Additionally, in conjunction with the International Projects Office and UAB Research Management, the UAB Research Park has provided support for university researchers in terms of preparing innovative projects for Horizon Europe calls for applications and national calls for applications. Specifically, support was provided for 71 projects, of which 14 were presented and four were successful.

The UAB Research Park participates in 19 national and European technological platforms and 12 Catalan clusters in order to increase cooperation with

businesses and understand their needs.

In terms of entrepreneurship, the UAB Research Park has continued to provide support to UAB research staff to help them transfer their knowledge. Specifically, over the course of this year ten seminars and workshops were organised to equip research staff with entrepreneurial skills. The park also organised programmes to find solutions based on challenges in industry and society, such as two editions of the Generation of Ideas Programme: the 12th edition, focusing on microplastics, involved nine participants, and led to three projects, and the 13th edition, focusing on zero waste, with ten participants, led to four projects.

This year, activities have also been organised to validate business ideas, such as the second **Validate your Research programme, aimed at doctoral students from recent years to validate their theses and check whether there is a niche in the market for them.** The projects involved guidance from expert mentors.

Finally, the UAB Research Park has also set up a new **Consolida't** programme to provide support to microenterprises and freelancers to consolidate, strengthen or reinvent their businesses. The programme offers free tailored advice and training in business management for microenterprises and freelancers.

This year five new companies were set up as members of the PRUAB business network (Cosmos Aromatica, Nano1Health, RemAb Therapeutics, Roka Furadada and Suez Spain) in the Eureka building and the Research Module B building, both of which are managed by the UAB Research Park. Support was also provided for the creation of seven new companies that were launched as the result of research undertaken on the UAB campus (Enmentcoop, Aerofybers, Tectum Garden, Molecular Gate, Sweanty, Cooling Photonics and Inari Global Social Action).

The UAB Research Park provides support to organisations in the local area and helps them to face challenges through participatory and co-creation processes based on its experience and expertise. This year the Park partnered with the town council in Ripollet to create and design an innovation hub in the town, and also with the town council in Molins de Rei to establish the requirements to set up the future Maker space.



13

R&D&I UAB projects have been funded through the first call for “Proof of Concept” grants offered by the Ministry for Science and Innovation.

Hub B30

The UAB Research Park has revitalised **Hub B30** with the aim of promoting innovation in the B30 area through cooperation between economic agents, public administrations and generators of R&D knowledge.

Four years after it was set up, Hub B30 ended 2021 with its growth objective achieved. A governance model that brings together work from all actors in innovation systems has been promoted in order to jointly define actions for the future and shared agendas to achieve them.

This year, four innovation brunches were organised (on health apps, online learning communities, and slow tourism: the pairing of local and industrial tourism), which brought together 420 participants. An innovation morning on the SBD Sports Hub was also held, and 160 people signed up.

An important milestone to highlight is the fact that funding has been achieved for a project on specialisation and regional competitiveness (PECT) “Hub B30, beyond circularity”. This project was set up by the town councils of Cerdanyola del Vallès and Mollet del Vallès, the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, the UAB Research Park, ESADE, Eurecat and the l’Associació Àmbit B30, to create a new model for interaction between universities and research centres, administrations, businesses and citizens, that allows us to move towards a zero-waste strategy through open research and innovation

processes. The project is co-funded by the EU European Fund for Regional Development within the framework of the Government of Catalonia’s FEDER Operative Programme for 2014-2020.

Research valorisation and patents

In 2021 the UAB Office for Research Valorisation and Patents received 30 new inventions from the university’s research groups. The UAB produces approximately 0.25 inventions per million euros invested in research.

By sector, most of the inventions originate from human health, ICT and electronics. The rest of the main sectors are animal health and welfare, as well as physics and materials.

In 2021 the UAB applied for 8 unique new priority patents and signed 13 transfer agreements with national and international companies.

Highlight



“MP Food Watching” wins the 12th Generation of Ideas Programme, on microplastics

Best project at the 12th Generation of Ideas Programme was awarded to “MP Food Watching”, a project to detect the presence of microplastics in food using a methodology based on hyperspectral imaging technology. The project was developed by Begonya Marcos, an IRTA researcher, and Oscar Moriones, an ICN2 researcher.



The SORTEX project wins the 13th Generation of Ideas Programme, focusing on zero waste

The winner of the 13th Generation of Ideas Programme was a project to identify and separate textile fibre. The winning team was made up of Rafa Valdés, a PhD student in Environmental Science and Technology at the UAB; Gemma Rius, a researcher from the Barcelona Microelectronic Institute (IMB-CNM-CSIC), and Ivan Hortigüela, a PhD law student from Rovira i Virgili University.



The UAB hosts a TEDx event for the first time

On 31 March 2022 the Auditorium at the Faculty of Arts and Humanities hosted TEDxUABBarcelona. Entitled “Innovative thinking”, the event featured participation from new speakers linked to the UAB who presented and shared knowledge and projects in different fields, such as technology, design, education and science. The event was organised by the UAB, the UAB Research Park, UAB Open Labs, UAB CORE and UAB Alumni.

Research dissemination

During the 2021-2022 academic year, 103 research dissemination campaigns were carried out.

These campaigns resulted in a media impact score of 1,555 in state media, of which 1,464 were in the paper editions of the written press and 56 on television.

As regards international dissemination, 53 press releases were sent to international agencies. Press releases published through the Alpha Galileo agency obtained 18,948 hits from science journalists and those published in EurekAlert, 77,519. In total, there were 96,467 hits from science journalists from different international press sources.

There were also 76 scientific articles published in the electronic journal *UAB-Divulga*, which has 2,872 subscribers. During the 2021-2022 academic year, the publication received 621,456 hits.

In the field of biosciences and health sciences, it is worth pointing out the research that highlights the role the cerebellum plays in modulating our ability to socialise, the monitoring of the “journey” undertaken by microplastics through the intestine of an organism, the efficacy a new treatment that reduces inflammation for multiple sclerosis patients, a new diagnostic marker for ALS, changes in gene expression in the brain in Alzheimer’s disease, the description of a mechanism that hinders the proliferation of cancer cells, the development of gene therapy for Morquio A syndrome, the efficacy of immunocontraceptive treatment to control fertility in wild boars, and the inauguration of the UAB - IR Sant Pau

Joint Research Unit in Genomic Medicine.

Among the most widely disseminated research in the field of the environment and ecology, it is worth mentioning a study that shows that climate change is already affecting the plankton communities in the Mediterranean and leading to the proliferation of the West Nile virus throughout Europe, the creation of a map of the negative impact of “green” mining on the American continent, the discovery that falling sea levels caused the decline of pre-Columbian societies 2,000 years ago, and warnings from local communities around the world about the disappearance of wild edible plants.

In relation to mathematics, technology and experimental sciences, a proposal to use the Moon’s orbit to detect gravitational waves has been disseminated, as well as the reproduction of the learning and forgetting functions of the brain using magnetic systems, the launch of a new stage of the MELISSA Pilot Plant and the launch of the TECNIO Association, among other discoveries and activities.

In the field of social sciences, highlights include the creation of tools to raise awareness of the role played by young people and children as interpreters for migrants, an international seminar on the challenges faced by Roma women, the finding that in-work poverty is concentrated in homes with minors and only one worker, and the organisation of the largest conference on communication sciences in Spain.

Finally, in the field of humanities, new discoveries have been made about emerald mines from the Roman Empire; the revelation of new secrets from the tomb of Imephor, high priest of Ancient Egypt; the discovery of the score and performance documents from an opera by Amadeu Vives; the recreation of the faces of the prehistoric inhabitants of El Argar, and a symposium was held on the gynocentric readings of Picasso’s work.

