

Universitat Autònoma
de Barcelona

Annual report for the 2020-2021 academic year



Annual report for the 2020-2021 Academic Year

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Information in this report for the 2020-2021 academic year is accurate at 7 June 2021.

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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Message from the Rector



The academic activity of the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona during the 2020-2021 academic year has been strongly conditioned by the impact of the pandemic of Covid-19. In an exceptional context, the UAB has shown great strength in carrying out its missions in the fields of teaching, research and knowledge transfer, and has reaffirmed its commitment to the progress of society and the territory. It is worth noting that the measures taken by the university to adapt teaching and assessment activities to the emergency situation have ensured that university activities are carried out in a safe space and in accordance with the quality standards of the UAB.

The report for the 2020-2021 academic year is a tool for transparency that helps us to disseminate the main milestones achieved by the university and at the same time to show in the overall figures and the most important events of the academic year. It is a publication that allows us to defend the importance and scope of the university's activity and the values that characterize us as a community.

In the teaching area, this academic year the offer of cross-disciplinary studies and cooperation between centres has been boosted, and we have continued to work further on the integral formation of the students with the promotion of employability and entrepreneurship. It should be noted that seven UAB centres already have the institutional quality accreditation granted by AQU Catalunya.

The competitiveness of UAB research groups has contributed significantly to compensate for the difficulties imposed by the health crisis. The growing capacity to attract resources has translated into an increase in the attraction of European funds. With €82M raised during the period of the Horizon 2020 programme, the UAB has almost doubled the economic return compared to the previous framework programme. On the other hand, it is worth highlighting the participation of the UAB in the calls for specific projects to alleviate the effects of Covid-19 and the allocation of €17.5M in the framework of the Programme for the Requalification of the University System.

With the aim of improving the social impact of research, the UAB has promoted knowledge transfer and innovation, and has favoured a research focus on solving major social challenges. The activity of the strategic challenges communities or the creation this year, within the framework of the ECIU University, of the SMART-ER virtual research institute are a good example.

It should be noted that the implementation of the first challenges of the ECIU University has been a great opportunity for students to put into practice new methodologies and address social challenges in international and interdisciplinary teams. Undoubtedly, the consolidation of this European project is a fundamental element of the internationalisation strategy of the UAB, which, in addition, contributes greatly to focus the university activity in accordance with the

objectives of sustainable development of the United Nations.

The UAB's involvement with the economic and social sector has been strengthened this year with new innovative and collaborative projects with the region that reinforce its position as a driving force for progress.

Despite the difficulties caused by the health crisis, the university community has actively participated in the institutional, social and cultural activities that have been carried out throughout the year in classroom, virtual or hybrid format, which have always – and it should be emphasised – called for equality, solidarity and sustainability. In this sense, it is worth mentioning that the approval of the implementation of the Healthy and Sustainable Space (Espai SiS) in the central thoroughfare of the campus (Eix Central) represents a further step towards a healthy and sustainable campus model committed to sustainable mobility and the environment.

In short, the 2020-2021 academic year has been highly complex as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. In the face of the uncertainty, all university groups have made an exemplary effort that has guaranteed the development of academic activity. The report of the academic year shows that this eagerness to move forward despite the difficulties has been crucial to achieve outstanding results in all areas and, above all, to initiate and continue the great projects for the future of the UAB.

Javier Lafuente
Rector

Figures for 2020-2021

Studies

Bachelor's degrees	107
Master's degrees	134
PhD programmes	67
Lifelong learning programmes (2019-2020)	405
UAB faculties and schools	13
Attached university schools	13

Teaching

New undergraduate students	7,234
Total undergraduate students	27,135
Bachelor's degree graduates (2019-2020)	4,614
Master's degree students	2,926
Master's degree graduates (2019-2020)	2,178
New undergraduate students in attached centres	1,317
Total undergraduate students in attached centres	4,952
Bachelor's degree graduates in attached centres (2019-2020)	947
Master's degree students in attached centres	733
Master's degree graduates in attached centres (2019-2020)	611
Lifelong learning students (2019-2020)	5,232

Research (2020)

Research groups recognised by the Government of Catalonia	245
Departments	57
Research and study centres	25
UAB research institutes	9
Attached research institutes	37
PhD students	4,831
Doctoral theses presented (2018-2019)	640
Articles published in indexed journals (WOK-ISI)	4,781
Total patents applied for	32
New companies in the UAB Research Park	8
Resources allocated for research (in millions of Euros)	80.12

Internationalisation

Foreign undergraduate students	1,493
Foreign official Master's degree students	871
Foreign UAB Master's degree students (2019-2020)	789
Foreign PhD students	1,806
UAB students on exchange programmes	638
Students on exchange programmes at the UAB	854
Foreign students on the Study Abroad programme	311

Human resources (2020)

Teaching and research staff	3,990
Trainee research staff	604
Administration and services staff	2,270

Budget (2020)

Expenditure settlement statement (in millions of Euros)	318.92
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Notes:

- Information for the 2020-2021 academic year was correct at 7 June 2020.
- The number of full-time equivalent undergraduate students is 24,488.
- The number of students does not include students on interuniversity programmes who are not registered directly at the UAB.
- Teaching and research staff includes postdoctoral researchers (Ramon y Cajal, Juan de la Cierva, Beatriu de Pinós, etc.), of whom there are 220.
- The number of full-time equivalent teaching and research staff is 2,698.

Governance and Institutional Activity



Inauguration of Javier Lafuente as Rector of the UAB

On 13 November the auditorium of the Rector's Office was the venue for the inauguration ceremony of Javier Lafuente as rector of the UAB. The ceremony, presided over by Ramon Tremosa, Catalan Minister of Business and Knowledge, was attended by speeches from Margarita Arboix, the current Rector, Carlos Cordón, Mayor of Cerdanyola del Vallès, and Gabriel Masfurrull, President of the UAB Social Council. The elections to the Rectorate of the UAB took place on 27 and 28 October by electronic voting.

Governance agreements

During this academic year the activity of the governing and representative bodies of the University has continued.

The Senate met twice: on 22 December 2020 and 11 May 2021. The first session dealt with the situation of the UAB and the priority lines of action of the Governing Board for 2021; In the second session the Senate was constituted with the composition resulting from the February elections, the members of the Senate Board and the representation of the Senate in the Governing Council were chosen, and the Rector's report and the annual report of the Observatory for Equality on the application of the Protocol to prevent and act against sexual harassment, harassment based on sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression, and gender-based violence were presented.

The Governing Council met eight times. There were seven ordinary sessions (on 30 September and 10 December 2020, 4 February, 17 March, 28 April, 2 June and 8 July 2021) and one extraordinary session (15 January 2020). All these sessions were held remotely due to the health emergency decreed as a result of Covid-19. A total of 126 agreements were adopted and points for information, debate and approval were dealt with. We highlight the following:

- Ratification of the Contingency Plan and Organisational Protocol of the UAB.
- Approval and submission to the Board of Governors of the Basic Criteria for the extension of the 2019 UAB budget until the approval of the 2021 UAB budget, the Basic Criteria for the 2021

UAB budget and the Basic Criteria for the 2021 UAB budget, the Budget Project of the UAB for the 2021 financial year, and the Annual Accounts and the liquidation of the UAB budget for the financial year ending 31 December 2020.

- Approval of general UAB regulations and plans in the following areas: Commissions of the Governing Council, Protocol on the Remote and Online Submissions of Applications for Permanent and Temporary Academic Staff of the UAB, the document "Extension for one year of the current six-year period academic year for reasons of maternity/paternity", in the document "Semester without teaching obligations for lecturers with leave for childbirth or adoption programme", processing of personal data, and Regulation for Service Charters of the UAB.
- Election of members of the Governing Council committees representing different groups.
- In relation to the necessary adaptations to the state of alarm decreed due to Covid-19, the following agreements were reached: To make the academic assessment system contained in Title IV of the recast text of the UAB Academic Regulations more flexible while the health emergency generated by Covid-19 lasts and during the academic year 2020-2021, and to adopt exceptional measures during this period; Instruction on teaching planning for the academic year 2021-2022.

- Nominate Anthony Bottoms and Cristina Gallach as honorary doctors of the UAB.



At the extraordinary session of the Senate on 22 December, the Rector of the UAB, Javier Lafuente, presented the Action Plan of the Governing Council for 2021. As a consequence of the restrictions due to the health situation, the Senate session was held electronically and broadcast live online.

The Action Plan includes the strategic objectives for each of the areas of work of the Governing Board and is aligned with the UAB Strategic Plan 2018-2030.

With regard to the implementation of the Plan, it should be noted that this year transparency and monitoring of the strategic objectives have been implemented to facilitate collaboration between the units and people involved, to make the actions undertaken visible and to ensure their execution within the established timeframes.



Josep Pons awarded an honorary doctorate by the UAB

On 7 April, the musical director of the Gran Teatre del Liceu, Josep Pons, considered one of today's most important musical directors, was awarded an honorary doctorate by the UAB, at the proposal of the Faculty of Philosophy and Literature, in what was the first institutional act of the UAB with a public audience since the beginning of the pandemic. Francesc Cortès, professor of the Department of Art and Musicology, was the sponsor.

Board of Trustees

With regard to the functioning and structure of the UAB Board of Trustees, the main news for the 2020-2021 academic year is that the new rector and the new secretary general have joined the Board of Trustees as ex officio members and that the committees of the Board of Trustees are made up of members of the new Governing Team.

It should be noted that, with the aim of improving innovation and transfer of the University, the Board of Trustees has continued to contribute this year to the consolidation of the B30 Hub project, aimed at the transfer of knowledge to the business sector and the creation of collaboration networks, as well as the design of the Challenge Based Learning in Sustainability and Generation of Challenges projects. On the other hand, the Board of Trustees has continued its collaboration to promote the area of sport at the UAB with an increase in resources aimed at promoting sporting competitions. And, in relation to Covid-19, it has financed the software to control the capacity of the dressing rooms of the Physical Activity Service and has supported the campaign "Cuidem-nos a la UAB" (Let's look after each other at the UAB).

In addition to all the actions carried out within the framework of the University-Society Programme (see the chapter "Social and Environmental Commitment"), the Board of Trustees carried out the responsibilities attributed to it by the Law on Universities (LUC) in the areas of the university community, programming and management, and finance competencies. Specifically during this year there were twenty-two meetings of the committees and six sessions of the board, and 282 agreements were made.

Recognition of UAB teaching staff

This year three members of the UAB teaching staff were awarded honorary doctorates: **Marina Subirats**, Emeritus Professor of Sociology, was awarded an honorary doctorate by Rovira i Virgili University on 30 April; **Pilar Benejam**, retired professor of the Department of Language and Literature and Social Sciences Teaching, was awarded an honorary doctorate by the University of the Balearic Islands at a ceremony held on 27 May, and **Dolores Rexachs**, lecturer in the Department of Computer Architecture and Operating Systems, was awarded an honorary doctorate by the National University of La Plata, Argentina, on 22 June.



On the other hand, **Carles Solà**, retired professor of Chemical Engineering and former rector of the UAB, received the Medal of Honour of the Vives Universities Network in Valencia on 2 July. The award recognises Solà's professional career and his commitment to science, culture and society.

Highlights



Institutional inauguration of the 2020-2021 academic year

On 1 October the inauguration ceremony for the 2020-2021 academic year at the UAB took place. Joaquim Segalés, Professor of the Department of Animal Health and Anatomy, gave the inaugural lecture, entitled "COVID-19: where we come from, where we are and where we are going. Science, conspiracy and information". During the event, Professor Gemma Puigvert, director of the Department of Ancient and Medieval Studies, received the Second Award for Teaching Excellence of the UAB.



Third Board of Trustees Night

On 14 December the third Board of Trustees Meeting took place at the Faculty of Communication and was broadcast live online. Under the slogan "Society and University: closer together", during the evening the work of various people was recognised. Mara Dierssen, head of the Cell and Systems Neurobiology Research Group at the CRG, received the University-Society Award; Cristóbal Colón, president and founder of La Fageda, was awarded the University-Business Award; Carlos Ruiz Zafón, writer, received the UAB Alumni in Memoriam Award, and Fàtima Bosch, Professor of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology and director of the CBATEG, received the UAB Transfer Award.

Teaching



Academic Policy

The campus is the ideal place to carry out teaching activities and it has proved to be a safe place throughout the academic year. The UAB has managed to combine the desire to maintain face-to-face teaching whenever possible with the consolidation of a robust system to support virtual teaching and assessment. This has allowed for the successful implementation of the blended teaching model planned for the entire academic year. As was the case last year, this model has been accompanied by a call for grants to provide students with computer equipment and connectivity in order to be able to follow the teaching remotely.

In accordance with the teaching programming model, the offer of courses has continued to be extended with cross-cutting studies that are the result of synergies between the teaching and research centres on the campus and also of collaboration between universities.

The quality of UAB courses has been recognised once again by the main university rankings for disciplines and by the quality agencies, which have accredited both the courses and the teaching centres of the university. Teaching innovation and teacher training have continued to be encouraged. The consolidation of the Teaching Excellence Award is to be especially celebrated.

With the aim of having permanently updated information on official studies, an interactive website fed by the UAB

Datawarehouse has been developed and put into operation, providing users with a table of teaching indicators that will serve as a control panel for official studies and will facilitate quality assurance processes.

With regard to the UAB's own postgraduate studies, it is worth highlighting the commitment to the quality of the Master's degrees, which incorporate monitoring processes equivalent to those of the official Master's degrees.

