

Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona

Annual report for the 2022-2023 academic year



Annual Report for the 2022-2023 Academic Year

Edited by

Secretaria General
Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona

Coordination

Gabinet del Rectorat
Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona

Design

Mètode Design

Photographs

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

Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona

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

Information in this report for the
2022-2023 academic year is accurate at 2023.

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 *Annual Report for the 2022-2023 Academic Year of the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona* highlights the magnitude and value of the university's activity in the fields of teaching, research and knowledge transfer, and underlines the central role of the UAB in carrying out innovative and transformative projects in cooperation with society and the territory.

This academic year, the UAB has made decisive progress towards a global strategy that seeks a more relevant social impact and emphasises the great challenges of society and the environment.

In the teaching field, the incorporation into regulated training of challenge-based methodology through a pilot plan in the Faculty of Biosciences and the Faculty of Arts and Humanities, has meant the introduction of an approach that awakens in students the motivation to detect and face a specific problem in the region. The UAB has used this learning methodology in a cross-cutting and international way within the framework of the ECIU University.

In the field of research, the success of the UAB's participation in the Horizon Europe programme is also partly due to the promotion of cross-cutting proposals that favour interdisciplinary approaches to highly complex challenges. It should be noted that this approach has guided the UAB's participation in platforms and projects such as the B30 Hub and B30 Circular, which seek territorial cohesion and the dissemination of the culture of innovation.

With a vocation for public service, the UAB made available a complete and innovative range of Bachelor's degrees, postgraduate studies and lifelong learning attentive to social needs, which has received a very positive reception.

The research and transfer activity of the UAB this year consolidated a volume of resources exceeding one hundred million euros – a figure that demonstrates the upward trend in the benefits achieved from participation in the European framework programme and which shows the growing impact and internationalisation of the university's research groups. In that sense, it should be noted that this year for the first time the UAB received two Synergy Grants from the European Research Council (ERC). These extremely competitive grants fund multidisciplinary projects tackling highly complex challenges.

The university's commitment to society was also the driving force behind its socio-educational programmes and volunteering and cooperation programmes, which benefitted from the essential involvement of the university community.

In addition to this, cultural activities, solidarity and social and environmental awareness activities have been central to the recreational and institutional activity on campus. The broad participation of all university groups in the two days of La Comunitària UAB demonstrated the success of a new kind of festival that seeks the complicity of the whole community and gives visibility and prominence to the network of associations.

This academic year we have also worked to make advances in equality, diversity and inclusion as fundamental values of the university. Following a participatory process, this year the UAB Code of Conduct was approved, a set of guidelines drawn up to promote peaceful coexistence and full respect for democratic values, fundamental rights and public liberties at the university.

Continued insistence on the use of the Catalan language in the university environment has formed the backbone of this year's awareness campaign. Under the banner 'Don't touch my language', the UAB wanted to express its commitment to the presence of Catalan in teaching and research.

The annual report summarises the university's activity and includes important facts, dates and events, but we mustn't forget that the strength that drives the university to achieve these goals is the hard work and perseverance of everyone in the university community: students, teaching staff and technical, management, administrative and services staff.

Javier Lafuente
Rector

Key figures for the 2022-2023 academic year

Courses

Bachelor's degrees	109
Master's degrees	143
PhD programmes	68
Lifelong learning programmes (2021-2022)	449
UAB faculties and schools	15
Attached university schools	10

Teaching

First-year Bachelor's degree students	7,180
Total Bachelor's degree students	27,301
Bachelor's degree graduates (2021-2022)	4,982
Master's degree students	3,127
Master's degree graduates (2021-2022)	2,109
First-year Bachelor's degree students in affiliated centres	1,474
Total Bachelor's degree students in affiliated centres	5,236
Bachelor's degree graduates in affiliated centres (2021-2022)	1,001
Master's degree students in affiliated centres	654
Master's degree graduates in affiliated centres (2021-2022)	514
Lifelong learning students (2021-2022)	6,331

Research (2022)