As far as sponsorship campaigns are concerned, it is worth highlighting the financial support provided for a project entitled “In search of gene therapy for Abril”.



ICTA-UAB participates in the 15th Barcelona Science Festival

On 28th and 29th May 2022 several ICTA-UAB research groups participated in the 15th Barcelona Science Festival organised by Barcelona City Council and held in the Rambla del Raval. Specifically, the ICTA-UAB exhibited different informative proposals related to urban agriculture and sustainable mobility in the city.

170th

in the world in the **Times Higher Education WUR** ranking

The UAB in the international rankings

In the 2022 **Times Higher Education World University Rankings**, the UAB was ranked 170th in the world, up ten places from the previous year. Furthermore, it has improved in four of the areas analysed by the ranking (teaching, research, internationalisation and knowledge transfer) and has held its position in the citation section for research articles. In this year's **QS World University Rankings** the UAB moved up 31 places to 178th in the world and first in Spain. In this case, the UAB has improved notably for the indicator of normalised citation impact scores per academic.

Finally, it should be noted that the UAB is still ranked 201-300 in the **Academic Ranking of World Universities (ARWU)**.

With regard to classification by scientific field, the UAB has improved its position in the five main fields analysed by the **QS by Subject** ranking and is among the top 100 universities in the world in 12 disciplines (anatomy and physiology, anthropology, agriculture and forestry, archaeology, economics and econometrics, education, geography, hospitality and tourism management, modern languages, linguistics, sociology, and veterinary medicine). The ranking has improved for economics and econometrics, moving from 88th to 58th position; sociology, from 78th to 56th position; and agriculture and forestry, moving from the range

between 101st and 150th position to 82nd position. Veterinary medicine continues to be the best-positioned subject in absolute terms and is ranked 23rd in the world, moving up one compared to the previous year.

On the other hand, the UAB is ranked fifth in the world in the field of veterinary medicine and 34th in geography by the **Global Ranking of Academic Subjects**. It should be noted that in this ranking the UAB is positioned among the top 200 universities in the world in 25 disciplines.

Finally, the UAB is ranked 94th in the world in arts and humanities in the current **Times Higher Education Ranking by Subject**.

Highlight

Five UAB researchers are among the most cited world-wide

The list of Highly Cited Researchers of 2021, published by Clarivate Analytics (Web of Science Group), identifies five UAB researchers among the most cited scientists in the world. Specifically, the list includes **Esteve Corbera** and **Margarita Triguero Mas**, from ICTA-UAB; **Jordi Martínez Vilalta**, from the Department of Animal Biology, Plant Biology and Ecology, and **Xavier Montalbán** and **María Asunción Buti**, from the Department of Medicine.

The BBVA Foundation funds a UAB project to undertake an ethical analysis of the regeneration of wildlife

The BBVA Foundation has awarded a grant to the project "The ethics of rewilding in the anthropocene: understanding the impediments to ethically regenerating what is wild" (ERA-CERES), led by **Cristian Moyano**, a researcher from the Margarita Salas programme in the Department of Philosophy at the UAB. The study will address the advantages and moral challenges derived from the rewilding of wildlife in order to minimise any prejudices and ethical biases its application may entail.

A UAB project receives BrightFocus Foundation funding

Carles Saura and **Arnaldo Parra**, researchers from the UAB Institute of Neuroscience (INC-UAB), have received funding from the BrightFocus Foundation, a North American foundation that funds research projects on Alzheimer's disease, glaucoma and macular degeneration, to carry out a project to study changes in gene expression in a type of neuron vulnerable to Alzheimer's disease. This research project will also analyse how these changes can cause alterations in the neural circuits involved in memory.

International projection

27

new international agreements



International institutional activity

During the 2021-2022 academic year international relations work has increased alongside the recovery of face-to-face activities. The UAB received visits from numerous academic and diplomatic representatives, with whom it has signed very important agreements, and UAB representatives were able to travel to the United States to participate in the NAFSA fair and strengthen relations with the American universities our university works with.

A particular highlight is a visit to the UAB from the Japanese Ambassador to Spain, on the occasion of the agreement with the Japan Foundation to open a **Japanese Studies Office** at the Faculty of Translation and Interpreting. The UAB is therefore pursuing the objective of establishing direct cooperation with the official cultural institutions for China, Japan and South Korea.

This academic year the foundations have been laid for the **ECIU University** to become a truly European university, with projects undertaken in the fields of teaching, research and innovation. The year ended with the news that the European Commission has renewed the project for another four years.

Finally, there have been high levels of participation in our **mobility programmes**, similar to those that existed before the pandemic, and the **UAB Barcelona Summer School** has experienced growth, with the participation of almost five hundred students.

Throughout the academic year there has been a recovery of classroom activity and the number of visits from international institutions. Overall, the UAB received more than 20 visits from academic and diplomatic representatives.

Particularly noteworthy was a visit from the Japanese ambassador, Kenji Hiramatsu, in March, accompanied by the Japanese Consul General for Barcelona, Yasushi Sato. The ambassador's visit helped to strengthen existing relations with Japan and with the **Japan Foundation**, with which an agreement was signed to open a Japanese Studies Office in the Faculty of Translation and Interpreting.

The meeting and signing of an agreement with the **Institut Français** extended the existing collaboration in the linguistic and cultural field to the scientific area. The visit involved participation from the Director of the Barcelona Institut Français, Max Vasseur, and the French Consul General for Barcelona, Olivier Ramadour.

There was also a visit from the Columbian ambassador, Luis Guillermo Plata, to promote relations with Colombia and attract students from there to take Master's degrees and PhDs at the UAB.

The visit by the Brazilian Consul General for Barcelona and a meeting with representatives of the Bangladesh Embassy in Madrid should also be highlighted.

On the other hand, a delegation from the **University of California** visited

the UAB to renew relations and learn first-hand about where the seventh **UAB Barcelona Summer School programme** would be held, an event which return to a face-to-face format once again.

It is also worth mentioning the visit of the president of the **Macau University of Science and Technology (MUST)** from China with the aim of broadening existing channels of cooperation in terms of student exchanges with the faculties of Translation and Interpreting and Arts and Humanities.

Over two days the UAB hosted a delegation from the **Kaunas University of Technology (Lithuania)**, a member of the ECIU consortium and the ECIU University, who were able to learn more about the UAB and how the ECIU University is developing.

Top representatives from INTI, the National Institute of Industrial Technology (Argentina), and the Ibero-American University (Paraguay) also visited our campus. Finally, the UAB received visits from representatives of universities in Botswana, Ethiopia, Kenya and Morocco.

With regard to institutional trips, the Vice-Rector for International Relations, Màrius Martínez, and members of the International Relations team attended the NAFSA conference, which took place from 30 May to 4 June 2022 in Denver (United States).

Overall, throughout the year more than 40 agreements have been handled and 27 new international agreements have been signed as a result of the UAB's international institutional activities.

The UAB receives a visit from the Japanese ambassador

On 2 March 2022, the Japanese ambassador, Kenji Hiramatsu, visited the UAB accompanied by the Consul General for Japan in Barcelona, Yasushi Sato. They were received by the Rector, Javier Lafuente and the Dean of the Faculty of Translation and Interpreting, Albert Branchadell, in a meeting in which the Vice-Rector for International Relations and the principal Japanese studies academics at the faculty also participated.

Participation in networks and consortia

The **ECIU network**, chaired by the UAB Vice-Rector for International Relations, Màrius Martínez, has focused on continuing to develop the **ECIU University** so that it becomes a reality as a European university. The strategic plan was approved this year and the academic year ended with the news that the European Commission has renewed the project for four more years through an endowment of €14.4 million.

