



About the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (UAB)

The [Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona](#) (UAB), located in Bellaterra (Cerdanyola del Vallès), near Barcelona, is one of the major public universities in Spain.

Since its foundation in 1968, the UAB has been recognized for its excellence in teaching and its ability to attract international talent. Its impact on research is also significant, as reflected in its position in the most prestigious international rankings.

In the 2026 edition of the QS World University [Rankings](#), the UAB placed **second** among Spanish universities, **172nd** in the world and **71st** within Europe.



QS World University
Rankings (QS WUR
2026)

The UAB is among the
12% of the best
universities in the world



THE World
University Rankings
(THE WUR 2026)

UAB ranks as 200 best
world universities



Academic Ranking
of World Universities
(ARWU 2025)

3rd best Spanish
university

Research Excellence

Key research data for 2025 includes:

- 3,833 articles published (Clarivate Analytics WoS).
- 367 research agreements.
- 240 national research projects.
- 35 international research projects.
- 24 patents filed.

The UAB has successfully participated in the different European Commission Research and Innovation Framework Programmes.

Under the **Horizon Europe** (2021-2027), UAB ranks second among Spanish universities, having attracted €88,94 million by January 2026. This includes:

- 175 Horizon Europe projects
 - 7 Pilar 2 projects led by the UAB.
 - 30 European Research Council Grants.
 - 76 Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions.

Under the **Erasmus + Programme** (2021-2027), the UAB has been awarded €6,94 million for 73 projects (15 led by the UAB, including 4 Erasmus Mundus Joint Master's Degrees).

Academic Offer and Community

The UAB has over 40,000 students, nearly 10,000 researchers and teaching staff, and hosts more than 5,000 foreign students. The academic offer includes:

- 109 bachelor's degrees across humanities, social sciences, health sciences, technology, and physical sciences.
- 143 master's degrees, including 9 Erasmus Mundus Master's Degrees.
- 68 doctoral programs, with over 700 PhD dissertations defended annually.
- 57 university departments.
- 68 research centres and institutes.
- 264 research groups.
- 55 scientific and technical services and service laboratories.

European Alliances and Strategic Initiatives

The UAB promotes international collaboration and the societal impact of research. As a founding member of [ECIU University](#), it addresses global challenges—especially Sustainable Development Goal 11—through challenge-based learning and research with societal partners. The UAB is also part of the [YERUN](#) network and maintains a strategic presence in Brussels via the OPERA Office, supporting collaboration within the [Alliance 4 Universities \(A4U\)](#).



Innovation, Societal Impact and Responsible Research

The UAB promotes innovation and knowledge transfer to support regional development and address social needs. It promotes entrepreneurship and aligns its activities with local priorities, reinforcing its role in territorial progress.

The UAB leads projects within European smart specialization strategies, including:

- EU-funded development initiatives
- Regionally supported territorial projects
- Collaboration with local governments, such as the [Hub b30](#) platform

Committed to ethical and inclusive research, the UAB applies Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI) principles through:

- Open access to research
- Equality and inclusion policies
- Citizen-driven innovation in Fab-Living Labs
- Transparent recruitment (EURAXESS seal)
- Ethical oversight via its Ethics Committee

Entrepreneurship and Strategic Research Communities

The UAB supports entrepreneurship through [Emprèn UAB](#), offering adapted guidance for innovative ideas—from training and validation to startup creation and acceleration. It also nurtures high-potential startups with dedicated programmes and incubation spaces.

In line with its commitment to responsible research and open innovation, the UAB has created four [Communities Oriented to Strategic Challenges \(CORES\)](#)—multidisciplinary clusters that tackle key societal issues:

- Education and Employability
- Smart and Sustainable Cities

- Mental Health
- Cultural Heritage

Research Ecosystem and the UAB Sphere

The UAB is committed to advancing researchers' careers, in line with the European Charter for Researchers and the Code of Conduct. This was recognized with the [HR Excellence in Research](#) award in 2014.



UAB research covers a wide range of fields, including:

- One Health
- Biotechnology
- Neurosciences and Neurotechnology
- Social Sciences and Humanities
- Environment and Sustainability
- New Materials and Energy
- Information and Communication Technologies
- Animal Nutrition and Welfare
- Materials and Energy

The university's integrated campus fosters collaboration across disciplines, encouraging knowledge transfer and regional development. The [UAB Open Labs](#) provide spaces for experimentation and innovation.

At the core is the [UAB Sphere](#)—a hub connecting research groups, institutes, local businesses, public institutions, and Catalonia’s main hospital network. This model boosts collaboration, resource sharing, and international competitiveness, and stems from the [UAB International Campus of Excellence](#) initiative.