Research groups recognised by the Government of Catalonia	177
Departments	57
Study and research centres	25
UAB research institutes	9
Associated research centres	39
PhD students	4,587
Doctoral theses defended (2021-2022)	745
Articles published in indexed journals (Scopus, Elsevier)	4,901
Priority patent applications	16
Resources destined for research (in €M)	106.2

Internationalisation

Foreign Bachelor's degree students	1,423
Foreign official Master's degree students	1,086
Foreign UAB Master's degree students (2021-2022)	1,016
Foreign PhD students	1,762
Outgoing UAB students on exchange programmes	1,414
Incoming students on UAB exchange programmes	1,725
Foreign students on the Study Abroad programme	2,378
Foreign teaching and research staff	404

Human resources (2022)

Teaching and research staff	4,200
Trainee research staff	576
Administration and services staff	2,271

Budget (2022)

Expenditure budget (in €M)	351.7
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Notes:

- The figures for the 2021-2022 academic year are from 7 June 2023.
- The number of full-time equivalents Bachelor's degree students is 25,709.
- The number of students does not include students from interuniversity programmes who are not directly registered at the UAB.
- Teaching and research staff include postdoctoral researchers (Ramon y Cajal, Beatriu de Pinós, etc.), and total 449.
- The number of full-time equivalent teaching and research staff is 2,957.

Governance and institutional activity



Official opening of the 2022-2023 Academic Year

On 27 September, the auditorium of the Rector's Office was the venue for the opening ceremony of the 2022-2023 academic year. The journalist and writer Màrius Serra gave the lecture *Català a l'atac en l'era del lingüicínisme* (Catalan on the attack in the age of lingocynicism), with which the UAB launched this year's institutional campaign *No em toquis la llengua* (Don't touch my language), to promote knowledge and use of the Catalan language in the academic field. The event was attended by Javier Lafuente, Rector of the UAB, Victòria Girona, Director General of Universities, Gabriel Masfurrull, President of the Board of Trustees of the UAB, and Esther Zapater, Secretary General of the UAB, who all gave speeches.

Governing agreements

During this academic year, the university's governing and representative bodies continued to reach new agreements.

On 22 and 23 March, the university community participated in the election of students to the Senate using an e-voting system.

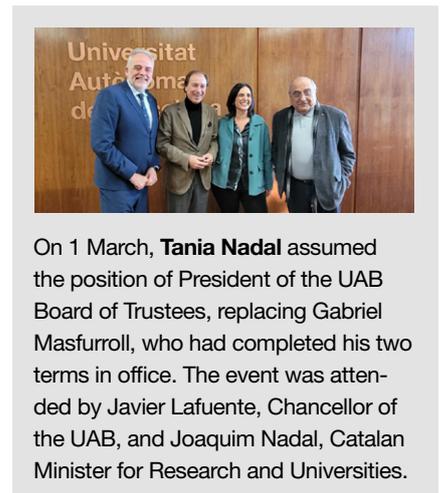
The Senate met three times: on 21 December 2022, and 3 May and 13 July 2023. In the first of these meetings, the rector's annual report on general lines of university policy was approved and the annual report of the Ombudsman, the annual report of the Observatory for Equality and the annual report of activities in the field of university ethics were presented. In the May 2023 meeting, the new student representatives were incorporated and the student member of the Senate Committee and student representatives to the Governing Council were elected; members of the UAB Conduct Committee were also chosen; information regarding the implementation of the new Organic Law on the University System (LOSU) was presented, and the application of the Protocol to prevent and act against sexual harassment, harassment based on sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression, and sexist violence was discussed. Finally, to make headway on the introduction of the changes set out in the LOSU, in July the Senate met in an extraordinary session to approve the operating rules of the Drafting Committee for the UAB Statutes, the process of drafting and presenting them to the Senate, and selection of the members of the Drafting Committee for the UAB Statutes.