The ECIU University will develop three aspects of the future European university through projects awarded in the fields of teaching (ECIU, as part of the Erasmus+ programme), research (SMART-ER, as part of the Horizon Europe programme) and innovation (BOOGIE-U, within the framework of the European Institute of Innovation and Technology, EIT) (see the chapter on “Research and transfer of knowledge and technology”).

During the 2021-2022 academic year, **ECIU** set up 54 challenges, three of them at the UAB. All of them have been worked on in interdisciplinary groups of students and participants from the different universities and countries that make up the ECIU University and based on challenge-based learning methodology (CBL). The learning programmes are complemented by micro-modules: small learning modules that lead to recognised competences in the form of micro-credentials. In total, 112 micro-credentials have been offered, four of them at the UAB.

With regard to **SMART-ER**, intensive work has been carried out on the

initial stage of the project, in which the research agenda has been defined and instruments have been created to facilitate inter-university cooperation.

Finally, as part of the **BOOGIE-U** project, the UAB, which is responsible for a work package aimed at fostering the development of start-ups and scale-ups, analysed the services offered to the different universities that are members of the consortium to pinpoint best practices, and is currently writing up a methodological guide to improve the support provided to these companies.



With regard to the activities of the **Alliance 4 Universities (A4U)**, it is worth highlighting the organisation of a conference on Africa entitled “Reconfiguring dialogue with contemporary African countries”, which responds to A4U’s desire to consolidate its relationships with African universities. The series of talks consisted of four sessions coordinated by the different A4U universities. The UAB hosted the session on the impact climate change has on food security in Africa.

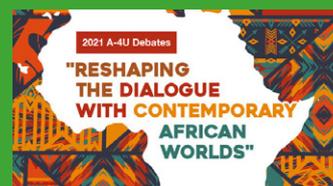
There was also a **CASA (Consortium for Advanced Studies Abroad)** network meeting in Denver (USA) and the visit of the UAB delegation to New York to meet with different universities from the consortium.

Highlight



The Kaunas University of Technology visits the UAB

On 9 and 10 December 2021, a delegation from the Kaunas University of Technology (KTU), led by its rector, visited the UAB to get to know the teaching and research centres and how the ECIU University project is being developed. On the first day the Lithuanian delegation met with our Rector, Javier Lafuente, the Vice-Rector for International Relations, Màrius Martínez, and the deans and representatives of some of our UAB faculties. They were also able to learn about the launch of the ECIU University project at the UAB and visit the ECIU University office and the Institute of Environmental Science and Technology (ICTA-UAB). On the second day, the Lithuanian delegation visited the UAB Labs, the MELISSA Pilot Plant and the Computer Vision Centre.



Debate on food insecurity and climate change in Africa

On 25 November 2021, the UAB hosted the third session of the series of debates on “Reconfiguring dialogue with contemporary African countries”, organised by the Alliance 4 Universities. The auditorium in the Rectorat building brought together African and European researchers and experts in biology, economics, agriculture and anthropology to discuss the impact of climate change on food security in Africa in an event held both face-to-face and online.



On 20 June and 11 July, the UAB Auditorium hosted the welcome sessions for students from the two UAB Barcelona Summer School sessions held this year, which was attended by around 500 students.

Welcome and support for the international community

The **International Support Service (ISS)** carries out different tasks to help and support the UAB international student community, before arriving at the UAB, on arrival and during their stay. During the 2021-2022 academic year, the International Support Service consolidated the new dynamics adopted after the pandemic. Therefore, it increased online communication with users, with more communication via email (more than 13,000 emails have been responded to) and individual meetings via Microsoft Teams for procedures that require more interaction. Large group activities, such as student welcome sessions in September, were carried out through online Teams sessions. A total of 32 welcome sessions were held for a total of 1,730 international students. In addition to support for participants in exchange programmes and for visiting academic staff, support was provided to 151 students on eight Erasmus Mundus programmes and 163 international postgraduate scholarship holders.

The UAB **International Welcome Days** (IWD programme for international students welcomes them and facilitates their stay and helps them integrate into the university and the country. It allows international students to get to know the campus and its services and university associations. The **Mentor** programme, which provides guidance and peer support, and the **Tàndem** programme, for language exchange and the acquisition of language fluency, have both contributed to facilitating the integration of these international students.

Mobility programmes

During the 2021-2022 academic year, the improved situation after the pandemic has helped figures for participation in mobility programmes to recover to numbers similar to those before COVID-19, particularly in terms of intra-European mobility.

UAB participation in the **Erasmus+ programme** has allowed 930 students from the UAB to study at universities both in Europe and further afield, and the UAB also welcomed a total of 1,058 Erasmus+ students. As part of the same programme, 39 members of the UAB teaching and research staff and 10 members of the administrative and service staff spent time at European universities and 37 students undertook work placements in companies.

The **SICUE** state programme facilitated mobility for 253 students, of which 153 were hosted by the UAB and 100 were UAB students on work placements in other universities in Spain.

The **UAB Exchange Programme**, the UAB programme for student mobility to non-European countries, led to mobility for 174 students, while the UAB in turn received 230 mobility students. With regard to work placements, six UAB students carried out work placements outside Europe.

Specific Programmes for International Students - Study Abroad have almost recovered numbers of participants from before the pandemic, with 1,954 this year. The launch of the first Business and

Management postgraduate programme and the Foundation Year pre-university programme were also launched this year, and both will contribute to the broadening of age groups and origins among students, and increase the teaching fields available.

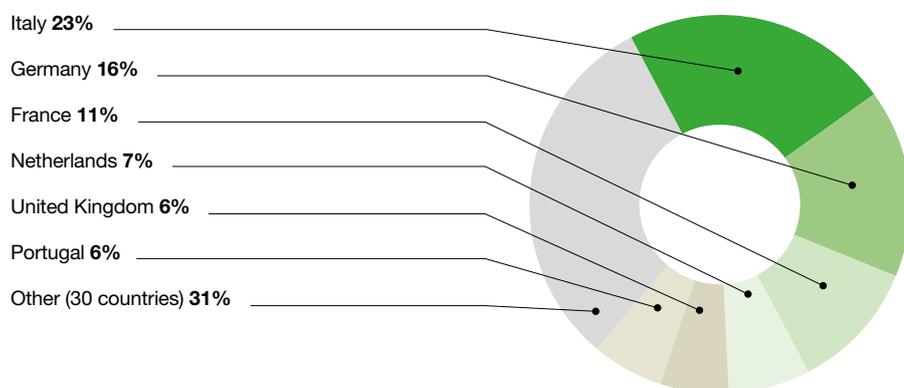
UAB Barcelona Summer School

After two years of restrictions caused by the health emergency, the 2022 UAB Barcelona Summer School was held entirely on campus. Twenty-six subjects from all areas of knowledge were offered, taught over two periods of six weeks in June and July. More than 560 students registered and 459 participated. Of these, 49% were international students from a wide range of backgrounds, and 39 nationalities were represented. Most of the students were from Austria, Canada, Egypt, France, the United Kingdom, the United States, Singapore, South Korea, Germany, Italy, Mexico and the Netherlands. The Buddy Programme, which facilitates interaction and networking among participants, has been renewed and included weekly cultural and sports activities and visits and a series of challenges to get to know the campus.