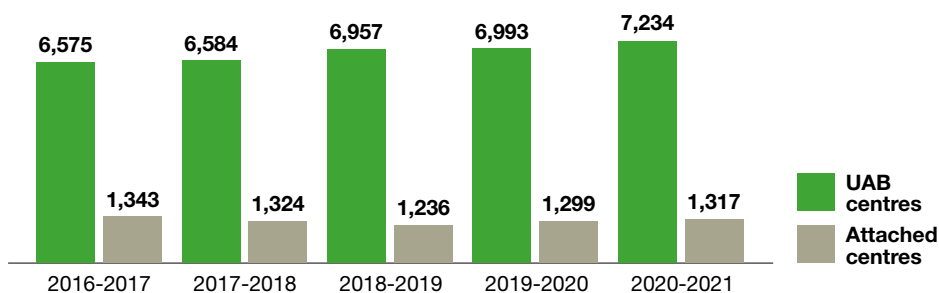
With regard to the internationalisation of studies, it is worth noting that the offer of courses taught in English has not stopped growing and has facilitated the attraction of international students, especially at postgraduate level, despite the circumstances. On the other hand, the AIDA Programme to increase teaching in English at undergraduate level, in which ten UAB centres participated, came to an end this year. The programme closed with the incorporation of a Fulbright lecturer who taught during the second semester in three faculties of the campus: Education, Psychology and Political Sciences and Sociology.

Finally, it should be noted that the Employability Service has been adapted in order to continue supporting students' integration into the labour market and to provide them with tools to stimulate their creative and entrepreneurial skills.

Calls for applications for grants for computer equipment and connectivity

The UAB has opened two special calls for applications for grants for the temporary loan of computer equipment and connectivity during the academic year 2020-2021. These special grants are aimed at UAB students with difficulties in following distance learning courses due to lack of computer equipment or internet connectivity. The grants consisted in loaning basic computer equipment or facilitating access to a basic internet connection by means of a device with a SIM card. To access the grants, students had to be enrolled in official studies at a UAB centre this academic year and have been awarded the financial accreditation issued by AGAUR. The amount of the grants was 15,000 euros from the UAB budget.

Headcount for new students on Bachelor's degrees



Bachelor's degree students registered in UAB centres, 2020-2021

Centre	Students registered		
	Women	Men	Total
School of Engineering	462	2,022	2,484
Faculty of Economics and Business	1,283	1,648	2,931
Faculty of Biosciences	1,282	573	1,855
Faculty of Science	958	1,458	2,416
Faculty of Education	1,940	363	2,303
Faculty of Communication	1,189	633	1,822
Faculty of Political Science and Sociology	656	537	1,193
Faculty of Law	1,416	584	2,000
Faculty of Arts and Humanities	2,276	1,324	3,600
Faculty of Medicine	1,857	718	2,575
Faculty of Psychology	1,498	330	1,828
Faculty of Translation and Interpreting	958	276	1,234
Faculty of Veterinary Medicine	685	209	894
Total	16,460	10,675	27,135

Undergraduate students registered in attached centres, 2020-2021

Centre	Students registered		
	Women	Men	Total
EINA, The Barcelona University Centre for Art and Design	276	109	385
Escola Massana, Municipal Art and Design Centre	245	61	306
School of Risk Prevention and Occupational Safety	78	219	297
Gimbernat and Tomàs Cerdà University Schools	852	619	1,471
University School of Nursing, Santa Creu and Sant Pau Hospital	292	54	346
Terrassa University School of Nursing and Occupational Therapy	744	151	895
Salesiana de Sarrià University School	81	513	594
School of Tourism and Hotel Management	468	190	658
Total	3,036	1,916	4,952

Highlights



The Faculty of Science celebrates its 50th anniversary

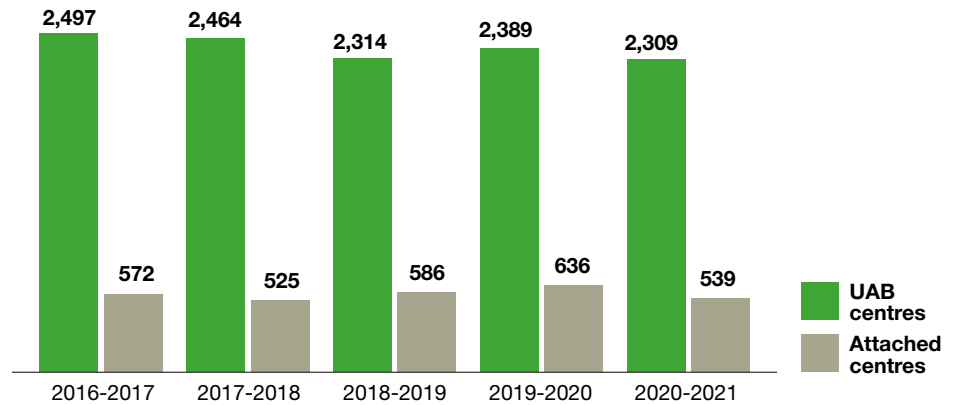
On 8 April the Faculty of Science celebrated its 50th anniversary with a lecture by Professor Agustí Nieto-Galan of the Department of Philosophy and director of the UAB Institute for the History of Science, on the historical relationship between science and democracy. During the event, chaired by the rector Javier Lafuente, the dean of the Faculty of Science, Gemma Garcia, reviewed the history of the centre and highlighted milestones such as the creation of the School of Engineering and the Faculty of Biosciences and the awarding of the Vicens Vives distinction in 2015.



New studies in Artificial Intelligence

On 28 January, Rector Javier Lafuente and the Secretary for Digital Policies of the Generalitat de Catalunya, David Ferrer, presented the new studies in Artificial Intelligence, which will be taught at the UAB School of Engineering from the next academic year 2021-2022. The UAB takes advantage of its status as a multidisciplinary campus university to offer a programme of studies that combines the technical aspects of AI with its application in a wide variety of fields thanks to the participation of different faculties and research centres. The implementation of the degree is supported by the Government of Catalonia through the Catalonia.AI Strategy.

Headcount for new Master's degree students



Undergraduate studies

The UAB offers a wide range of Bachelor's degree courses in all areas of knowledge, which in the 2020-2021 academic year has been expanded to include courses that provide cross-disciplinary, innovative training that is sensitive to the needs of today's society.

Thus, the new degree in **Spanish and Chinese Studies: Language, Literature and Culture**, a pioneer in Spain, combines training in Hispanic philology and cross-disciplinary studies in Chinese culture and society, two fields in which the UAB occupies an outstanding position. Although teaching will be the most important professional outcome of the degree, there will be many other possibilities linked to cultural industries and mediation between the two countries.

This year also saw the launch of a degree in **Science**, which the UAB is offering jointly with the UAM and the UC3M within the framework of the 4 Universities Alliance. The new degree combines content in experimental sciences and engineering to train professionals for multidisciplinary labour sectors.

The Salesian University School of Sarrià (EUSS), a centre affiliated to the UAB, offers a degree in **Automotive Engineering** that will train professionals capable of responding to the needs of a strategic sector of the economy that faces the challenges of digitisation and the development of technologies adapted to a sustainable mobility model.

The new degree in **Catalan Philology: Studies in Literature and Linguistics** has updated the content of this course with the aim of promoting the internationalisation and professional employment of the graduates.

The attractiveness of the UAB's range of degree courses was once again demonstrated during the pre-enrolment process: 11,649 students applied as their first choice to study a degree at a UAB centre (22.5% more than the previous year, when there were 9,513) and, of these, 6,894 were able to enrol at the UAB after the first allocation.

The number of new students has increased by 3.4% (from 6,993 students last year to 7,234 this year), after two years of growth but where 7,000 new students was not reached. In the case of the affiliated centres, the numbers of new students has also remained positive and has grown by 1.4% (from 1,299 to 1,317 students), after the increase of more than 5% in the last academic year.

In terms of total registrations, the number of students in UAB centres increased by 3.3% to 27,135 students (26,272 in the 2019-2020 academic year). The number of students registered in affiliated centres increased slightly, by 0.7% (from 4,530 to 4,614 students).

The number of people graduating in 2019-2020 increased by 2% in the UAB centres (from 4,530 to 4,614), after a year in which numbers had

dropped. In the affiliated schools, the number of graduates increased by 2.3% in 2019-2020 (from 926 to 947). It should be taken into account that in 2018-2019 the number of graduates in affiliated centres fell by 22% because in the previous academic year many of the last students to register at the Manresa university schools before they ceased to be affiliated to the UAB had graduated.

Finally, with regard to the new undergraduate degree offer for 2021-2022, it should be noted that the UAB will introduce new degrees that promote teaching in English and interdisciplinary training: the joint degree in **Science, Technology and Humanities** (UAB, UAM, UC3M), within the framework of the 4 Universities Alliance; the degree in **Contemporary History, Politics and Economics**, which will be taught in English, and the UAB's own degree in **Artificial Intelligence**, in which a number of teaching and research centres will participate and which is expected to be offered as an official degree in the 2022-2023 academic year. Apart from that, two degrees of the Faculty of Philosophy and Arts have been renewed: **English Studies** and **Spanish Language and Literature**.

Postgraduate programmes and students

	Programmes	Student		Total
		Women	Men	
Official postgraduate (2020-2021)				
Master's degrees in UAB centres	109	1,792	1,134	2,926
Master's degrees in affiliated centres	25	461	272	733
PhDs	67	2,677	2,154	4,831
Total	201	4,930	3,560	8,490
UAB-specific postgraduate (2019-2020)				
UAB-specific Master's degrees	139	1,447	574	2,021
Postgraduate diplomas	77	730	259	989
Specialisation courses	189	1,443	779	2,222
Total	405	3,620	1,612	5,232

Postgraduate studies

The UAB has a consolidated offer of **official Master's degrees** (134 in the 2020-2021 year), covering all areas of knowledge and training pathways (professional, research and specialisation). The emergency situation derived from the Covid-19 pandemic has had a moderate effect on registration data, with a 6% drop in the number of students (from 3,904 last year to 3,659 this year).

This decrease has been noted most in the figures for foreign students, who overall have gone from representing 38% of the students enrolled to 32%. Despite these circumstances, the UAB has continued to work to expand the offer of Master's degrees taught in English, something which is attractive to both foreign and local students. Of the eleven new Master's degrees approved this academic year, seven are taught in English.

Most of the new Master's degrees approved are in the field of science and technology or in the field of health, for example: Chemical Science and Technology; Electrochemistry, Science and Technology; Interdisciplinary Mathematics; Biomedical Data Science; and Nursing Innovation Applied to Vulnerability and Health. It should also be noted that from the next academic year, students of the Master's Degree in Advanced English Studies will be able to obtain a double Master's degree thanks to the agreement with the Ca' Foscari University.

With regard to the **UAB's own postgraduate studies**, more than 405 programmes have been taught this year, which have broadened and updated the knowledge of the more than 5,000

students and professionals who have taken part in them.

It is worth highlighting the commitment to the quality of our own **UAB Master's programmes**, which incorporate monitoring processes equivalent to those of the official Master's programmes. The monitoring reports will be a necessary condition for renewal from the 2022-2023 academic year onwards, but this year the report has already been presented for almost half of the UAB-specific Master's degrees.

On the other hand, the UAB considers it strategic to promote its own training in the fields of technology, experimental sciences and humanities. With this objective in mind, and specifically in the field of technology, this year UAB has participated actively in the programme of the Directorate of Strategic Planning for Universities and Research. In addition, the UAB has registered as a training centre with the Catalan Employment Service (SOC) and will participate in the next SOC training call, applying to teach all the short programmes it has contributed to preparing.

In the area of lifelong learning, it is also worth mentioning the MOOCs (Massive Open Online Courses) at the UAB, which have been offered since the 2013-2014 academic year on the internationally renowned digital Coursera platform. The UAB currently offers a total of 50 courses and 2 specialised programmes that have received, overall, more than two million registrations from more than 1,600,000 students. During the 2020-2021 academic year six new courses were launched and a call for applications was opened to select and produce new MOOCs.

Highlights



Germans Trias Hospital and the UAB promote operating theatre training with augmented reality

This year Germans Trias Hospital has offered UAB Medical students the chance to follow operations in the operating theatre live with augmented reality and 3D images. Using special glasses with a built-in camera, the teaching surgeon gives the class live from their subjectgive viewpoint during an operation while at the same time being able to incorporate educational material superimposed on the screen. This is a pioneering solution in Catalonia that is part of a firm commitment to adapting teaching materials to new technologies and digital health.



The Master's Degree in Analysis and Management of Artistic Heritage presents an exhibition on the Espai B5-125

The UAB Exhibition Hall has hosted the exhibition "Espai B5-125: un espai des dels marges", which looks back over the first five years of the history of Espai B5-125, created at the Faculty of Philosophy and Arts under the management and supervision of lecturer Teresa Camps in 1978. The space was originally conceived as an alternative place for conceptual art within the UAB, with the aim of refreshing the local artistic paradigm of the moment. The exhibition was curated by students of the Master's degree in Analysis and Management of Artistic Heritage and coordinated by the professor Jaume Vidal Oliveras.



NEXConf is launched: the TV show that connects the academic and professional world with the School of Engineering

From 7 to 9 October the first edition of #NEXConfUAB took place, an event in television format held at the UAB School of Engineering to discover the future of technology in the new social reality we live in and to create synergies between the academic and professional worlds in the university environment. The programme included demonstrations, interviews, conferences and round tables that showed the possibilities offered by new technologies to provide answers to the problems posed by society through engineering. The event was attended by a dozen of the sector's leading companies and more than twenty speakers, and it was also possible to follow it online.

Employability and entrepreneurship

The **Employability Service** has adapted to continue to support students' employment and provide them with tools to stimulate their creative and entrepreneurial skills.

This year, thanks to an alliance with Barcelona Activa, it has organised a series of free, online sessions, given by experts, to provide useful knowledge to enter the labour market with maximum guarantee of success. The subjects have been chosen by UAB teaching centres to complement the syllabuses and include emotional management of uncertainty, job search channels, elevator pitch, selection interviews, networking and teleworking, among others.

Activities to improve the employability of UAB students and alumni also included a new edition of the Course in Preparation for Competitions and Examinations of the European Union and International Organisations, held throughout the month of March.

In the area of the management of job offers and internship agreements, the effects of the pandemic have caused a significant drop: 1,548 agreements managed and 1,044 job offers published. The **UAB Emprèn programme** has continued to encourage entrepreneurship among students through workshops, presentations and competitive activities. Given the circumstances, the activities were

generally carried out online. A large part of the training content was recorded with the aim of making it available to students in subsequent courses.

