UAB
Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona



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 2027 edition of the QS World University Rankings, the UAB placed third among Spanish universities, 211th in the world and 86th within Europe.



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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 €100.5 million by July 2026. This includes:

- 196 Horizon Europe projects
    - 7 Pilar 2 projects led by the UAB.
    - 36 European Research Council Grants.
    - 86 Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions.

Under the **Erasmus + Programme** (2021-2027), the UAB has been awarded €8.7 million for 93 projects (19 led by the UAB, including 2 Erasmus Mundus Joint Master's Degrees).

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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.

Alliances and Strategic Initiatives

The UAB promotes international collaboration and the societal impact of research through its participation in major European and international university networks. As a founding member of ECIU University, it addresses global challenges through challenge-based learning, research and innovation with societal partners.

The UAB is also a member of YERUN, a network of young European research universities; EUA, which represents universities and rectors' conferences across Europe; Universia, a university cooperation network in the Ibero-American area; Xarxa Vives, which brings together universities from Catalan-speaking territories; ACUP, the Catalan Association of Public Universities; and THE World 100, an international network focused on university reputation, communication and global engagement.

The University also maintains a strategic presence in Brussels through the OPERA Office, supporting collaboration within the Alliance 4 Universities (A4U) and strengthening engagement with European research and innovation opportunities.

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.

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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.

HR EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH

UAB research covers a wide range of fields, including:

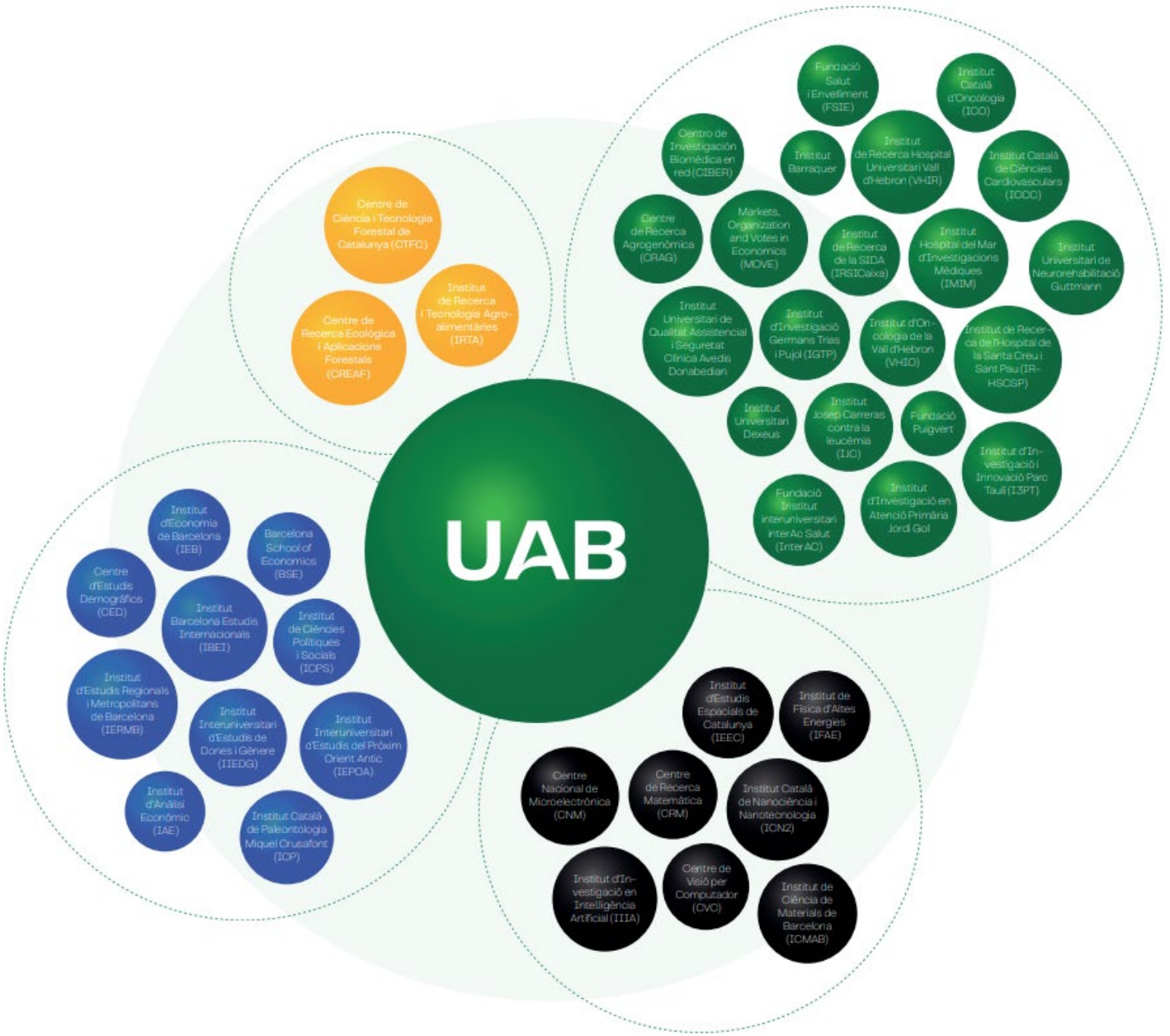
- One Health
- Biotechnology
- Neurosciences and Neurotechnology

- 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.

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- Ciències de la Vida i de la Salut
- Experimental i Tecnologia
- Social i Humanitats
- Medi Ambient

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