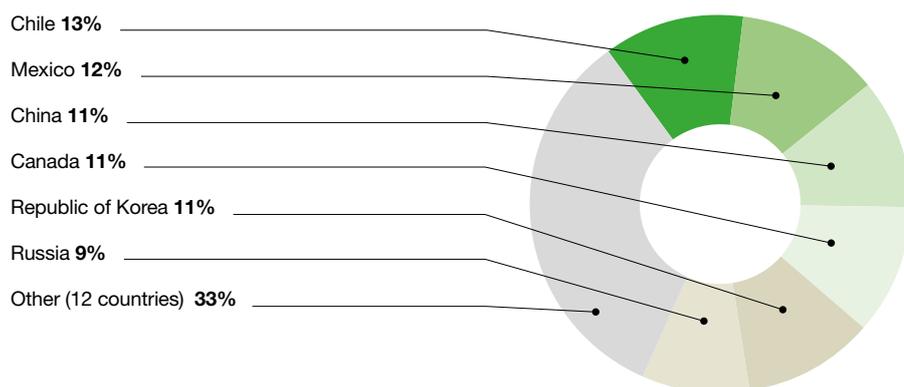
Participants in 2021-2022 mobility programmes

	Incoming students	Outgoing students
Erasmus studies	1,058	930
Erasmus work placements		37
UAB Exchange Programme	230	174
UAB Exchange Programme work placements		6
SICUE	153	100
Study Abroad	1,954	
TOTAL	3,395	1,247

Countries of origin of Erasmus+ students at the UAB, 2021-2022



Country of origin of students on the UAB Exchange Programme 2021-2022



Highlight



The UAB strengthens relations with universities in the United States

From 30 May to 4 June 2022 UAB representatives took part in the NAFSA fair in Denver (Colorado, United States). The delegation, led by the Vice-Rector for Institutional Relations, Màrius Martínez, met with 23 universities and presented the main UAB internationalisation programmes. They also took advantage of the trip to visit universities on the East Coast, such as the University of Colombia (New York) and Brown University (Rhode Island), and to strengthen relations beyond the cooperation already undertaken within the CASA consortium.



The UAB hosts a new Erasmus Staff Week

Every year the UAB organises an Erasmus Staff Week, a meeting that brings members of administrative and service staff from universities around the world to our campus to exchange experiences. This year's event, which took place from 13 to 17 June, was attended by 22 people from 16 different countries, who were able to get to know the UAB campus and some aspects of its organisation and services.

Social and environmental commitment



Ítaca Campus wins an award for its fight against school dropout rates

The Ítaca Campus project has been awarded a prize for best academic innovation at the first edition of the 'Rompe el Círculo' awards, set up by the Spanish Government High Commissioner for the Fight against Child Poverty, which aims to recognise organisations, companies and individuals who have achieved substantial change in the fight against child poverty. It should be noted that this year 315 students from 64 secondary schools in 20 towns took part in the 18th year of the Ítaca Campus project.

The University-Society Programme of the UAB Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees, as a body that encourages the participation of society in the university, has set up the University-Society Programme, which contributes to strengthening the links between the University and society and the region, through strategic actions.

The actions included in the programme are particularly aimed at students, both before they enter university (support for socio-educational programmes such as the Argó Programme), and during their time at the UAB (funding of grants for a programme to support people with special needs) and once they have finished their studies (the UAB Alumni Network and surveys on student labour market insertion carried out by AQU Catalunya with the support of the boards of trustees). They also promote innovation and teaching quality, for example by collaborating in the annual UAB Teaching Excellence Award.

The Board of Trustees also cooperates in the deployment of actions in strategic areas of the university such as entrepreneurship (through the awards for the best end-of-degree projects on social entrepreneurship) and innovation, transfer of knowledge and connection with the region, within the framework of the B30 Hub initiatives, with projects such as "Venture Building in Cleantech" and "Challenge-Based Learning in Sustainability".

Overall, the funding agreed for the 2021-2022 academic year for projects in the University-Society and University-Business programmes reached a total of 68,160 euros.

University social responsibility

The UAB is fully committed to society and the environment. Within the framework of the objectives set out in the Strategic Plan for 2018-2030, the UAB has carried out different actions and programmes to move towards a sustainable university model and become a benchmark in the area of university social responsibility (USR). The UAB is working on a global approach to all university activities based on social responsibility which is also in line with the UN's Sustainable Development Goals.

The implementation of a socially responsible university model, particularly in terms of training and environmental awareness and mobility, has been critical in order to progress towards the creation of a healthy and sustainable university campus.

Based on the fundamental objective of publicly informing the university's stakeholders about the economic, environmental and social impact generated by the university, the first UAB social responsibility report covering 2019 was presented this year. This report, which will be presented every two years, is also an exercise in transparency at the UAB and is a strong basis to form our USR strategy, as it allows us to indicate the strengths and weaknesses of the UAB and involve stakeholders.

The social responsibility report was drawn up in accordance with Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) standards, which includes three universal standards applicable to all organisations and 33 specific standards divided into three groups: economic, environmental, and social.

Equity and student support

With the aim of guaranteeing fairness and equal opportunities in access to and the continuation of university studies, the UAB has a series of grants aimed at providing financial support to students with the lowest incomes.

The Call for applications for financial aid in emergency situations, to alleviate situations of serious economic difficulties for students who are taking university studies, led to the award of 22 grants during the 2021-2022 academic year. Eighteen grants were also awarded for compulsory off-campus work placements.

Also, 21 Ítaca - Banco Santander salary grants were awarded to students with good academic records who come from socio-economic backgrounds that hinder their access to university.

The Fundació Autònoma Solidària, with support from the UAB Board of Trustees, awarded eight Impuls grants to students with disabilities to help them attend university and complete their higher education.

This academic year saw the first call for applications for study grants for victims of gender-based violence. Following the call for applications, three grants were awarded to help compensate for the difficulties faced by victims of violence and to prevent them from dropping out of university studies.

Finally, the UAB also awarded 65 grants through the call for grants to work in different areas of the University.



Socio-educational programmes

The UAB has a wide range of socio-educational programmes that aim to bring the university closer and strengthen the relationship between the university and the social and regional environment. These programmes are carried out both on the UAB campus and in educational centres in nearby towns.

The Ítaca Campus, the Argó Programme and the Brúixola project promote a relationship between the university and secondary school pupils. Specifically, **Ítaca Campus** welcomes secondary school pupils to encourage them to continue their studies after the compulsory stage through activities on campus; the **Brúixola project** puts high school students in contact with UAB students who guide and advise them in their choice of university studies, and finally, the **Argó Programme** offers support to baccalaureate pupils and higher vocational training courses (CFGS) during their transition to university. They do so by providing support for baccalaureate homework, training placements, company placements and the Argó Award for baccalaureate final projects and CFGS projects.

The commitment to bring the university closer to future students is also reflected by a wide range of programmes and projects organised or participated in by UAB teaching and research centres, such as the different science Olympiads, discipline-specific conferences, debating leagues and a fair to celebrate the end of the “We want to be scientists and engineers!” project.

CROMA 2.0 children visit the UAB

On 18 May 2022, 200 children enrolled on the CROMA 2.0 programme visited the university campus. Through this programme, throughout the academic year, UAB students give workshops in schools in the surrounding areas to encourage an interest in learning among students in 5th and 6th year of primary school who are socioeconomically vulnerable and who do not have support outside school hours.

Another group of socio-educational programmes, such as the **CROMA 2.0 Programme**, focus on the social commitment of the UAB to people in situations of social and economic vulnerability, and aim to accompany and support students from primary and secondary schools who, due to their socio-cultural or personal circumstances, find it difficult to achieve their academic goals. This year saw the launch of a new educational mentoring programme for secondary school students from the towns of Cerdanyola del Vallès and Badia del Vallès in situations of social and economic vulnerability, and participation in the Prometeus programme, funded by Barcelona City Council, which encourages educational success for young university students with good academic records who are experiencing complex socio-economic situations.