A new feature this year was the series of online virtual workshops, given by experts, which covered topics such as 5G technology, financing start-ups, social entrepreneurship, creative techniques and artificial intelligence. There were also five UAB Sessions, in which UAB students shared their experiences as entrepreneurs.

The second Emprèn Pitch competition was also held in virtual format, awarding prizes to the three students who gave the best micro-presentations of ideas and projects, lasting a maximum of 90 seconds. The evaluation was carried out by a professional jury and the public attending the final.

In April the Social and Collaborative Entrepreneurship Workshop took place, organised by UAB Emprèn in collaboration with the Federation of Work Cooperatives of Catalonia. Through successful cases and examples of good practice, the

students learned which steps to follow in order to undertake a social project using the tools and elements of a collaborative platform. The sessions covered both the generation of the idea and the skills and competencies needed (leadership and creativity, among others) for the initial development of the project.

The Virtual Course on Idea Generation and Social Entrepreneurship, aimed at UAB students, was offered again. It consisted of 15 audiovisual panels, also available with subtitles in English. Among the content there were creativity techniques, the cooperative business model and some entrepreneurial experiences narrated in first person.



Researchers from the ERIFE and CRIEDO research groups lead the European INTERSTICE project

On 5 November a meeting was held to launch the INTERSTICE - Encounters between Artists, Children and Educators project, coordinated by professors Gemma París (CRIEDO-UAB) and Sílvia Blanch (ERIFE-UAB). It is an innovation and research programme that aims to influence the training of early childhood and primary school teachers in order to promote a paradigm shift in which the value of what the arts can contribute to teaching and learning processes in educational communities is assessed. INTERSTICE is funded by the European Union's Erasmus+ programme and will run until November 2022. Also participating are the University of Stavanger (Norway), Bath Spa University (UK), the University of Bologna (Italy) and the Rialles Espectacles Infants i Juvenils Association.

International educational projects

During 2020, the UAB continued to promote the participation of teaching and research staff in international educational innovation programmes.

In addition to the ambitious ECIU University project, in 2020 a total of 14 educational projects were granted to the UAB within the framework of the Erasmus+ programme. Particularly noteworthy is the participation in the Key Action 2 - Cooperation for innovation and the exchange of good practices, with eight projects selected, four of which are coordinated by the UAB.

In the field of higher education (KA-203) the UAB will coordinate three projects: **Encounters between Artists, Children and Educators (INTERSTICE)**, led by the Centre for Research and Study for Organisational Development (CRIEDO) and the Research Team on Childhood, Family and Education (ERIFE); **Towards a European Framework of Reference for Translation (EFFORT)**, by the Department of Translation and Interpreting and the Research Group on Acquisition of Translation Competence and Evaluation (PACTE), and **Fostering Higher Education Students Autonomy through Blended Learning (BLEARN)**, led by the Department of Sociology.

In the field of school education (KA-201) the UAB will coordinate the **Evidence Informed Practice for School Inclusion (EIPSI)**, project, led by CRIEDO.



Erasmus+

Highlights



MEMEnginy 2021: the technology fair returns

After the cancellation of the 2020 edition due to the health emergency, the eighth edition of the MEMEnginy fair took place on 29 April at the School of Engineering. The fair, which connects companies and students through the promotion of cutting-edge technological innovations, is free of charge and this year it could be followed entirely online. It included online sessions in which some of the leading companies in technological innovation, such as Amazon, Deloitte, Capgemini, Ernest & Young, Indra and HP, explained their latest innovations to the students. There were also virtual stands that allowed participants to connect directly with the companies through calls.

UAB offers training for students to work in international institutions

During the month of March, the UAB offered the sixth Preparation Course for Competitions and Examinations of the European Union and International Organisations, which prepares students to work in all types of international institutions, in addition to those of the European Union. The approach is practical and comprehensive, with specific exercises and tests, mock tests, group dynamics, audio-visual materials and continuous student participation. It is taught by José Díaz Lafuente, lecturer in the Department of International Relations and Global History at the Complutense University of Madrid (UCM).



The UAB presents the Teaching Excellence Awards for the 2nd and 3rd years

On 28 April the UAB presented the 3rd UAB Teaching Excellence Award to Sergi Robles, lecturer in the Department of Information and Communications Engineering, in an event held as part of the 3rd Teaching Innovation Conference. Previously, on 1 October, during the inauguration ceremony of the 2020-2021 academic year, the Prize for the 2nd year of the award went to Gemma Puigvert, lecturer in the Department of Ancient and Medieval Studies, which had been pending due to the lockdown.

The UAB awards the annual Teaching Excellence Award in recognition of the teaching career of a lecturer with at least two years' experience.

Teaching quality and innovation

Following the quality requirements established in the European guidelines for quality assurance in higher education (European Standards and Guidelines, ESG), and having obtained the favourable evaluation of the certification of the implementation of the UAB's transversal SGIQ in 2019, in 2020 four faculties of the university also obtained the favourable evaluation of the implementation of their management systems. They were the faculties of Biosciences, Sciences, Political Sciences and Sociology, and Economics and Business, which join the Faculty of Psychology, which already obtained this favourable assessment in 2019.

With regard to quality training, the second year of the specific training for the quality management of the centres began in November 2020, with a total of 15 sessions and 35 hours of training. The affiliated schools were able to participate for the first time in this training course.

In application of the Internal Quality Assurance System, the tasks of management and assessment of the processes of creation, modification and monitoring of degree programmes were carried out. Special mention should be made of the management and assessment in the creation of four Bachelor's degrees and ten Master's degrees.

With regard to the degree accreditation process, in 2020 the self-assessment reports were drawn up and visits were made by external assessment committees to seven UAB centres and two affiliated centres to obtain accreditation for 21 official Master's degrees and two doctoral programmes. Currently, in its own centres, the UAB has the accreditation of excellence in 13% of its degrees, 38% of the Master's degrees and 52% of the doctoral programmes.

With regard to the process of measuring student satisfaction during the 2019-2020 academic year, six-monthly surveys were scheduled and managed to evaluate the teaching performance of lecturers and the subjects.

The surveys corresponding to the second semester of the 2019-2020 academic year were not scheduled due to the Covid-19 pandemic situation. As an alternative, in order to measure the degree of satisfaction with the teaching and assessment received in the second semester, a survey to assess the non-class-based teaching during the exceptional situation produced by Covid-19 was scheduled on an ad hoc basis, with a participation of 19 % for Bachelor's degrees and 10 % for university Master's degrees, and an evaluation survey of equipment and infrastructure during the exceptional situation produced by Covid-19, with the participation of more than 5,500 students (18%). 1,086 people responded to the satisfaction questionnaires for Bachelor's and

Master's degrees. For the PhD survey 54% of newly qualified doctors took part.

Regarding the surveys addressed to teaching staff, the satisfaction survey of the directors of doctoral theses defended during the 2019-2020 academic year was answered by 353 people. In view of the situation caused by COVID-19 in teaching and assessment, in the second semester of the academic year a specific survey was scheduled for undergraduate and Master's degree teaching staff.

With regard to the teaching activity assessment process corresponding to the 2020 call, 248 teaching premiums were considered, 94.52% of which received a favourable response.

With regard to the process of managing agreements, 18 agreements were signed in 2020: 15 inter-university Master's degree agreements, an addendum of affiliation, an Erasmus Mundus and an international double Master's degree.

In 2020, we participated in the ECIU University project, in the European Quality Assurance Forum (EQUAF) 2020 and in the 2nd ANECA Conference on Best Practices of the DOCENTIA Programme.

The candidatures are presented by the deans or directors of the centre and the panel is made up of representatives of the Governing Team, the Board of Trustees, the Institute of Education Sciences, the university administration and the students. The award includes a financial endowment of five thousand euros for teaching improvement and the UAB presents the winner as one of the candidates for the next Vicens Vives awards of the Government of Catalonia.



Teaching support services

The 2020-2021 academic year consolidated the infrastructure put in place as a result of the pandemic and provided a robust system to support online teaching and assessment. The Virtual Campus was the platform for the teaching of more than 3,500 subjects, as well as the training of Administration and Services staff (PAS) and teaching and research staff (PDI). Practically all students were taught through this platform, which was equipped with new functions. There were also integrations with other platforms that acquired more relevance during this period (in particular, Teams). We also collaborated in training in relation to new needs.

The policy of extending the core of functions offered by Moodle as a teaching platform with complementary functions continues. In particular, and referring specifically to Moodle, the following functions were added this year: attendance management, interactive questionnaires, improved classroom analysis, improvements in the management of forums and messaging, and gamification management. It is worth noting in particular that, as a result of the importance of Teams last year, this year an option was made available that allows teachers to create classrooms in Teams, with synchronisation of the existing people and roles in Moodle. This simplified the management of videoconferences.

This year we also worked to implement a renewed version of Moodle next year, with improvements in accessibility that will be completed with a new design developed in coordination with the Area of Communication and Promotion.

Languages

During the 2020-2021 academic year, 4,191 students have enrolled in the 583 course groups offered as part of the UAB Idiomes programme. 1,268 candidates were examined in examination sessions to obtain a specific language level.

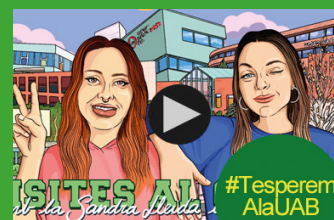
The Language Service organised and carried out 3,855 language level tests. Of these, 2,791 were foreign language level tests for new students. The results indicated that more than half of the students who took the English language proficiency test, 61% were able to accredit at least level B2.2.

During the academic year, the Language Service continued to update the official UAB nomenclature with new terms, based on the inter-university work carried out within the framework of the Vives Universities Network. The campaign to disseminate the document Linguistic recommendations for social media in universities has also begun. With regard to the activity of revising and translating texts, 1,109 documents were handled in 2020.

The Language Service organised five activities with credit recognition and was present at institutional activities such as the UAB Festa Major and the International Welcome Days.

This year, 79 grants were awarded to UAB students to study language courses at the Language Service. As part of the current Plan for Languages, 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, which resulted in the award of 14 grants.

Highlights



Orientation and promotion activities

During 2021 an online promotion strategy was implemented, which included the consolidation of the elements introduced in 2020, but also new initiatives. The pandemic has been a driving force for change in the UAB's promotional activities and content.

On the one hand, the virtual fairs were consolidated. The UAB held virtual open days and two virtual degree fairs, three virtual Master's and postgraduate degree fairs, and a new doctoral degree fair. The first virtual minors' fair and more than 300 online visits for secondary schools also took place.

New pathways were also opened up: the Campus Visits on YouTube, with Sandra Lleida and Anna Ventura, the UABecedari, with Bea Ruano, and the ECIU University explained by Jana Vives. These are three audiovisual projects in which the UAB is explained on Youtube, in the language of future UABers between 14 and 18 years old, and with UAB students as the presenters.

The success of the information and promotion campaigns is evidenced by the growth, year after year, of the email lists of people who sign up for the activities or for the promotion and orientation courses, to stay informed of all the latest news. In 2018 the campaign ended with 20,973 new email addresses, while in 2020 there were 30,940.

Research and knowledge and technology transfer



HR EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH

During the first half of the 2020-2021 academic year, the uptake of resources for research was severely affected by the impact of the pandemic of Covid-19. As a result of the health crisis, the UAB has suffered a 12% reduction in income from research activities. However, during the second semester of the academic year there was a certain return to normality in research, transfer and innovation activities. On the other hand, it should be noted that scientific production has shown consolidated growth throughout 2020 reaching 5,375 published articles (Web of Science, 2020).

With regard to international projects, it should be noted that, with more than 82 million euros raised during the course of the Horizon 2020 programme, the UAB has increased its fundraising by 50% compared to the previous framework programme and is positioned among the leading universities in Spain in terms of the return obtained in the European framework programme. It is worth highlighting that the UAB is leader among Spanish universities in the Marie Skłodowska-Curie programme and in the social challenge focused on climate action. Also this year, two new grants were obtained from the European Research Council, bringing to 22 the number of grants received from this organisation during the European Horizon 2020 programme.

With regard to national projects, it is worth highlighting the participation of the UAB in the calls for specific projects to alleviate the effects of Covid-19. Specifically, 25 projects were presented to the call for Proofs of Concept in 2021,

UAB renews HR Excellence in Research award

The UAB has renewed the HR Excellence in Research award, a distinction from the European Commission's Directorate General for Research and Innovation that recognises efforts to improve researcher recruitment and rights.

and 11 to the call for R&D projects in strategic lines, in public-private collaborations.

In the framework of the programme for the requalification of the university system, the UAB ranked third in Spain with the most resources allocated. The UAB has €17.5M to implement the three lines of action of the programme: mobility for postdocs who have obtained their doctorate at the UAB, mobility for teaching staff and the attraction of talent.

In relation to the UAB project calls, this year the third UAB-Banco Santander call for the attraction of talent and the Proof of Concept call for valorising and maturing ten research projects by UAB researchers took place.

In terms of knowledge transfer, the UAB Valorisation and Patents Office received 41 new inventions from the university's research groups and applied for 32 patents. The UAB Research Park has also supported the development of innovative projects and the creation of spin-off companies.

During this academic year the UAB has continued to encourage collaboration between research groups and centres with the aim of tackling major social challenges. In this sense, the UAB's Communities Oriented to Strategic Challenges (CORE) have promoted projects with a regional impact. Also, the creation of the virtual research institute SMART-ER, within the framework of the ECIU University, represents a boost to the focus of research towards the resolution of major social challenges through participatory and co-creative methodologies.

New application for research management and visibility

This year the UAB launched EGRETA (Environment for Research and Transfer Management), a new research information management system that also facilitates the visibility of the university's research through the **UAB Research Portal**.

EGRETA allows the management of research from the beginning to the end of its life cycle and keeps updated data on publications and other research activities of the research staff. This new system facilitates communication between the teaching and research staff (PDI) and the research management staff and represents a support tool for decision-making by the governing bodies.