The **Universitat a l'Abast outreach programme** is committed to continuing education linked to active ageing and offers opportunities for training and social involvement through the Aprent al Campus programme and the series of talks entitled “Seminaris a l'Abast”.

Highlight



The Argó Awards for upper secondary school and college research projects have been presented

The jury for the 19th **Argó Awards** awarded 42 prizes in the category of baccalaureate research projects, in which 452 projects were presented, from six areas of knowledge. The same jury awarded seven prizes in the category of vocational training projects, with a total of 42 projects presented.



The UAB celebrates the International Day of People with Disabilities

On 9 December 2021 the UAB commemorated the International Day of People with Disabilities at an event for the award of Impuls grants, by the Fundació Autònoma Solidària and the UAB Board of Trustees, aimed at guaranteeing equal opportunities for students with functional diversity. The event included a round table on “Art and accessibility”.



Minute of silence for Ukraine

On 1 March 2022 the university community protested against the military attacks in Ukraine with a minute's silence in front of all the different campus buildings. The UAB expressed its solidarity with all those affected by this armed conflict and reaffirmed its commitment to the refugees.

Social and volunteer programmes

Any charity-related activities undertaken by the UAB university community are mainly channelled through the social and volunteer programmes managed by the **Fundació Autònoma Solidària (FAS)**.

This year more than 300 people, including students, administrative and service staff and teaching and research staff from the UAB participated in social volunteer programmes, such as the Justice Programme (in prisons and young offender institutions), socio-educational programmes and the Social and Health Programme, and have helped more than 2.000 people who are at risk of social exclusion or in difficult personal or health-related situations. In addition, UAB students participated in awareness-raising campaigns on issues such as the environment, food waste and healthy habits.

In the framework of the **Education for Sustainable Development at the University** project on education for global justice, the fifth year of the Awards for the best **Final Degree Project (TFG) in sustainable development and global justice** was held, and included a total of 43 prize-winning projects from different UAB degree programmes.

Cooperation for development

The **UAB Solidarity Fund** opened two calls for applications this year, offering funding to a total amount of 65,000 euros. The first call, aimed at teaching and research staff, will fund five international cooperation projects with educational institutions in Uganda, Mexico, the Ivory Coast and Vietnam. The proposals focus on projects from the areas of environmental justice, gender justice, anti-racism and alternative narratives, equal rights and opportunities in higher education, food security and global health.

The second call will support new projects by postgraduate, Master's and PhD students that focus on gender equality, health and environmental justice. These projects will be carried out in The Gambia, Equatorial Guinea, Uganda, Guinea Bissau, Chile, Equatorial Guinea, Costa Rica and Bolivia.

During the 2021-2022 academic year, 23 **#UABRefugi** grants were awarded to students who are refugees, and the second call for applications for study support funded by the Caixa d'Enginyers Foundation granted support to 17 students.

Supporting people with disabilities

PIUNE, a service for students with disabilities or specific educational needs, guides future UAB students and promotes supportive measures for students with disabilities while they are studying. In addition, the programme also manages the accessible transport service to the Bellaterra campus and the walking companion service for people who have difficulties finding their way around. This academic year PIUNE has supported 564 students with disabilities or specific educational needs, and 28 people with disabilities have found employment through the **UAB Impuls Programme**.

Meet-Up Inclusió, an innovative pilot programme to provide psychological and emotional guidance for students with Asperger's syndrome registered at the UAB was launched this year. It was set up by PIUNE, in conjunction with the Asperger's Association of Catalonia. As part of this programme, meetings and workshops were held with participation from 14 students who worked on difficulties related to physical autonomy, executive dysfunction and emotional issues faced by young people with Autism Spectrum Disorder.



Emergency in Ukraine

The university community mobilised in reaction to this humanitarian crisis, and activities organised to provide information and raise awareness about the conflict, such as a series of activities entitled "The UAB supports peace". Aid for people affected by the war was also organised.

Through extraordinary emergency grants and an increase in the budget allocation for **#UABRefugi** grants, support has been provided to the UAB community members affected by the conflict. Students in need of international protection have been able to continue their studies free of charge at the UAB during the 2022-2023 academic year.

Camina la UAB!



Per un campus més saludable i sostenible



Environmental management

The UAB has a **Healthy and Sustainable Campus Plan covering 2018-2022**, which takes on board the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in line with the institutional declaration made by Catalan public universities (ACUP), which places a strong focus on Agenda 2030.

The activities included in this plan make it possible to incorporate initiatives focused on improving people's health and sustainability on campus. With this objective in mind, this year activities have been carried out in the areas of mobility, energy management, waste reduction and the natural environment surrounding the campus.

The UAB also has a **Mobility Plan for 2018-2024** and this academic year, activities have been carried out to increase accessibility to the university

Presentation of the “Camina la UAB!” campaign

This academic year the UAB launched the “Camina la UAB! For a healthier and more sustainable campus” campaign, with the aim of promoting a healthy lifestyle among members of the university community. Using banners and other types of advertising, the campaign provides information about the different walking distances between the main buildings on campus.

campus based on sustainability, efficiency and safety criteria. The aim of these activities is to promote the use of public transport, encourage access by bicycle or on foot through the construction of paths and pavements and new cycle lanes, make changes to road traffic and bus stops, rationalise the use of private vehicles and support electric vehicles with recharging points.

Between 25 and 29 April 2022, the **Health and Sustainability Week** took place, which this year returned to physical participation. It included physical activity sessions, lectures and awareness-raising activities about food and mental health, environmental commitment and sustainable mobility, and visits to a sewage treatment plant, a recycling waste workshop and the Open Lab. Waste was also cleaned up at the Font del Carme as part of the Let's Clean Up Europe project.

Highlight



Successful first *Bioblitz* at the UAB

On 6 and 7 May 2022, more than 230 people took part in the first UAB *Bioblitz*, which helped students to find out know more about the biodiversity of the natural environment on and surrounding the university campus. The citizen science initiative led to the identification of more than 200 species and observation of around 400 animal and plant species.



New nesting boxes for birds at the UAB

The FAS and OMA Environmental Programme, with the help of workers from the Talher company, organised a workshop at the UAB recycling centre for volunteers. The workshop involved the construction of eight nesting boxes and two insect hotels, to promote survival and nesting for both birds and pollinating insects.



Opening of the Health and Sustainability Space

On 4 May 2022, a new Health and Sustainability Space (SiS) was opened in the *Eix Central* area on the UAB main campus. The SiS Space is a pleasant and safe space that is smoke and noise-free, where the priority is people and the most sustainable forms of mobility. Also, general socialising and sports and other social activities can be held in this space.

As a result of this pace the intercity and inter-campus bus routes have been re-organised, and the area covered by the routes and the bus stops has been increased so that there are stops available to the whole community at no more than five minutes' walk.

University community



On 30 March and 7 April 2022, for the first time the UAB hosted the final stages of the two debating leagues organised by the Xarxa Vives University Network at secondary, upper secondary and university level. In these final stages, the debating leagues revolved around the following questions “Should we place limitations on science?” and “Do we need a state-run pharmaceutical industry in the European Union?”, respectively.

Student participation

The UAB promotes the participation of the university community in social and cultural activities on campus by supporting the large network of associations at the university. A variety of resources and equipment is made available to the different university groups and calls are set up for financial support to organise activities.