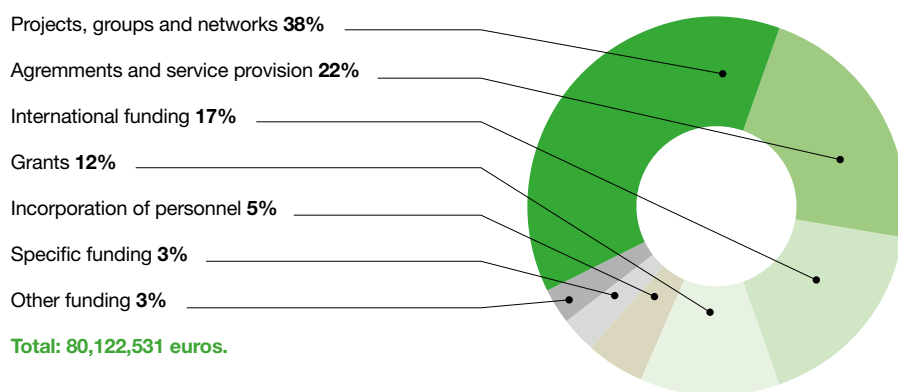
The CRIS (current research information system) supported by EGRETA is the only research management system developed entirely in CERIF format (Common European Research Information Format). This format, promoted by the European Commission, aims to facilitate the circulation of data between the different research management systems in EU member states. It should be noted that the UAB has been a pioneer in Spain in implementing this system, which is used by prestigious universities and research centres around the world.

The implementation of EGRETA has been supported by the Secretariat for Universities and Research and co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF).

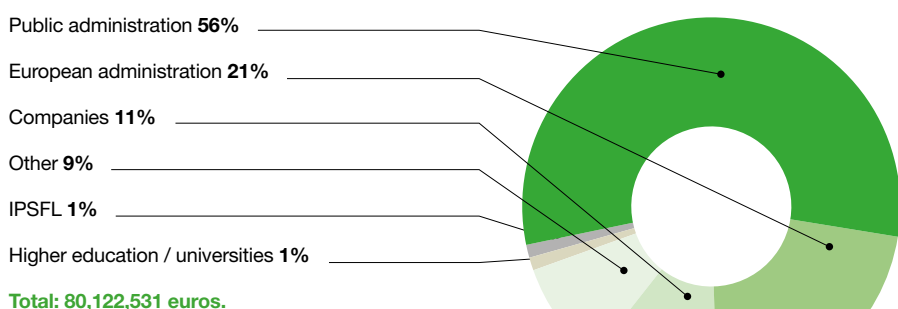
82

million euros obtained from the European Horizon 2020 programme (2014-2020)

Research funding by major category for 2020



Research funding by type of organisation for 2020



Highlights

Two Advanced Grants from the ERC for the UAB

Miranda Lubbers, researcher at the UAB Department of Social and Cultural Anthropology and director of the GRAFO research group, has been awarded an Advanced Grant from the European Research Council to carry out the Patchwork project, which aims to develop a new approach to social cohesion based on the science of networks. **Xavier Tolsa**, ICREA researcher at the Department of Mathematics of the UAB, has obtained an Advanced Grant to develop the GAPT project, which aims to study different questions of mathematical analysis that combine techniques of harmonic analysis, geometric measurement theory and potential theory.

Eleven ICREA distinctions awarded to UAB researchers

ICREA has distinguished eight UAB researchers in the ICREA Academy 2020 call: **Eva Anduiza**, from the Department of Political Science and Public Law; **John Calsamiglia**, from the Department of Physics; **Salvador Ventura**, from the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology; **Jordi Martínez**, from the Department of Animal Biology, Plant Biology and Ecology; **Maria del Mar Griera**, from the Department of Sociology; **Miranda Jessica Lubbers**, from the Department of Social and Cultural Anthropology; **Xavier Sala**, from the Department of Social and Cultural Anthropology; and **Gara Villalba**, from the Department of Chemical, Biological and Environmental Engineering. It should be noted that the UAB is the university with the most researchers to receive awards in this call.

Also, three researchers from UAB and UAB Sphere obtained the distinction of ICREA senior research professor: **Esteve Corbera**, researcher at ICTA-UAB; **Raül Andero**, researcher at INc-UAB and adjunct lecturer in the Department of Psychobiology and Methodology of Health Sciences, and **Iñaki Permanyer**, researcher at CED.



ICTA-UAB joins the European greenhouse gas measurement network

ICTA-UAB will be one of the institutions to form part of the Spanish network of the Integrated Carbon Observation System (ICOS). This system, made up of more than 150 measuring stations run by more than 80 universities and associated institutes in Europe, makes it possible to detect movements in carbon emissions and to have high-quality data to better monitor the effects of climate change.

Study and Research Centres

This academic year, the Catalan government has approved the creation of the **Institute for the History of Science (IHC)**. This new institute assumes the knowledge, expertise and projection of the years of activity of the research groups and research staff of the Centre for the History of Science (CEHIC). The IHC is consolidated as a fundamental nucleus in undergraduate and postgraduate teaching, research and transfer of the history of science with an important international projection. It should be noted that the IHC is a new institutional member of the European Society for the History of Science.

This year the UAB also created the **Centre for Research and Studies in Organisational Development (CRiEDO)**.



The aim of CRiEDO is the study, research and teaching related to the organisational development of training organisations. More specifically, the general objective of CRiEDO is to provide a service of the highest quality and social commitment aimed at the improvement, innovation and development of organisations dedicated to training, based on processes of scientific reflection and analysis, the design and implementation of actions aimed at improvement and processes of institutional assessment and diagnosis.

Finally, it should be noted that the Department of Communication and Marketing of the Computer Vision Centre (CVC) has received accreditation as a Scientific Culture and Innovation Unit (UCC+i) from the Spanish Foundation for Science and Technology (FECYT). This accreditation recognises the Department of Communication and Marketing as one of the main agents for the dissemination and communication of science and innovation in Spain, as well as a key service for the improvement and increase of scientific training, culture and knowledge of citizens.



The SMART-ER project is launched within the framework of ECIU University

The launch of the ECIU University's SMART-ER project for the creation of a virtual research institute focused on smart and sustainable regions took place on 3 February.

The ECIU University Research Institute for Smart European Regions (SMART-ER) will design, develop and implement research focused on finding solutions to the current and future challenges of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 11: making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.

Through a barrier-free research model and a collaborative and virtual environment, the new institute will promote dialogue with society to jointly address the social challenges in the framework of SDG 11, identified in participatory processes promoted

by the ECIU University. In line with this approach, the participating institutions will conduct capacity building programmes (Seed Programme and SMART-ER Academy) and citizen science initiatives that will be used as a testing ground to put into practice all the mechanisms and structures. Xavier Gabarrell, researcher and director of ICTA-UAB, has been appointed scientific coordinator of the SMART-ER project.

New programme to validate research and bring it to the marketplace

The UAB Research Park and the UAB Doctoral School have launched the Validate Your Research programme with the aim of fostering entrepreneurship and the transfer of research results by UAB researchers and PhD students. The programme provides tools, methodologies and training in business and innovation skills and enables some of the participating projects to benefit from a mentoring phase to develop a business proposal or prototypes at the UAB Open Labs.



PhD Studies

The UAB is a research-intensive university that sees doctoral studies as a strategic area. With 640 theses accepted (academic year 2019-2020), 25% of them with an international supplement

With regard to the UAB's participation in the industrial PhD programme, 10 theses with an industrial doctorate supplement were defended during the 2019-2020 academic year. It should be noted that in 2020 the number of agreements and projects in the framework of this programme has doubled.

Also during the academic year 2020-2021, two meetings of the working group of trainee research staff were held with the aim that young researchers from different doctoral programmes can share experiences and problems during the training stage. The conclusions drawn from these sessions will encourage the implementation of measures to improve the conditions of trainee researchers.



Clara Puig won first prize in the Thesis in 4 Minutes competition with the presentation entitled "Every minute that passes, affects our health", on cardiovascular risk. This year the competition, in which eleven PhD students took part, was held in the Auditorium of the Rectorat building and was broadcast on the UAB YouTube channel.



The UAB is the first Catalan university to reach 9,000 theses in TDX

The Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona has become the first Catalan university to reach the figure of 9,000 doctoral theses in the repository Doctoral Theses Online (TDX). This repository, managed by the Consortium of University Services of Catalonia (CSUC), allows full-text consultation of more than 35,000 theses.

Highlights



New Chair in Entrepreneurship and Social Innovation

On 11 June the UAB signed an agreement with the town councils of Mollet del Vallès and Sant Cugat del Vallès and the regional councils of Vallès Occidental and Oriental to create the Chair in Entrepreneurship and Social Innovation, attached to the UAB Centre for Studies and Research in Entrepreneurship and Social Innovation. This Chair, which has also received the support of the Diputació de Barcelona, is part of the EINES project (Innovative Space for Social Entrepreneurship), in which both the university and its social, administrative and productive environment participate.

The UNESCO Chair in Communication (InCom-UAB), renewed until 2024

The UNESCO Chair in Communication (InCom-UAB) has been renewed until 2024 by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO). The Higher Education Section of UNESCO has evaluated the teaching and research career of Amparo Huertas, lecturer in the Department of Audiovisual Communication and Advertising and director of InCom-UAB, and has certified her appointment as head of the Chair. It should be noted that the UNESCO Chair in Communication (InCom-UAB) was created in 1990 and was the first in the world to specialise in communication.



On 10 May at the UAB Digital Lab the rector of the UAB, Javier Lafuente, and the mayor of Palau-solità i Plegamans, Oriol Lozano, presented the agreement to promote education and heritage projects signed by both institutions with the support of the CORE for Education and Employment and the CORE for Cultural Heritage.

Strategic research communities

The UAB's Communities Oriented to Strategic Challenges (CORE) are knowledge-generating research networks focused on strategic challenges and formed by research groups and centres of the UAB and the UAB Sphere. 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, it is worth mentioning that the Mental Health CORE organised, together with the Body Image Assessment and Intervention Unit (UAIC) of the Psychology and Speech Therapy Service (SPL) of the Faculty of Psychology of the UAB, the second year of the International Forum on Food Safety and Health, which, under the slogan "In tune with the body", brought together around 600 participants. In addition, the CORE de Salut Mental and the Association of Families of Adolescents with Food and/or Behavioural Disorders (ASFATAC) organised an online conference to advance towards a multidisciplinary intervention proposal for the care of children and young people with behavioural disorders. Finally, on the occasion of Brain Week, the CORE for Mental Health and the UAB Institute of Neuroscience have promoted the "Cervella't" cycle of conferences with the aim of increasing public awareness of the progress and benefits of neuroscience research.

Also, the UAB and the Palau-solità i Plegamans Town Council, with the

support of the CORE for Education and Employment and the CORE for Cultural Heritage, have signed a framework agreement to jointly develop actions in the field of formal and informal education at all educational stages, with special interest in projects with technological components.

The Mental Health CORE and the Cultural Heritage CORE, in collaboration with the UAB Research Park, Olot City Council and the Association for Integral Rural Development (ADRINOC), have launched a project to detect mental health challenges in the Garrotxa region and to explore the landscape as a beneficial element.

Finally, it should be noted that the CORE for Education and Employment organised two webinars to share the research projects in the fields of education and employment that emerged during the confinement and, together with the Education and Employment Research Group (GRET) and the IMAN-corp Foundation, organised a conference on the digital skills required in the world of work.



UAB OPEN LABS

This year the **Barcelona Metropolitan Ecology and Territory Laboratory (LET)**

has joined the UAB Open Labs network. The LET develops new models and indicators for analysing territories from a socio-ecological perspective, with the aim of influencing public policies and moving towards a new, more circular and sustainable metropolitan reality. This new laboratory will contribute to the UAB Open Labs network by promoting discussion forums and living labs on concepts, criteria and tools for the diagnosis, management and planning of metropolitan systems.

It should also be noted that this year the University's open innovation laboratories have installed two IoT (Internet of Things) antennas on the UAB campus to provide it with an open and free data communication system with multiple monitoring applications to move towards a smart campus. With this objective, the IoT is at the service of scientific research, Open Labs users and university administration technicians.



In 2020 the Digital Document Deposit of the UAB reached 200,000 records.

Research support services

In an academic year marked by pandemic and non-classroom presence, the UAB **Library Service** has made progress in the promotion of digital services and resources. With this objective in mind, the digital library has grown and, this year, 76% of the books have been acquired in digital format and, in the case of subscribed journals, the percentage has risen to 97%. The extraordinary investment in digital resources for teaching has made it possible to increase by 65% the number of digital books recommended in the bibliographies of the subjects and therefore facilitate access to them. It is worth noting that, during 2020, two million downloads of documents from the UAB digital library were made.

To facilitate user access to digital services, this year a new online advisory service was created and 149 courses were held to support teaching, research and learning, in face-to-face, distance or virtual format, with a total of 5,029 participants.

As a result of the UAB's open research data policy, the number of data sets deposited doubled during 2020. Also, information and training sessions were organised on open access publishing, educational resources and other topics related to open science. The Library Service has also published a new website on the research communication cycle, which contains relevant resources and information for authors during the different phases of

the creation of a publication and also for the subsequent management of scientific production.

With regard to the Scientific and Technical Services, this year the **Stabling Service** has expanded and updated its laboratory facilities with the aim of promoting excellent research, attracting new research talent and strengthening relations with the business sector. The new laboratory spaces allow the application of new technologies for genetic manipulation, using viral vectors, as well as the use of pathogenic agents for the development of therapies in all the areas they serve (neurosciences, neuropsychology, neuropsychology, behavioural psychology, neuropsychology, etc.), neuropsychology, behaviour and stress, cancer, metabolic diseases, physiology, development of therapies for parasitic diseases and immunology, among others).

Highlights



New version of the Code of Good Practice in Research

This year the UAB has published the revised version of the Code of Good Practice in Research (CBPR). Published in Catalan, Spanish and English, the CBPR is a collective instrument of self-regulation and constitutes a set of guidelines for action, recommendations and commitments in relation to the development of research activities. This version responds to the new challenges facing society, such as digitisation, personal data protection and the new requirements of scientific publications.

First Conference on Citizen Science at the UAB

On 22 June the first **Conference on Citizen Science** took place, an initiative of the community of practice of citizen science at the UAB to give the latest information about the research groups and current projects of the UAB in citizen science, as well as to identify the needs, infrastructures, resources and changes required to support the quality development of citizen science projects. During the conference, led by Fernando Vilariño, lecturer in the Department of Computer Science, 24 presentations of citizen science projects from different areas carried out the UAB campus were given.



B30 Hub, beyond circularity

On 18 May the project “B30 Hub, beyond circularity” was presented, a pilot experiment that will enable progress towards the zero waste strategy through a new model of interaction between universities and research centres, administrations, companies and citizens, through research and open innovation processes. This project, in which the UAB, the UAB Research Park, Eurecat, ESADE, Àmbit B30 and the town councils of Cerdanyola and Mollet del Vallès are participating, is part of the Research and Innovation Strategy for Intelligent Specialisation in Catalonia (RIS3CAT).

UAB Research Park

The UAB Research Park promotes the transfer of knowledge to society in all areas and encourages the use of innovative and cohesive methodologies to face the challenges of the region and help introduce innovation in companies. To that end, the UAB Research Park helps companies to detect technological and innovation needs and supports them in developing R&D projects with research staff. Specifically, this year more than 22 projects have been supported to solve specific innovation challenges.

The Park also organises workshops and laboratories of co-creative and participatory ideas for reflection on complex, conflictive or emerging areas of knowledge. It is worth highlighting that this year the COVIDeació workshops were set up as sessions open to the entire university community and the surrounding area to work collaboratively on different social challenges posed by Covid-19. In addition, within the framework of the European Clearfarm project, led by the UAB, the Research Park organised a co-creation process to find solutions based on precision farming technologies to increase the welfare of dairy cows and pigs and, together with the Department of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries, Food and Natural Environment of the Government of Catalonia, has developed a workshop to explore new ways to preserve the Catalan donkey.

In the **area of entrepreneurship**, the UAB Research Park once again held the AI4ALL course, “Artificial intelligence applied to industry”, aimed at students and research and doctoral staff who want to generate new business ideas in this sector. In addition, the UAB has organised, together with the Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya and the University of Barcelona, the programme From Science to the Market, with the aim of promoting entrepreneurship among Master’s and PhD students and graduates who want the value of their research recognised. The UAB Research Park also organised the eleventh year of the Generation of Ideas programme, this year focused on generating projects to revalue waste from companies and institutions and manage it more efficiently, an action known as industrial symbiosis. Finally, the UAB Research Park together with the Cerdanyola and Sant Cugat town councils jointly organised the Explorer programme “Young people with solutions”, an initiative to promote young talent promoted by Banco Santander and co-financed by the Diputació de Barcelona, and promoted the Consolida’t programme, to support micro-enterprises and self-employed people in consolidating, strengthening or reinventing their businesses.

With regard to **innovation projects**, the UAB Research Park has provided support to UAB research staff with the aim of promoting new proposals for collaborative projects coordinated by the university. It should be noted that this year 19 proposals were presented in calls for proposals from European and Spanish programmes and funding was obtained for 3 new projects, for a total of 2,015,000 euros. The Park also managed and participated in 8 projects financed by the European Union and has managed to mobilise 3 million euros of European funding for innovative projects of local companies.

With regard to the **company creation**, the UAB Research Park supported 11 new entrepreneurial projects and the creation of 8 new companies on the UAB campus.





B30 Hub members meet to define future strategy

On 12 July, the members of the B30 Hub project held a working day at the UAB to assess the current status of the project and define strategic lines for the future. Created in 2018, the B30 Hub has consolidated itself as a platform that provides society and the region with technological capabilities, scientific knowledge and the talent of its members to meet the needs and innovation challenges of companies and institutions.

B30 Hub

This year the B30 Hub project has been strengthened with the incorporation of three business partners. Specifically, the Catalan employers' association CECOT, the Cerdanyola del Vallès Business Association (Cerdanyola Empresarial) and the Union of Industrial Estates of Catalonia (UPIC) have joined.

During the 2020-2021 academic year, the B30 Hub programmed four innovation brunches, co-organised by the UAB Research Park, Mollet del Vallès City Council, Àmbit B30 and UPC Terrassa. The brunches were adapted to a virtual format so that the activity during the Covid-19 lockdown could continue. Specifically, they addressed the technological and innovation challenges of smart rural areas, trends in smart devices, health apps and virtual learning communities. In total, 352 people took part, including companies, research groups, local councils and other local entities, and generated four technology watch reports.

On the other hand, the B30 Hub also organised the "Innovation Matinees" cycle to work on social challenges in the B30 area through design thinking methodologies. Together with Sabadell City Council and the UAB Institute for Sports Research, three workshops were organised to discuss the potential of sport to revitalise the city of Sabadell and to assess the feasibility of creating the SBD Sport Hub.

Valorisation of research and patents

In 2020 the UAB Patent and Trademark Office received 41 new inventions from the university's research groups. It should also be noted that the UAB has reached the figure of 0.30 inventions per million euros invested in research.

By sector, most of the inventions came from the field of human health and ICT and electronics; the other main sectors were animal health and welfare, and physics and materials. In 2020 the UAB applied for eight new single priority patents and, taking into account the total number of patents applied for (priority and international extensions), the number rises to 32. It should be noted that in 2020 the UAB signed licensing agreements for its research results with major international companies.

Highlights

Ten research groups awarded with Proof of Concept grants from the UAB

This year the UAB held the third call for Proof of Concept grants, its own instrument to accelerate transfer through studies that allow progress in project maturity. Specifically, four research groups received 20,000 euros to validate disruptive scientific ideas, and six research groups received 40,000 euros for prototyping results.

These grants, which are worth a total of 300,000 euros, are supported by the Department of Research and Universities of the Government of Catalonia and are co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF).



WaBiRe wins the 11th Generation of Ideas programme competition

A group made up of four PhD students from the UAB Bioprocess Engineering and Applied Biocatalysis Group won the final of the eleventh Generation of Ideas programme competition of the UAB Research Park with a business proposal to reuse forest biomass to turn it into glycolic acid, a product widely used in cosmetics.

This year the programme was sponsored by the Barcelona Synchrotron Park and the Sant Cugat Town Council, with the collaboration of the SeeRRI project, Catalunya Emprèn, the Government of Catalonia and the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF).

UAB participates in projects funded by La Marató 2020

UAB researchers are participating in three projects funded by La Marató 2020, dedicated to Covid-19: Ignasi Roig, researcher at the Department of Cell Biology, Physiology and Immunology, is taking part in the project “Male reproductive function in Covid-19 patients”; Jordi Gratacós and Bonaventura Clotet, medical associate lecturers at the Fundació Parc Taulí and the Fundació IrsiCaixa, respectively, are participating in the project “Identification and Validation of Early Biomarkers of Acute COVID-19 to Predict Evolution (IVETTE)”, and Joaquín Burgos, associate professor at Vall d’Hebron University Hospital, is participating in the project “Identification of essential cellular factors for the entry of SARS-CoV-2 in different human tissues”.

Research dissemination

Throughout the 2020-2021 academic year 138 campaigns have been carried out to disseminate the work of UAB researchers and research groups, which have resulted in 1,828 impacts in the media, of which 1,575 were in newspapers, 168 on radio and 85 on television.

As for international dissemination, 45 press releases were sent to international agencies. The notes published through the AlphaGalileo agency obtained 11,610 visits from scientific journalists, and those published in EurekAlert, 147,507 visits. In total, there were 159,117 visits from science journalists from different international media outlets.

Also, 142 scientific articles were published in the electronic journal UABDivulga, which has 2,878 subscribers. During the 2020-2021 academic year, the publication received 852,624 visits.

This year has seen the dissemination of numerous research projects in the fields of biosciences and health sciences. It is worth highlighting the discovery of the opposite effects in mice of a drug on the memory of fear according to sex, the observation of the collective movement in vivo of nanorobots, the blocking of the dissemination of acute myeloid leukaemia in mice, a new nanoencapsulation method for the administration of dopamine in Parkinson’s disease and an app for detecting false news about food safety. It is also worth mentioning the creation of a new spin-off company, in which CBATEG has a stake, to develop the first

treatment for pulmonary fibrosis based on gene therapy.

In the field of the environment and ecology, numerous studies have been published, including the effect of tourism on the marine debris on the beaches of the Mediterranean, communication between marmots, the importance that fishing could have in bringing about a global food emergency in extreme cases, the role of the Asian wasp in the reduction of the bee numbers, and otter reproduction in the Tordera basin. Three UAB researchers were also recognised in the media: Victoria Reyes García, who was elected member of the prestigious National Academy of Sciences; Joan Martínez Alier, who was awarded the Balzan International Foundation prize, and Mariona Ferrándiz Rovira, who received the Barcelona City Council Scientific Research Award.

In the field of mathematics, technology and experimental sciences, campaigns were carried out to disseminate various research projects, including the observation of thermal waves in semiconductor materials, an artificial intelligence tool to monitor the destruction of buildings via satellite during warfare, the formation of ice canyons on Mars, the development of ultra-sensitive micron sensors, a magnetic switch that uses less energy, intelligent fluorescent molecular switches based on boron, and the detection of a cosmic cataclysm that has made it possible to test the quantum structure of space-time. In addition, it is worth highlighting the

participation of the UAB in the new QuantumCAT quantum technology hub and the inclusion in the EC Innovation Radar of an innovative technology for converting CO₂ into lactic acid.

In terms of social science research, it is worth highlighting a study on health inequalities which has found that the less educated members of the population live less and have poorer health, the improvement of health in adolescence which involves sharing and enjoying family time, the difference in the traits of men and women in gambling addiction, the cerebral effects on the perception of the contents in audiovisual professionalism, the risk of female genital mutilation in Spain, which affects more than 3,600 girls, the influence of the media and the impact of the media on the health of young people. 600 girls, the influence of job stability on women deciding to have a child and the analysis of five centuries of economic inequality in Barcelona.

In the field of humanities, it is worth highlighting the discovery of an illegal edition with an early text of “Punishment without Revenge” by Lope de Vega; EpiCAT, a project that has collected, researched and disseminated family letters from the 16th to the 19th centuries; a study on the cultural origins of Vic; the discovery of a Homo sapiens from 14,000 years ago in the Cova Gran de Santa Linya; the discovery of prehistoric engravings in the Coves del Fem, and the importance of women in the government of the society of El Argar.



A project on the role of pets in the transmission of SARS-CoV-2 is awarded a prize

Within the framework of the call for grants to promote research into

On the other hand, the launch of various research projects has been publicised, including the transformation of sewage sludge into fuel, the conversion of CO₂ into sustainable bioproducts for the chemical industry, the effects of microplastics and nanoplastics on health, the empowerment of women against energy poverty, the detection of post-traumatic stress in health workers during Covid-19 and working from home during lockdown, and its impact according to gender on domestic tasks and caring.

With regard to sponsorship campaigns, it is worth highlighting the start of the second phase of the research project “In search of a generic therapy for Abril” and the launch of a project to study the impact of a fungal infection in the Pyrenees.

Research into Covid-19

During this academic year the impact in the media of the results of the research carried out by the UAB groups on the Covid-19 pandemic and its effects in different areas should be highlighted. Specifically, the media has reported on the conclusions of a survey that shows the situation of job insecurity among workers, the warning of the need for more detailed population data on the disease in Spain, a large-scale genetic analysis of risk factors for infection, the findings that social isolation increases agitation and asymmetry in the cerebral atrophy of Alzheimer’s disease, and the beneficial effects on mental health of exposure to nature during lockdown.

Covid-19, the BBVA Foundation has awarded a prize to a research project on the role of pets in the transmission of the SARS-CoV-2 virus directed by Joaquim Segalés, Professor at the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine of the UAB and researcher at the Animal Health Research Centre (IRTA-CReSA), together with Júlia Vergara-Alert, a virologist specialising in animal diseases at IRTA-CReSA.

UAB in university rankings

The impact of the results of UAB research group activity has been crucial in improving the UAB’s position in international university rankings.

In the 2021 **Times Higher Education World University Rankings**, the UAB was ranked 182nd in the world and improved its results in the internationalisation and research criteria. On the other hand, in this year’s edition of the **QS World University Rankings** UAB moved up four places to 209th in the world and is among the universities with the best academic reputation.

In terms of ranking by scientific fields, the UAB is among the top 100 universities in the world in 9 disciplines (veterinary science, archaeology, linguistics, modern languages, geography, economics, education, sociology and social policies, sociology and social and administrative policies) according to the **QS ranking by Subject** and among the top one hundred twenty-five universities in the world in three academic fields (arts and humanities, social sciences and education). The UAB is also ranked seventh in the world in the field of veterinary medicine and among the top 100 universities in the world in the fields of geography, agricultural sciences, biotechnology, ecology, economics and oceanography in the **Shanghai ranking. (Global Ranking of Academic Subjects)**.

182nd

in the Times Higher Education WUR

Highlights



UAB hosts debate on universities and sustainability

On 4 June the Institute of Environmental Science and Technology (ICTA-UAB) hosted the debate “University campuses: laboratories for sustainable cities”, with the participation of the rector of the UAB, Javier Lafuente, the minister of Universities, Manuel Castells, the secretary general of Urban Agenda, David Lucas, and the secretary of state for Agenda 2030, Enrique Santiago. The event included a round table on the role of universities in decarbonisation, moderated by Carme Miralles, vice-rector of Campus, Sustainability and Territory at the UAB.

Three UAB researchers among the most cited researchers in the world

The 2020 edition of the list of highly cited researchers published by Web of Science (Clarivate) includes three UAB researchers. Specifically, the list highlights Esteve Corbera and Margarita Triguero, researchers at the Institute of Environmental Sciences (ICTA-UAB), and Jordi Martínez, researcher at the UAB Department of Animal Biology, Plant Biology and Ecology. The Clarivate ranking includes the most influential researchers in 21 scientific fields.