The associations are registered in the UAB Directory of Student Groups, which currently has 72 registered groups and more than 2,600 participants, with a directory coordinator elected from among the members of the groups. Participation in the UAB also involves financial support through calls for grants for student groups. In 2022, 64 proposals were presented and a total of 46 grants were awarded, to a total value of 17,000 euros.

With regard to student representation bodies, a new call for applications was set up this year to fill vacant seats on the Student Council. In addition, student representatives were chosen to represent the academic groups and act as spokespeople in communication with the faculties and the UAB in general. These class representatives become members of the Census of Class Representatives, which already has a total of 640 people representing more than 480 academic groups. All of them are provided with training sessions that take place each year.

Observatory for Equality

This academic year, the Observatory for Equality has carried out different activities and campaigns to raise awareness and prevent gender-based and LGBTI-phobic violence. The campaign “React to gender violence”, was undertaken in conjunction with the Office of the Vice-Rector for Communication and Culture, and the results of a report on the review of toilets from a gender perspective were published as part of the UAB Diversa project. The 17th Institutional Event in Commemoration of International Women’s Day was held, as well as the International Day against Gender Violence, the International Day for Women and Girls in Science, and the International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia, and Biphobia.

Some of the activities funded by the State Pact against Gender Violence included a new series of courses on “Sexual and gender violence in universities, identifying it and providing support” and “Tools for working at the FMUAB’s Purple Information Desk” and on the “Prevention and detection of situations of sexual violence or sexual harassment, based on sex, gender or sexual orientation”, aimed at UAB staff.

As part of the 2021 FMUAB (the Festa Major at the UAB), the second Fúria Fest was held – a music festival against gender violence. It is a virtual activity organised in conjunction with the Community Involvement Unit. This year artists Mabel Flores and Núria Duran and the group IDADEOIA + Casqui + DJ Nàtura all received awards.

During this academic year the UAB 4th Gender Equality Action Plan was adapted to comply with the current legislation on equality plans and their registration. The modification consisted of drafting an addendum plan which includes a revision of matters concerning labour, an explanation of the adaptation process and the strategy for the promotion and monitoring of the implementation of the actions of the plan. The addendum was negotiated with UAB staff representatives and a negotiating committee.

The UAB also joined the Network of Universities for Diversity (RUD).



17th Institutional Event in Commemoration of International Women’s Day

The 17th Institutional Event for the Commemoration of International Women’s Day was held on 10 March 2022. The event highlighted and recognised the work of Dr Encarna Bodelón, a lecturer from the Faculty of Law and director of Antígona Research Group, for her role as an expert in women’s rights and director of the postgraduate diploma in Gender and Equality.



Awards for the best Final Degree Project (TFG) from a gender perspective

The sixth edition of the Awards for the best Final Degree Projects (TFG) involving a gender perspective was held in the Meeting Room of the Rectorat building on 29 April 2022. This year the Observatory for Equality, in cooperation with the Women's Institute of Catalonia, made awards to 27 projects from different degree programmes, from a total of 86 presented projects.

Human resources

This year the UAB continued with policies that prioritise activities to attract talent and to offer stability and promotion to teaching and research staff (PDI) and administrative and service staff (PAS).

With regard to teaching and research staff, the number of positions for lecturers and other new recruits increased by around one hundred, as a result of a revision of the Regulations on academic staff related to public competitions for lecturers, a revision of the model to prioritise professorial positions and a small modification to the academic staff teaching hours document. In relation to attracting research talent, 14 new Ramón y Cajal researchers joined the UAB following the 2021 call for applications plus a total of 180 researchers through a programme for the requalification of the Spanish university system. Work was also carried out with departments to draw up a new academic staff teaching hours document.

This year an agreement has also been reached on the allocation of additional funds from the 2019 and 2020 budgets, which will improve working conditions for UAB staff. On the one hand, the funds corresponding to PDI staff will be used to improve the working conditions for the most precarious academic staff, as agreed at the negotiating table of the Governing Team with the Board of Governors and the PDI Committee. On the other hand, these funds must be used for the reclassification of the administrative and service staff at the lowest pay levels and professional development for the people affected.

In relation to administrative and service staff (PAS), the process of implementing the new model of supportive struc-

tures for departments and institutes, approved last year after a wide-ranging debate with social agents and departments and institutes, is now almost complete. The new model aims to improve efficiency in terms of provision of services, optimise available resources and reduce the number of administrative support units, providing them with a robust and stable structure. In addition, the 2021 official List of University Positions has now been approved and published.

With regard to the application and implementation of the labour reform that will come into force on 1 January 2022, and will have a significant impact on the reduction of temporary employment, this year we have been analysing existing research support contracts and so far we have converted a hundred temporary contracts into permanent contracts for research support specialists.

The approval last year of the framework agreement for working from home (WFH) for administrative and service staff at public universities in Catalonia has allowed progress to be made in the negotiation of its implementation at the UAB.

With regard to public employment jobs for 2021 and, in accordance with the 120% replacement rate allowed, a total of 84 permanent teaching posts and 19 lecturer posts were approved, to which we must add 16 lecturer posts from the 2021 calls for applications within the framework of the Serra Húnter programme. On the other hand, with regard to the public jobs for administrative and service staff, a total of 44 positions were approved.

Highlight



The UAB Run in support of the TV3 Charity Fundraiser (Marató)

On 19 December 2021 the UAB and Cerdanyola del Vallès City Council, in cooperation with Applus+ Laboratories, organised the 2021 UAB Charity Run and Walk in support of 'La Marató de TV3', which this year focused on raising funds for mental health. There were more than 1,400 participants in the Run, 1,361 in person and 80 online.



9th Xarva Vives Senior Programme Forum

On 5 May 2022, the Minister for Universities, Joan Subirats, and the Rector of the UAB, Javier Lafuente, opened the 9th Vives Senior Programme Forum on the theme of "Moving towards a new kind of old age, the role of lifelong learning". The meeting coincided with a pilot test for the first edition of the Vives Network's Senior Debating League. Four teams of students from the mature student programmes at the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Universitat de les Illes Balears, Miguel Hernández d'Elx and Pompeu Fabra University took part in this pilot edition.



19th annual Friends of the UAB party

On 18 November 2021, the 19th annual Friends of the UAB party was held at the Casa Convalescència with speeches by Javier Lafuente, rector of the UAB, and Francesc Cayuela, president of Friends of the UAB. During the event, the Friends of the Friends Awards were given out and tribute was paid to journalist Antonio Franco, former director of *El Periódico de Catalunya* and former president of Friends of the UAB, who recently passed away.

Ombud's Office

The UAB Ombud's Office is the body responsible for safeguarding respect for the rights and freedoms of members of the university community when faced with action undertaken by the different university bodies and services. The Ombuds Officer acts with full autonomy and is independent of any other university body at the UAB. The Senate appointed María Jesús Espuny, a lecturer from the Department of the History of Law and Institutions, as the university's new Ombuds Officer on 12 May, replacing lecturer Manuel Gerpe.

In 2021 a total of 105 actions were undertaken. The origins of complaints included undergraduate students (64), postgraduate students (1), students from Master's degree programmes (4), students from UAB Master's degrees (3), PhD students (5), teaching staff (5), administrative and service staff (10), former students (2) and people from outside the UAB (3). In terms of area, the actions covered the academic area (58), the administrative management area (19) and the institutional area of the UAB, as well as other areas (28). The three specific issues that caused the most complaints were the start of face-to-face classes after the pandemic (16), teaching evaluations (9) and the closure of the Eix Central on the campus (8).

Friends of the UAB

The Friends of the UAB Association brings together members and former members of the university community and friends of the UAB. During the 2021-2022 academic year the association offered a total of 60 activities as part of the series of lectures and debates called "The University Thinks" and "Claris Suppers", as well as cultural visits.