International projection

35

new international agreements



Strategic lines of action

In a year marked by mobility restrictions due to the Covid-19 pandemic, activity in the field of international projection has been adapted to continue building relationships with institutions around the world. Among other actions, the UAB organised online activities with American and East Asian universities and participated in meetings with the African and Asian universities of the Aliança 4 Universities association.

As a result of the efforts to maintain and expand contact with other institutions, 50 new international agreements were negotiated and 35 have been signed.

The European University project ECIU University started its activity with the first micro-modules pilot and the first challenges, which students have tackled in international multidisciplinary teams. The ECIU University represents a strategic opportunity for the UAB with an impact in the fields of research, teaching, transfer and innovation.

On the other hand, the mobility of students, teaching staff and administrative and services staff and internationalisation within the university has continued to be promoted, applying the established security measures. Information about changes and limitations and the telematic attention to manage incidents has been crucial.

Institutional visits and trips

During the year, online meetings were held with universities in the United States such as the University of California, the University of Montana and the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley. Work also continued with Thompson Rivers University in Canada with the aim of extending the collaboration that has been going on for more than five years. With regard to relations with Asian universities, it is worth highlighting the meetings with the Nanyang University of Technology in Singapore and the City University of Hong Kong. With regard to the visits received, in May the First Lady of South Korea, Kim Jung-sook, visited the Faculty of Translation and Interpreting and met a group of students of Korean language and culture from the King Sejong Barcelona Institute, located on the UAB campus.

The UAB also took part in the seminar that EduEspaña, in collaboration with ICEX Spain Export and Investment, organised online on 18 and 19 May with two universities in Canada. The seminar has allowed relationships with universities in Canadian regions where the UAB does not yet have a presence to be established.

Once again, the UAB took part in the three most important international education fairs, which were held in virtual format: EAIE 2020, in October 2020; APAIE 2021, in March next year, and NAFSA 2021, in June.

International agreements

The International Relations Area, apart from the Erasmus+ programme agreements, has managed more than fifty general and specific collaboration agreements.

The total number of international agreements signed was 35. Of these 35 agreements, it is worth highlighting the agreement to offer the double degree in Estudis Anglesos Avançats/Advanced English Studies with the Universitat Ca'Foscari in Italy from the academic year 2021-2022. It is also worth highlighting the renewal of the agreements with the Brazilian Consulate and the of Portuguese Embassy in Madrid to subsidise the hiring of two teachers. In addition, a new student exchange agreement has been signed with the University of British Columbia in Canada and the agreement with the University of California in Santa Cruz has been renewed and extended, which from the next academic year will be extended to almost all teaching centres.

It is also worth mentioning the renewal of the agreements with some Chinese universities, such as the University of Fudan and Suzhou, and the extension of the collaboration with the University of Shanghai. Relations with Russia have also been extended, with the agreement between the Herzen State Pedagogical University of Saint Petersburg and the Faculty of Translation and Interpreting. Finally, it is worth highlighting the renewal of the student exchange agreement with the Monterrey Institute of Technology, a member of the ECIU network.



Participation in networks and consortia

The launch of the ECIU University project and the creation of the SMART-ER virtual research institute have significantly increased the activity and prominence of the UAB within the **European Consortium of Innovative Universities (ECIU)**. Also, Màrius Martínez, Vice-Rector for International Relations at the UAB, was elected president of this consortium in March. Dr. Martínez has taken on the task of leading the board and the ECIU network with the aim of consolidating the ECIU University beyond the initial stage funded by the Erasmus+ programme.

The **Alliance of 4 Universities (A-4U)** has had to modify the planned actions and change the direct and reverse missions into synchronous online activities. Reverse missions have been carried out with universities in Thailand, Vietnam, Botswana and Namibia, and the organisation of a thematic conference on research and collaboration with African countries has begun, which will take place in the afternoon of 2021.



Finally, as a result of the pandemic situation, all student mobility activities with the American universities of CASB (Consortium for Advanced Studies in Barcelona) were cancelled this academic year.

On 17 June the first lady of South Korea, Kim Jung-sook, visited UAB and was welcomed by the rector, the vice-rector for International Relations and the dean of the Faculty of Translation and Interpreting. The First Lady visited the faculty and met with a group of students from the King Sejong Barcelona Institute, located on the UAB campus.



ECIU University

The European University project ECIU has started its activity with the first micro-module pilot and the first challenges, which students have tackled in international multidisciplinary teams with the aim of solving real-life challenges posed by companies and institutions. These challenges focus on different aspects to make cities and regions sustainable and, therefore, to advance towards the eleventh Sustainable Development Goal of the United Nations (SDG 11). The UAB has offered 9 of these first challenges and was the fourth university with the highest participation of the 10 universities in the ECIU consortium.

The ECIU University represents a strategic opportunity for the UAB with an impact in the fields of research, teaching, transfer and innovation. The more than 60 UAB professionals involved and the training and dissemination actions, in which more than 200 members of the teaching staff have participated, are an important example of this.

Highlights



The A-4U maintains its planned missions with virtual meetings

The reverse face-to-face mission of the A-4U delegation of Sub-Saharan African universities planned for 2020 was carried out in the form of virtual meetings. In order to facilitate the cooperation and management of the mobility granted to Namibia and Botswana within the framework of the Erasmus+ ICM programme, the A-4U organised the Virtual Namibian Partners' Day and Virtual Botswanan Partners' Day on 28 October and 18 November, respectively, to which representatives from two Namibian universities were invited: the University of Namibia and the University of Science and Technology of Namibia, and from four Botswanan universities: the University of Botswana, the Botswana University of Science and Technology, the Botswana University of Agriculture and Natural Resources and the Botswana University of Accountancy.



On 2 December, the A-4U held a third virtual workshop of the same characteristics with five Vietnamese partner universities: the Vietnam National University in Hanoi, the Vietnam National University in Ho Chi Minh City, the Hanoi University of Science and Technology, the University of Hanoi and the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology University in Vietnam.



From 14 to 18 September and from 1 to 5 February the International Welcome Days (IWD) were held to welcome international students arriving at the UAB at the beginning of each semester.

International welcome and support

The **International Support Service (ISS)** carries out different information and support tasks for international students and staff before they come to the UAB, when they arrive and during their stay. During this academic year we had to rethink our user care systems in order to adapt them to the pandemic situation. On the one hand, virtual communications were reinforced, intensifying relations via e-mail and individual meetings via Microsoft Teams in procedures requiring more interaction. On the other hand, large-scale activities, such as the student reception in September, were carried out through online sessions via Teams. In total, 32 welcome sessions were held for a total of 923 international students.

It should be noted that the services for international teaching and research staff have been extended and consolidated with the improvement of the information available on the website and the creation of a guide for international teaching and research staff.

The UAB also has a programme for international students to welcome them and facilitate their stay and integration at the university and in the country, the **International Welcome Days (IWD)**, which have allowed international students to get to know the campus and its services and the university's societies' network.

The **Mentor** programme, for accompanying and support from peers, and the **Tàndem** programme, for language exchange and the acquisition of speaking fluency, which facilitate the integration of these international students, took place virtually.

Mobility programmes

The mobility restrictions imposed due to the Covid-19 pandemic have meant that the number of participants in exchange programmes has decreased considerably. Despite these circumstances, however, the UAB has continued to emphasise the importance of the internationalisation of the university and its students.

During the 2020-2021 academic year, the participation of the UAB in the **Erasmus+** programme allowed 398 UAB students to study at universities in Europe and abroad and the UAB welcomed a total of 425 students. As part of the same programme, 88 students did work placements in companies.

The Spanish **SICUE** programme facilitated the mobility of 139 students, of which 75 were hosted by the UAB and 64 were from the UAB and spent time at other universities in Spain.

The **UAB Exchange Programme**, the programme for student mobility to non-European countries, represented the departure of 63 students, while the UAB received 43. In addition, 25 UAB students did work placements in companies and institutions around the world thanks to the work placement modality of this programme.

311 students participated in the **Specific Programmes for International Students - Study Abroad**, 296 of them in the Pre-Established modality, who did face-to-face and virtual classes according to the circumstances. With the

improvement of the health situation, students from the United States joined the programme. The Selected Courses, in which degree courses are taken, had 15 students. As for the tailor-made course modality, Tailor Made, it was offered in face-to-face and distance format at universities in Mexico and Panama. A virtual platform was incorporated this year to support face-to-face learning and guarantee the continuity of programmes under any circumstances.

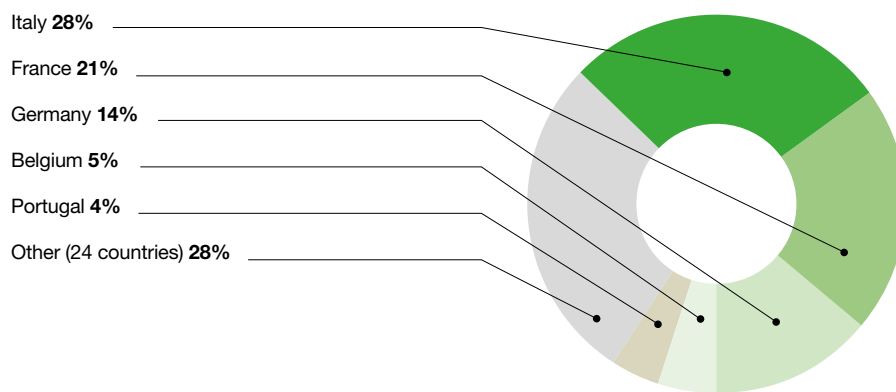
UAB Barcelona Summer School

In the 2020-2021 academic year, in a situation of total uncertainty, the UAB opted for a dual programme format: face-to-face and online. A total of 25 subjects were taught between the two formats and, for the first time, all the UAB's own centres and the School of Tourism and Hotel Management were involved. A total of 385 students took part, 75% of whom were from the UAB or local and the rest international, of 23 different nationalities. Most of the international students came from European universities, but also from the United States, Mexico, South Korea and Singapore, among other countries.

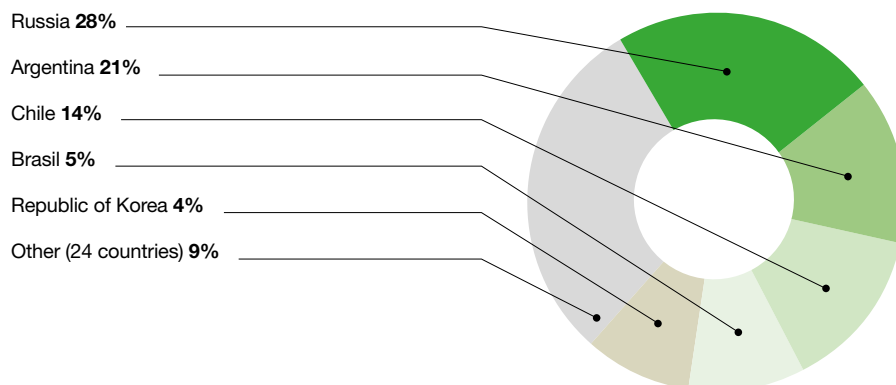
Participants in mobility programmes, 2020-2021

	De llegada	De salida
Erasmus Studies	425	398
Erasmus Placements		88
UAB Exchange Programme	43	63
UAB Exchange Programme Placements		25
SICUE	75	64
Study Abroad	311	
TOTAL	854	638

Country of origin of international Erasmus students at the UAB, 2020-2021



Country of origin of students on the UAB Exchange Programme, 2020-2021



Highlights



Virtual International Days

The first virtual meeting open to staff from partner universities working in the field of internationalisation took place from 17 to 19 November. The Virtual International Days were held online under the slogan “Experiences of virtual exchange”. There were 96 registered participants, 62 of whom attended the sessions over the 3 days. These training days focused on virtual exchange and offered an overview of current uses and practices as well as discussions on opportunities and challenges. The event was a unique opportunity to learn and work online with peers from all over the world.

Clàudia Borràs, new UNICAT ambassador

The UAB has selected Clàudia Borràs, a student of the degree in English and French Studies, as UNICAT ambassador for the university for the 2020-2021 academic year. Borràs acts as a reference and guide for students and graduates who wish to pursue a professional career in European Union institutions. With the selection of a new ambassador, the UAB continues to participate in the UNICAT Ambassador project, managed by the Government Delegation to the EU, the Inter-University Council of Catalonia and the participating Catalan universities, with the support of the Secretariat for Universities and Research.

Social and environmental commitment



Face-to-face meetings of the Brúixola Project

In April and May, face-to-face meetings were held within the framework of the Brúixola project, which provides advice for pre-university students. This project puts upper secondary school students who are interested in continuing their academic studies at a university in contact with university students who advise them from their own experience.

The UAB, change to continue with the same level of commitment

The UAB's firm commitment to its social setting and respect for the environment has been key in ensuring that, despite the limitations deriving from the pandemic situation, the planned social responsibility actions have been carried out.

Following health recommendations, all social responsibility actions and programmes were adapted and reformulated according to the possibilities at any given time in order to comply with health and safety regulations. This challenge made it possible to review the actions, improve them, make innovations in form and content, and detect new needs arising from the pandemic. As a result, new intervention formats were introduced, spaces and people were reorganised, and actions carried out exclusively by virtual attendance.

It is worth highlighting the new needs that the pandemic has brought to the surface, which have led to the creation of volunteer groups in hospitals to provide logistical or communication support and support for the understanding of medical information for the families of patients; advice on biological waste management for the area of the environment and safety, and the reinforcement of psychological support and physical and emotional wellbeing of the university community.

Equity and support for students

Through the Board of Trustees, the UAB offers a series of grants aimed at providing financial support to students with the lowest incomes in order to promote equality and equal opportunities in access to and continuation of university studies.

One of the UAB's commitments to promoting equality is the Call for applications for study grants for emergency situations, which in the 2020-2021 academic year resulted in 44 grants awarded.

This year, a new line of student grants has been temporarily opened for the loan of computer equipment and connectivity to follow classes online. There were two calls for applications, with a total of 131 grants awarded.

Also, this academic year 14 Ítaca - Banco Santander grants have been awarded to study at the UAB to upper secondary school students with high academic performance who come from difficult socio-economic backgrounds. In addition, the Fundació Autònoma Solidària, with the support of the UAB Board of Trustees, awarded six grants to students with disabilities to help them attend university and complete their higher education.

The UAB also has a line of grants to collaborate in different areas of the University while studying. The 2020-2021 call offered 65 grants.

University-Society Programme of the Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees, as a body for the participation of society in the University, promotes the University-Society Programme, which through strategic actions contributes to strengthening the links between the University and society and the region.

The actions included in the programme are especially aimed at students, both before they enter university (support for socio-educational programmes such as the Argó Programme and programmes to support school success for young people at risk of social exclusion such as Let's Go!), as well as during their time at the UAB (funding of the Impuls grants for the support programme for people with special needs) and once they have finished their studies (the UAB Alumni network and job placement surveys for undergraduate, Master's and doctoral students carried out by AQU Catalunya with the support of the Boards of Trustees). They also promote innovation and teaching quality by collaborating in the annual UAB Teaching Excellence Award.

The Board of Trustees also participates in the deployment of different actions in strategic areas of the university such as innovation, entrepreneurship, knowledge transfer and the connection with the territory, within the framework of the initiatives of the B30 Hub .

Overall, the volume of resources agreed in the 2020-2021 academic year for projects in the areas of Society-University and University-Business was 84,732 euros.



Socio-educational programmes

With the aim of strengthening the relationship between society and the university and bringing them closer, the UAB has different socio-educational programmes that are carried out both on campus and in educational centres in the surrounding area. Many of these programmes have now been adapted to online formats, with virtual monitoring or new video-workshop formats. Programmes such as the Ítaca Campus, or the Brúixola project, promote the relationship between the university and secondary school students as an incentive for them to decide to continue their studies after the compulsory stage. The Argó Programme, which has now reached its seventeenth year, offers support to students in their final year of pre-university and higher vocational training courses (CFGS) in their transition to university, through advice on schoolwork, training placements, company placements (FCT) and the Argó Award. This objective is reinforced with other activities to bring future students to the UAB, such as the Physics Saturdays and Mathematics Saturdays, the Interactive Chemistry Seminar, the Debate League for Higher Education and Secondary School students, Science Week, the Micromón and 3Ts projects, the Bibliolab project of the Diputació de Barcelona, the “Mad for the Land” course of the ICTA and the Fundació Catalunya La Pedrera, and the Nanoscience and Nanotechnology Festival “10 to the minus 9”.

Assessment of the Tutorial Action Plan (PAT)

The first diagnostic evaluation of the PAT-UAB was carried out this year. This evaluation process highlighted the influence of tutoring on academic success, dropout prevention and future professional development, as well as on aspects of personal and emotional well-being.

The UAB also wants to show its commitment to the most disadvantaged areas of society and its surroundings through another set of socio-educational programmes aimed at accompanying and supporting students from primary and secondary schools who, due to their socio-cultural or personal circumstances, have difficulties in achieving their academic goals. These are the CROMA 2.0 programme, the UniX programme and the Shere Rom project, which also aim to motivate children and young people to continue studying when they finish secondary school. Special mention should be made of the completion of the Let's Go! project to reinforce English language learning, which has been very positively received by the participants. On the other hand, the University within You Reach programme is committed to lifelong learning linked to active involvement and offers opportunities for training and social involvement through the Learning on Campus programme and through the 17 classrooms tutored by the UAB. This year the UAB hosted a working day on promoting the use of digital technologies in the classroom.

Overall, this year 573 people were able to benefit from the UAB's socio-educational programmes and more than 5,000 took part in the different social commitment proposals.

Highlights



17th year of the Ítaca Campus

295 students from 60 secondary schools in 20 municipalities took part in this year's edition of the Ítaca Campus and were able to find out what a university is and what happens there so that it can motivate them to continue their studies. Both rounds of the programme were face-to-face, adapted to the health restrictions.



CROMA 2.0, online

The CROMA 2.0 socio-educational programme has adapted to the health situation and changed its classroom activities for online workshops. Only the closing ceremony of the course was face-to-face. More than 200 children from 16 schools in Cerdanyola del Vallès, Montcada i Reixac, Rubí, Sabadell and Terrassa took part.



The Argó Programme consolidated the new modality “Research for learning”, which aims to make high school students aware of the research carried out by different faculties and departments of the UAB. In addition, in the traditional modalities of the programme, the jury awarded 42 prizes in the 18th Argó Award for Batxillerat

Research Projects, for which 568 research projects were presented, divided into six areas of knowledge. The same jury awarded the seven prizes for the 18th Argó Award for CFGS projects, with a total of 42 projects submitted.



On 3 December the UAB commemorated the International Day of Persons with Disabilities with an event broadcast live on the UAB YouTube channel. During the event, the Impuls grants, aimed at guaranteeing equal opportunities for all students, were awarded.

Social and volunteer programmes

The task of building a university community that is more committed to and supportive of society has become a reality with the participation of 197 people, including UAB students, administrative and service staff and teaching and research staff, in the social and volunteering programmes managed by the Fundació Autònoma Solidària (FAS).

The volunteer programmes in the social field, such as the Justice Programme (in prisons or juvenile justice centres), the socio-educational programmes and the Social and Health Programme, have helped a total of 1,273 people at risk of social exclusion or in a difficult personal and health situation. In addition, groups of students have promoted awareness-raising campaigns on issues such as the environment, food waste and healthy habits.

Within the framework of the ESDU project on education for global justice, which aims to promote a critical and transformative approach to education in university studies among teaching staff and students, three training courses on

Sustainable Development Goals were held and the 4th Awards for the best dissertations on sustainable development and global justice were held.

Cooperation for development

The UAB Solidarity Fund opened three calls for applications this academic year, to a total amount of over 111,000 euros. The first, aimed at teaching and research staff, will finance six international cooperation projects and three initiatives in the field of education for global justice. The second call will support five projects by postgraduate, Master's degree and doctoral students. These projects will be carried out in Brazil, El Salvador, Egypt, India, Mexico, Panama, Uganda, Uruguay and China, and all three initiatives will take place on the UAB campus.

In the context of the pandemic, the UAB opened a third extraordinary Covid-19 call for mental and physical health projects and to support people most vulnerable as a result of the pandemic.

Support for disability and SEN

The service for students with disabilities or with specific educational needs, PIUNE, guides future UAB students and promotes measures of support for students with disabilities during the time they are studying. In addition, the programme manages the adapted transport service to the Bellaterra campus and the on-foot accompaniment service for people who have difficulties in finding their way around. This academic year the PIUNE has attended 384 students.

The impact of the pandemic on universities has caused difficulties that particularly affect people with disabilities. It is important to highlight the efforts made over the last year to adapt teaching to the pandemic situation, without forgetting the students with disabilities who have had difficulty following classes. This academic year, a specific resource was set up to guarantee accessibility to information and communication for students with hearing impairment and transparent masks were provided to teachers to make it easier for students to lipread.

#UABrefugee Welcome Programme

The Welcome Programme has reinforced its support actions for young people in need of refuge through the provision of technological material and a hybrid format of virtual and face-to-face mentoring. A total of 61 applicants for international protection have

resided in the University Village and participated in campus life, and 20 students in a refugee situation have accessed UAB degrees and postgraduate courses through the #UABRefugee scholarship.

More than 10,000 people took part in training, awareness-raising and mobilisation actions on migration,

gender, human rights, peace-building and anti-racism at five UAB faculties. This year the First call for Enginy grants was opened, to support study for university students in a refugee situation. Funded by the Fundació Caixa d'Enginyers, the call awarded grants to 11 students without financial support at the UAB.



New Healthy and Sustainable Space

Work began this year on the new Healthy and Sustainable Space (SiS) in the central thoroughfare of the campus (Eix Central), a space without noise or smoke, which offers a quality, friendly and safe environment, where the priority will be people and more sustainable forms of mobility and where socialisation and the development of social and sporting activities will be promoted. The project of this SiS Space is part of the Healthy and Sustainable Campus Plan and the UAB Mobility Plan, and takes accessibility, safety, sustainability, equity and health as its inspiring principles.

Environmental management

The environmental actions during this academic year were included in the Healthy and Sustainable Campus plan for the period 2018-2022, which is based on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations Agenda 2030 and integrates initiatives focused on improving the health of people and the sustainability of the campus. These initiatives are based on four main lines: community, buildings, territory and a cross-cutting line.

It should be noted that the Covid-19 pandemic conditioned activities during the 2020-2021 academic year, especially face-to-face activities. This meant a great deal of time and energy on the part of the biosafety department in the field of information and advice to the university community in the management of the pandemic.

However, initiatives and actions have continued in the areas of mobility, energy management, waste reduction and the natural environment of the campus.

With regard to mobility, it is worth highlighting the measures aimed at increasing accessibility to the university campus based on criteria of sustainability, efficiency and safety set out in the Mobility Plan 2018-2024, which are aimed at boosting collective public transport, promoting access by bicycle or on foot with the construction of paths and lanes and new cycle lanes, rationalising the use of private vehicles and supporting electric vehicles with recharging points.

Healthy and Sustainable Week took place from 12 to 15 April, in a dual version with virtual sessions (conferences and workshops on climate change, the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs, healthy eating, energy waste and the circular economy, and physical activity sessions on body balance, zumba, HIIT and stretching) and face-to-face sessions (a practical workshop on motivation and emotional and psychological wellbeing, an exhibition class on tai chi and the cleaning of waste from the Font del Carme, as part of the Let's Clean Up Europe project).

On the other hand, with the aim of promoting energy saving, we continued to promote community awareness measures proposed by the energy improvement groups, such as the campaign "A mi m'agrada més sostenible" ("I like it more sustainable") and participation in the DIFON project.

Highlights



UAB, leader in climate action

The third year of the THE University Impact Ranking, which measures the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals, placed the UAB among the 200 best universities in the world and highlighted its involvement in climate action, for which it obtained 13th position worldwide.



Campaign for the selective collection of food waste

Within the framework of the European project Decisive, in which the UAB and the Catalan Waste Agency participate, an awareness-raising and information campaign has been launched to promote the correct selective collection of waste generated in bars and restaurants and at cafeterias and restaurants on the UAB campus, especially the organic component.



Eleventh year - GreenMetric

The eleventh year of the GreenMetric World University Ranking, produced by the University of Indonesia (UI), placed the UAB 16th in the world for the second year running. The ranking compares the efforts of 912 universities around the world.

University **community**

UAB 2020 UAB Major Festival

On 5 November, an unprecedented UAB festival took place as a result of the application of public health measures for the Covid-19 pandemic. Under the slogan “Let’s take care of each other at UAB”, musical and artistic performances were broadcast online through UAB Campus Media.



Student participation

UAB has a very active community and a network of societies that participate in different social and cultural activities on campus. The UAB supports them by making a whole range of resources and equipment available to the different university groups.

With regard to the representative bodies, as every academic year the students chose delegates to represent their academic groups and act as interlocutors with the faculty and the UAB. There are currently a total of 652 people on the Delegates’ Committee. All the delegates received training in the sessions that took place this year. At the beginning of the academic year the UAB Student Council (CEUAB) was also renewed and on 24 and 25 March elections were held for the renewal of the Executive Committee of this body, with 94% of the Council’s members taking part. Finally, in July a new edition of the Student Representation Workshop was held, which aims to raise awareness of the channels of participation and representation at the UAB and the role of the student representative.

The number of societies continues to grow and there are already 78 groups registered in the UAB Directorate of Groups and more than 2,550 people involved. Participation at the UAB received financial support through the call for grants for student groups in 2020, through which 61 grants were awarded, to a total of 12,500 euros.

Observatory for equality

During the 2020-2021 academic year the Observatory for Equality put into action a virtual purple point, accompanied by an awareness raising campaign for prevention and information about cyberbullying (“Feminism on social networks!”) and the first music festival against gender violence Fúria Fest, at the Festa major of the UAB. The music festival included a competition for groups made up mainly of women with a feminist set list and performances by award-winning groups plus a performance by a well-known group. In this first year of the festival there was a performance by the group Ginestà and the prize-winning Aura, Psicodrama and Les Nanettes, with a following of 7,703 views on the UABMèdia platform.

There was also a series of activities for awareness-raising and prevention on the topic of gender and LGBTI-phobia violence, mainly broadcast on the UAB YouTube channel, such as the International Day against Gender Violence and the International Day against LGBTI Phobia with the “LGBTI reality and policies at university” event.

This year we also celebrated the institutional seminars in commemoration of International Working Women’s Day and the International Day of Persons with Disabilities as well as International Women and Girls in Science Day.

Este año también se han celebrado las jornadas institucionales en conmemoración del Día Internacional de las Mujeres Trabajadoras y del Día Internacional de las Personas con Discapacidad, además del Día Internacional de la Mujer y la Niña en la Ciencia.



Recognition for the first group of graduates in Sociocultural Gender Studies

On 11 March the UAB celebrated the 16th institutional seminar in commemoration of International Working Women’s Day. This year for the first time it was not just one person who was recognised by a whole group: the first set of graduates of the Sociocultural Gender Studies degree, who received the prize for their activism and involvement in the feminist movement.



Awards for the best Final Degree Projects with a gender perspective

On 24 March 2021 there was a virtual direct transmission of the prize-giving ceremony for the Awards for the best Final Degree Projects with a gender perspective at the UAB. This year the Observatory, in collaboration with the Catalan Institute of Women, gave awards to 32 projects from different degree courses from a total of 134 presented.

Human resources

The UAB continued this year with policies that prioritise the stabilisation and promotion of academic staff and administration and services staff, in collaboration with social agents.