During the annual Friends of the UAB party, the association's Friends of the Friends Awards aimed at people who have had outstanding careers both at the university and in society, went to Arcadi Oliveres, a lecturer from the UAB Department of Applied Economics and honorary president of the advisory board at the Fundació Autònoma Solidària, posthumously. Also, to Maite Paramio, professor of Animal Production at the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine at the UAB, president of the Association of Women Researchers and Technologists (AMIT) for Catalonia and one of the founders of Veterinarians without Borders, and Berta Gutiérrez, one of the researchers of the Institute of Education at the UAB and secretary of the Municipal Council for Social Welfare at Barcelona City Council.

The UAB Collective Award, which the association awards to university entities "that work to improve university service", went to the Alba synchrotron project. On the other hand, the UAB Library Service awarded the Friends of the Library Prize to Bonaventura Bassegoda, Professor of History of Art and former vice-rector of the UAB. Friends of the UAB also paid tribute to the university hospitals that are affiliated to the UAB in recognition of their work during the pandemic.

UAB Alumni

UAB Alumni promotes a network of UAB graduates. To that end, it encourages professional and personal relationships among members of the alumni community through sectoral networks, exchanges and networking among professionals.

To promote a sense of belonging to the UAB, this year the alumni model has been redefined and free access has been given to all members to the range of services and discounts offered by UAB Alumni. On the other hand, in accordance with the strategic objective of simplifying the list of foundations, the Alumni Foundation's office was closed and then incorporated into the UAB Foundation.

This year, UAB Alumni has offered a stable programme of subjects related to human resources and labour relations, the business world, economics and biosciences, with 42 activities and more than 1,300 participants during 2021. It complemented the programme with professional development webinars to facilitate access to the labour market and promote both professional and personal development in the UAB Alumni network. It also provided tailored advice for career development, international mobility and entrepreneurship.

One of the objectives of UAB Alumni is to highlight the profiles of graduates and recognise their professional careers. This year, the CIEU-FEiE Award for the most enterprising idea of 2022 in the UAB Alumni category for social impact and sustainability went to the NGO project Supporting Healthcare in Kenya, by Marta Oreja, a graduate of English and French Studies.



New Philip Stanton mural at Espai Sud

A new mural by Philip Stanton was inaugurated in the Espai Sud area of the UAB faculties of Science and Biosciences on 22 April 2022. The mural depicts a tree, a symbol of both life and science and shows eight scientists surrounded by different concepts and symbols referring to different areas of science and bioscience, using brightly coloured paint.

Highlight



The 2022 Literary Awards

The 2022 literary awards, jointly organised by the UAB and Cerdanyola del Vallès City Council, were held on 12 May 2022. Anna Pallejà won the 8th Caterina Albert Short Story Prize for Young People; Pep Cortès won the 27th Miquel Martí i Pol Poetry Prize, and Francesc Puigpelat won the 28th Valldaura - Memorial Pere Calders Prize for Novel Writing. A total of 159 works were submitted for this edition of the literary awards, twice as many as in 2021, of which 17 were short stories, 53 were novels and 89 were poems.



Celebration of International Dance Day at the Espai SiS

The Espai SiS in the *Eix Central* of the UAB campus became the main stage for International Dance Day on Thursday 4 May, in an event that marked the official opening of the space. UAB contemporary dance groups performed a new piece called *Loop* and, in addition, the duo formed by Héctor Plaza and Agnès Sala presented a choreography called *Blue Monday*.

Cultural activities

155 activities were held in different cultural spaces both on and off campus, consisting of 11 educational artistic activities, 5 exhibitions, 30 screenings and 65 stage and musical performances during this 2021-2022 academic year. In total, 60 activities were held in the Theatre and 43 in the Cinema at the UAB.

The most significant exhibitions included: “*B5-125. Un espai conceptual des dels marges*” which was held at the Faculty of Arts and Humanities and also at the Museum of Contemporary Art in Cerdanyola; “*Com al cel, a la terra*” and “*Mompou i Gaudí. El so de la llum*”, which were held in the UAB Exhibition Hall, as well as the “*Expressionisme semàntic*” exhibition by the artist Veitorr, exhibited at the Faculty of Science.

Music was the focus at the Christmas and spring concerts of the UAB Choir and Orchestra. The *De profundis. Llum a la paraula* concert also brought together the UB Pharmacy Choir and the Ensemble Salvat Orchestra for a performance of Bach’s 131st Cantata. There was also a concert by the Barcelona Modern Ensemble, which paid tribute to Benet Casablanças.

Theatre and dance performances included highlights such as the play *La dona del tercer segona*, by Teatre Nu, and a performance called *Blue Monday*, by Agnès Sales and Héctor Plaza, which was held to commemorate International Dance Day. The Theatre Studio’s own productions of the plays *La zapatera prodigiosa* by F. G. Lorca and *Superflú*, and the new choreography *Loop* by the Dance Studio also premiered.

11 activities that received academic recognition were programmed, and 142 people registered for them. Highlights include the UAB Choir, the Chamber Choir, the Orchestra and the Permanent Theatre Group, as well as workshops on voice technique, dance initiation, theatrical performance and creative writing.



Finally, support was provided for 80 academic activities, including cooperation with the Indiefest film festival in Barcelona, support for the Open Up UAB project on theatre of the oppressed, and the recital *Tempo de exilio*, by Isaac Xubín and Ruper Ordorika. The university also cooperated with 40 activities to support the university community, including the first **Inclusive Artistic Week**, organised jointly with the UAB university social responsibility project, with participation from *La Xixa Teatre*, *Liant la Troca* and the music group *Aspace*, among others.

Resource management and organisation

332.3

million-euro budget
(2021 expenditure budget)

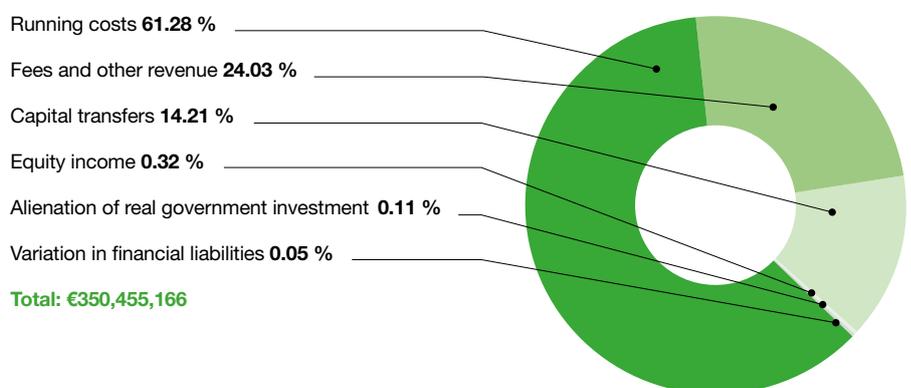
Implementation of the budget

During the 2021 financial year, the implementation of the budget was strongly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, by the funds from the Mechanism for Recovery and Resilience (Next Generation Fund) and the cyberattack that the UAB suffered on 11 October 2021. In economic terms, on 15 December the Generalitat de Catalunya extended the 2020 budget to 2021 and the UAB, although it started the year with the extension of the 2019 budget, approved the 2021 budget on 19 May 2021.