In terms of teaching and research staff, within the framework of stabilisation and promotion, the Governing Council approved the revision of the regulations on academic staff in the aspects that affect the calls for application for the positions of assistant lecturer and emeritus lecturer. Also, within the measures for attracting and retaining talent there was also a review of the model and criteria for prioritising permanent teaching positions (associate lecturer and se on their relevant merits. It should be mentioned that in the area of policies for family-life- work balance the Governing Council approved a new application for teaching leave to cover maternity and adoption in women's careers.

The offer of teaching places in 2020 saw 82 permanent teaching positions (25 government contracted and 67 non-government contracted), to which 19 associate lecturer places were added from the 2019 call of the Serra Hünter Programme.

In the area of administration and services staff different actions were carried out to improve matching the positions with the responsibilities they involve and to reduce the level of temporal and substitute contracts. Among these actions was the publication of the Work Positions

Report containing all professional profiles and competences of the administration and services employees and the definition of the de Support Model for Departmental Management.

There was a framework agreement signed for Working from Home for all Catalan universities, a project which was accelerated by the pandemic and which is now in the process of being implemented at the UAB. In parallel the UAB has started to work on a plan for digital change by 2024, applicable to all areas of the university. The Area for Digital Change and Organisation identified more than 30 projects to be carried out in different categories.

These actions were accompanied by a broad range of training proposals for administration and services staff at the UAB in which the focus was on working online, working from home and security.

On the 1 September 2020 the Contingency Plan and Organisational Protocol of the UAB came into force with the aims of organising the tasks and physical presence of the three main groups that make up the university community with respect to the health situation. With some stops and starts the level of on-site presence of administration and services staff gradually increased.

Highlights



Seventh year of the Unirun

On 16 May the seventh Unirun took place. This is a race involving the Catalan universities and organised by Catalan University Sport. Two former students of the UAB, Carles Castillejo and Marta Castroviejo, won the men's and women's individual categories. This year the route went along the coast between Barcelona and Sant Adrià de Besós and was reduced to five kilometres. To avoid crowding there were six scaled exits. The race attracted 3,000 runners from the 12 Catalan universities.



A book to remember those who are no longer with us

The UAB has created *The Memory Book*, a space on the university website to remember all those people who have formed part of the community and who have sadly left us. It also aims to pay homage to the women and men of the UAB.



Catalonia University Championships 2021

A total of 546 students of the UAB took part in the Catalonia University Championships 2021 in April. The UAB sport teams managed to climb the podium four times with first position in the men's handball, second position in women's basketball and women's handball and third position in women's volleyball. In individual disciplines there were medals for taekwondo, athletics, swimming and tennis. The Board of Trustees offered support to participants of the UAB as part of the project to promote and streamline sports teams representing the UAB.

Ombuds office

The UAB Ombuds Office is the body responsible for ensuring that rights and freedoms of the members of the university community are respected in the different university bodies and services. The office acts with full autonomy and independently of any other university body.

In 2020 it dealt with 105 cases. The complainants were Bachelor's degree students (38), postgraduate students (14), doctoral students (7), teaching staff (10), administration and services staff (7), students of centres attached to the UAB (9) and people external to the UAB (22). By area the cases were related to: academic (34), administrative management (39) and institutional (6). The topics that received most complaints were related to payment of registration fees (13) and teaching evaluations (11).

Friends of the UAB

In 2020-2021 the Friends of the UAB organised 60 activities included in the conference and debates cycles La Universitat Opina (The University has a Voice) and Sopars Claris (Claris Suppers), plus cultural excursions. This year there was a special cycle on Covid-19.

On 19 November the 18th annual festival of the Friends of the UAB took place with restricted attendance at the UAB Casa Convalescència. During the event the association prizes were awarded. Specifically, the Centre for Research into Animal Health (IRTA-CRESA) and the Institute of Education (ICE) received the UAB Group prize. The Friends of Friends awards went to journalist Soledad Gallego-Díaz, former director of the El País newspaper, endocrinologist Carme Valls and businessman Ramon Gràcia, pioneer microcomputation and the first chair of Friends of the UAB. The Friends of the Libraries award went to UAB retired professor Pilar Benejam. One new aspect this year was the award of the UAB Alumni prize, which was received by Oriol Caudevilla, graduate in Law from the UAB with an official Master's degree in European Union – China: Culture and Economy, from the UAB, and PhD in Human Security and Global Law from the UAB.



Alumni UAB

The UAB Alumni Foundation works to strengthen the network of professionals who graduated from the UAB. With this aim in mind, it incentivises professional and personal relations among the UAB community through sectorial alumni networks, Exchange spaces and networking among professionals. This year it moved to online activity with a stable programme of topics related to human resources and labour relations, the world of the company, the economy and biosciences, with 18 activities and over 1,300 attendees during 2020. It completed this offer with a number of web seminars for professional improvement aiming to give tools and facilitate access to the labour market and promote professional and personal development of the members of the UAB Alumni network.

The UAB also continued to offer this community of graduates a service charter focussed on CPD with discounts on UAB postgraduate courses and Master's degrees, and official Master's degrees taught by the UAB Foundation. It also offered personal assessment for employment improvement, international mobility and entrepreneurship.

Our graduates are the greatest asset of the UAB and one of the aims of Friends of the UAB is to highlight their value and make their profiles visible through interviews and recognition of their careers. In 2020 those with the most outstanding career paths were awarded prizes by the Board of Trustees of the UAB, the Association of Friends of the UAB and the CIEU-FEiE awards.



Prizes for literature 2021

On 25 May the UAB and Cerdanyola del Vallès Town Council announced the winners of the 2021 prizes for literature. Blanca Corominas won the 12th Caterina Albert Short Story for Young People award; Josep Civit won the 26th Miquel Martí i Pol Poetry Prize, and Gemma Romeu was awarded the 27th Valldaura – Pere Calders Memorial Novel award.

Cultural activity

During the 2020-2021 academic year there were 60 cultural activities on the UAB campus. It should be pointed out that there were four exhibitions, ten screenings in the UAB cinema and 17 musical and drama performances. Of the latter nine were the result of the activity of the UAB Dance, Music and Theatre workshops. Other highlights were the exhibition “B5-125. A conceptual space from the edge”, organised as part of the Master’s degree in Heritage Analysis and Management; the Christmas concert which took place in the theatre; the Spring concert in the UAB auditorium (with an audience of more than 100), and the music and dance premières by the Permanent Theatre Group and the Contemporary Dance Workshop. There were also two professional productions: a classical music concert by the Moana Quartet and the show *Manojo de ideas* with Joan Estrader.



Also, this year there were nine activities which gave academic credit among which were participation by the Choir, the Chamber Choir, the Orchestra and the Permanent Theatre Group and the rest were artistic dance and theatre courses and workshops. New this year was an Advanced creative writing

workshop and a workshop for text interpretation and oral communication. 137 people took part in the activities in total.



The UAB participated in organising twenty teaching support and institutional activities and 25 support activities for the university community. These were cultural activities, talks, prizegiving ceremonies and other events in the different faculties, centres, services, organisation and group in the university. A highlight was the theatre workshop for the over-50s and the technical support for musical programming offered by the FMUAB with a performance by Ginestà. We would also like to highlight the awards for literature organised by the UAB and Cerdanyola Town Council which included performances by Poetic Trio and Lia Sampai with Adrià Pagès. Finally, the online screening of the film *Picture a Scientist*, by Sharon Shattuck and Ian Cheney should be mentioned, organised jointly with the Institute of Neuroscience of the UAB which attracted an audience of 300.

Highlights



Giovanni Pontiero Prize

Alma Delia Miranda Aguilar won the Giovanni Pontiero prize for her translation from Portuguese to Spanish of *Tragic History of the Sea*, by Bernardo Gomes de Brito. This is the twentieth year of the award which is made jointly by the Portuguese Centre of Barcelona (Institut Camões) and the Faculty of Translation and Interpreting of the UAB.



UAB students climb onto the podium in the 2020 Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games

Two students from the UAB, Clara Espar, from the University School of Tourism and Hotel Management and Laura Ester, from the Faculty of Biosciences, both members of the Spanish water polo team, obtained the silver medal in the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games. Also, in the Paralympics swimmer and Medical Student at the UAB Oscar Salguero won the silver medal in the 100m breaststroke and Physiotherapy student Núria Marqués obtained the silver in the 400m freestyles and the bronze in the 200m medley.

Resource management and organisation

329.8

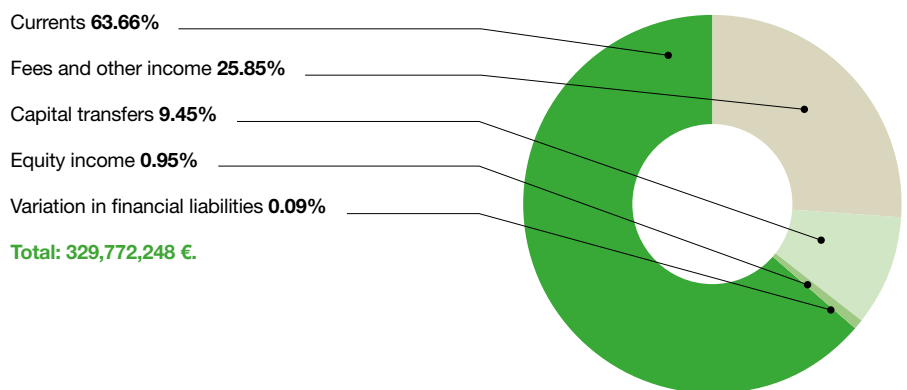
million-euro Budget
(settled income budget 2020)

Budget implementation

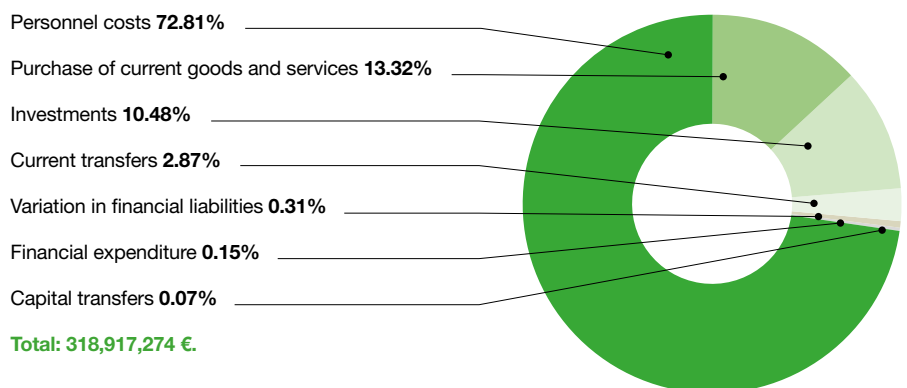
During the 2020 financial year the implementation of the budget was severely conditioned by the health crisis caused by the Covid-19 pandemic. Approval of the 2020 budget by the Government of Catalonia and the extension of the 2019 budget of the UAB also had repercussions on its implementation. For the first time the conditions did not allow the budget to be approved and its implementation was carried out in accordance with the basic criteria for the extension of the 2019 budget until the 2020 budget received approval (Meeting of the Board of Trustees on 25 March 2020).

In 2020 the Catalan public universities continued to lack a reference model of financing. However, the public prices of Bachelor's and Master's degrees for the 2020-2021 academic year dropped by around 30% compared with 2019-2020, after having been frozen for five years. The UAB Board of Trustees did not establish any general discount on the price of credits for Master's degrees as it had in previous years.

Income statement for 2020. Rights recognised



Expenditure statement 2020. Obligations assumed



Note: the difference between rights granted (€329,772,248), part of which corresponds to assigned and/or long-term revenue, plus the liabilities incurred (€318,917,274) do not determine the budget deficit or surplus of the financial year since part of that income can originate from previous years and can be spent in future years.

New transparency portal for the UAB

This year the UAB renewed the design and organisation of the content of its transparency portal. The new web space facilitates access to institutional information about the university and highlights the most important results of academic activity, people management and economic resources. The portal also includes information about participation and good governance.



In 2020 the university- achieved a balanced budget and specifically presented a surplus of 455,768 euros, which allowed it to reduce its deficit accumulated at 31 December 2020. In general, the large drop in income as a result of Covid-19 and the reduction of fees was compensated by additional funding from the Government of Catalonia destined to palliate these two effects, and also to a lesser extent by the increase in fees for Bachelor's degrees. The university also began to implement the backlog of retirement awards for administration and services staff (article 53 of the 6th collective agreement of Catalan public universities), which the university had stopped paying in 2012.

There was tension in terms of liquid assets between the second and third quarter of 2020 as a result of the initial meltdown caused by Covid-19 and the effects of the reduced fees, which was finally overcome thanks to a temporary increase in credit facilities signed in the first months of the pandemic.

Organisation

This year has seen the implementation of the **Plan for digital change 2020-2024** which aims to improve management in all areas of the university with the help of digitisation and new technology. This plan forms part of the university's strategic objectives and is an instrument for detecting, prioritising, implementing and following up projects for improvement to be able to offer the best possible service.

The actions included in the plan are aligned with the management structures of the university and are set out in three types of project:

- Cross-cutting projects to generate digital tools to improve management in the four lines that it affects: people, Technology, processes and data.
- Management implementation projects for processes in the different areas of management as an instrument for detecting the need for improvement.
- Previously identified projects for improvement.

Despite the problems and restrictions arising as a result of the health crisis, in the 2020-2021 academic year more than thirty projects in different categories were identified and the first working groups have been set up to carry them out.

Service charter regulations

As part of its quality policy this year the UAB has approved the UAB Service Charter Regulations with the aim of regulating the structure and content of the charters and the procedures for their drafting, approval, suspension, diffusion, modification and monitoring.

Services charters are documents that aim to inform users about public services managed by the UAB, the conditions in which they are provided, the rights of users in relation to those services and the commitment to quality with which they are offered. Service charters are fundamental to ensuring an adequate quality in the provision of services offered by the university.



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 del Mar (Barcelona)
- 7 Hospital Universitari Germans Trias i Pujol
(Badalona)
- 8 Corporació Sanitària Parc Taulí (Sabadell)

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