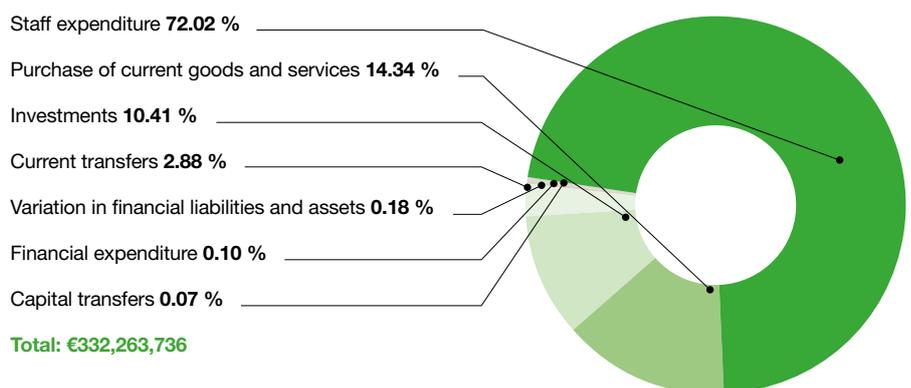
In 2021, Catalan public universities still do not have a benchmark funding model. Current funding from the Government of Catalonia has remained stable compared to the previous year, except for a lesser transfer of funds to cover the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. To reduce the impact of the cyberattack, the UAB received 3.8 million euros from the Department of Research and Universities for investment and expenditure in technology to guarantee the security and integrity of computer systems. With regards to tuition fees, an additional reduction has been applied to the price of Master's degrees, which is now equal to the price of Bachelor's degrees, and which was compensated for by the Government of Catalonia in current transfers.

2021 was a unique year for the UAB. The budget was balanced with a surplus of 0.09 million euros, which allowed the accumulated deficit to be reduced by 31 December 2021. The pandemic, which began in 2020 and continued throughout

Settlement of 2021 incoming budget. Rights recognised



Settlement of 2021 outgoing budget. Obligations

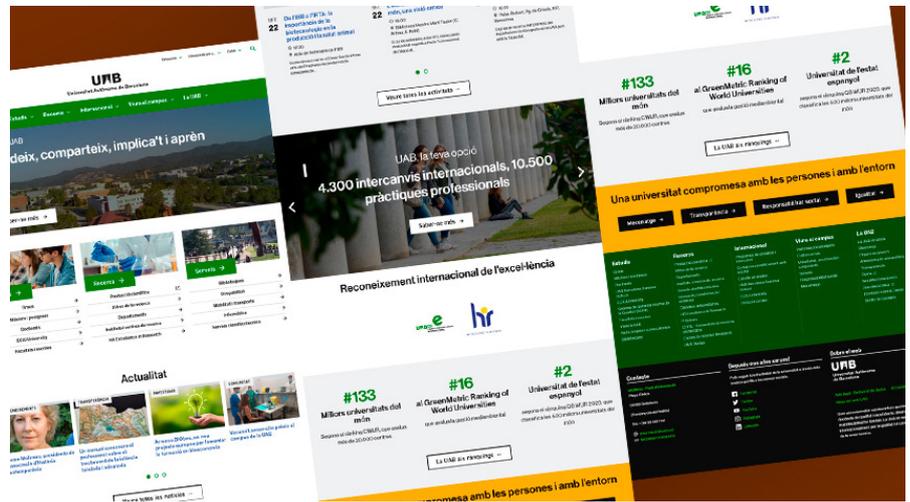


Note: the difference between the rights recognised (€350,455,166), part of which correspond to finalist and/or pluriennial income, and the obligations incurred (€332,263,736) does not determine the budget deficit or surplus for the year, as part of this income may have originated from previous years and may be spent in years subsequent to the one in which it was settled.

2021, and the impact of the cyberattack slowed down the execution of the university's income and expenditure budget, but through great effort it has been possible to end the financial year as normal.

During 2021 the budget was not strained thanks to the Next Generation EU Fund. This allowed the university to close the year with 12.2 million euros of liquid assets and to comply with average payment periods for public administration suppliers almost throughout the entire year.

This year the UAB website has a new homepage and other pages that optimise navigation, improve accessibility, and make the content easier to read and see.



Cyberattack at the UAB

The UAB suffered a high-impact cyberattack that aimed to encrypt information from the university's computers and servers using ransomware on 11 October 2021.

Due to the action taken by the university's IT services and cooperation with the Catalan Cybersecurity Agency and specialised companies, the cyberattack was stopped. However, based on the fundamental aim of guaranteeing security, the university's entire computer system had to be shut down.

In accordance with a new security scheme, the computer system was rebuilt, and corporate services and applications were gradually put into practice once they had been checked. At the same time, actions were designed and implemented to increase the security of the University's IT system.

It should be noted that the Catalan Data Protection Authority (APDCAT) confirmed that the obligation to notify the authorities of the breach was properly complied with, and that measures were taken to resolve the incident, limit the risks and avoid any incidents or damage to the data held by the UAB.

Organisation

During the 2021-2022 academic year the deployment of the Digital Transformation Plan continued with the implementation of various projects for the optimisation and digitalisation of management procedures (records of collegiate bodies, agreements and an electronic university card, among others). The Information and Documentation Management Office completed the implementation of a single electronic registry at all the University's registration points. This academic year also saw the start of updates to the UAB Inventory of Procedures to implement a single standardised list of procedures to promote a digital transformation in university procedures to facilitate the provision of university services to the public.

Last year's approval of the Service Charter Regulations was a key element to promote the implementation of this fundamental instrument to guarantee a sufficient standard of quality in the provision of the services offered by the university. This year the charter of services provided by the Audiovisual Service in the Faculty of Education has been approved, and the preparation of the charters of services provided by the Legal Office and the Directorate for Information and Communication Technologies has begun.

In terms of strategic planning, the implementation of the 2022 Action Plan by the Governing Team was monitored and the indicators for the UAB Strategic Plan for 2018-2030 for the Internal Quality Assurance System (SGIQ) cross-sectional processes were identified and quantified.

Management and organisation of the UAB Foundation

Since 9 December 2021, teaching activity at the FUAB is provided by the FUAB Training School, affiliated to the UAB, and offers university Bachelor's and Master's degrees and continuing education courses approved by the university. The school is located in the Edifici Blanc, in the Vila Universitària (student residence) area of the UAB campus. The publication of this new situation in the Catalan Government's Official Bulletin (DOGC) marks the end of a process that began on 20 June 2014, when the FUAB Board of Trustees created the new school with the aim of managing the non-subsidised education provided at the FUAB schools affiliated to the UAB: Archival Studies and Records Management, Prevention and Integral Safety and Security, Tourism and Hotel Management, and the Escola Doctor Robert, which has a long tradition of offering university studies.

In May 2022 the UAB approved the dissolution of the Wassu UAB Foundation and moved the project for the prevention of female genital mutilation within the framework of the cooperation and education activities for global justice carried out by the Fundació Autònoma Solidària (FAS).

In December 2021 the Governing Council and the Board of Trustees agreed that the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona Foundation would maintain its status, in accordance with Law 9/2017, of 8 November, on public sector contracts. The agreement has been in force since 9 March 2022.



Campus UAB

- 1 Campus de Bellaterra
- 2 Campus de Sabadell
- 3 Campus de Barcelona
(UAB Casa Convalescència)

University Hospitals

(Faculty of Medicine teaching units)

- 4 Hospital de la Santa Creu i Sant Pau (Barcelona)
- 5 Hospital Universitari de la Vall d'Hebron
(Barcelona)
- 6 Hospital Universitari Germans Trias i Pujol
(Badalona)
- 7 Corporació Sanitària Parc Taulí (Sabadell)

Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona
Campus de Bellaterra
08193 Bellaterra (Cerdanyola del Vallès)
www.uab.cat/en