The Governing Council met nine times, once in an extraordinary session: on 29 September, 27 October and 14 December 2022, and on 1 February, 16 March, 26 April, 19 May (extraordinary session), 7 June and 12 July 2023. Points of information, debate and approval were discussed and 106 agreements were adopted. Some of the main ones are highlighted below:

- Approval and referral to the Board of Trustees of the basic criteria for the preparation of the UAB Budget for 2023; the draft UAB Budget for 2023, and the report on the financial statement, balance sheets, income statement and settlement of the UAB Budget for the year ended 31 December 2022.
- Approval of the general regulations and plans of the UAB in the following matters: the UAB Code of Ethics, the UAB Code of Conduct, the Institutional Declaration on the fight against fraud, the Regulation of the Operation of the Internal Information System and Operating Procedure of the Ethics Channel, the UAB Regulations on Research Ethics, the Regulation of use and access to the UAB digital library, the Regulation of the UAB Open Innovation Laboratories, the Regulation of the electric vehicle charging service, the Procedure for managing conflicts of interest in matters of administrative procurement, the Open Access Institutional Policy for UAB research data, the Regulation of the new figure of Substitute Teaching Staff, and the Strategic Plan for entrepreneurship at the UAB

Board of Trustees

This academic year, Tania Nadal, until now Deputy Chair of the Board of Trustees and Chair of the Economic and Society-University Committees, was appointed President of the UAB Board of Trustees.



On 1 March, **Tania Nadal** assumed the position of President of the UAB Board of Trustees, replacing Gabriel Masfurrull, who had completed his two terms in office. The event was attended by Javier Lafuente, Chancellor of the UAB, and Joaquim Nadal, Catalan Minister for Research and Universities.

Within the framework of the University, Society and Business Committee, this year the Board of Trustees promoted 14 projects. With the aim of improving innovation and knowledge transfer at the university, the Board of Trustees continued to contribute to the B30 Hub project, aimed at transferring knowledge to the business sector and creating collaborative networks. New projects were also initiated to strengthen relations with the region, promote innovation and knowledge transfer and create a Smart Campus. The Board of Trustees also continued its work to promote the field of sport at the UAB, both to define a strategic plan for the promotion of sport at the university and through the use of resources aimed at promoting the 'UAB Games' project and providing equipment for UAB students taking part in competitions.

In addition to all the actions carried out within the framework of the University-Society Programme (see the “Social and Environmental Commitment” section of this report), the Board of Trustees reached 239 agreements within the framework of the powers attributed to it by law in the areas of university community, programming and management, and finance.

Recognition of UAB teaching staff

This year two members of the teaching staff in the Department of Paediatrics, Obstetrics and Gynaecology and Preventive Medicine and Public Health of the UAB were awarded honorary doctorates: **Xavier Bonfill**, Director of the Clinical Epidemiology and Public Health Service of the Hospital de la Santa Creu i Sant Pau, was awarded an honorary doctorate on 8 June by the Joint Venture University of Quito (Ecuador), and **Gerard Urrútia**, Assistant Director of at the Clinical Epidemiology and Public Health Service of the Hospital de la Santa Creu i Sant Pau and Director of the Cochrane Ibero-American Centre and the Ibero-American Cochrane Network was awarded an honorary doctorate by the University of Valparaiso (Chile).

In an institutional ceremony held on 25 January, the Government of Catalonia awarded the Narcís Monturiol Medal for Scientific and Technological Merit to **Salvador Ventura**, from the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, **Raquel Piqué**, from the Department of Prehistory, and the

The UAB presents its new logo

This year the UAB presented its new logo, which aims to modernise its corporate image, make the identity and values of the university more visible and, at the same time, improve the legibility of the UAB acronym to make it clearer and bring it closer to people around the world.

Narcís Monturiol plaque to the **Vall d'Hebron Research Institute** (VHIR).

The Government of Catalonia awarded the Creu de Sant Jordi to the doctor and psychologist **Edelmira Domènech**, retired professor from the Department of Clinical and Health Psychology of the UAB, and has agreed to award the Medal of Honor for exceptional services to justice to **M. del Carmen Gete-Alonso**, Professor of Civil Law at the UAB.

Dolors Udina, retired lecturer from the Department of Translation and Interpreting and East Asian Studies at the UAB, was distinguished with the National Prize for Culture of the Government of Catalonia.

Barcelona City Council agreed to award the Gold Medal for Scientific Merit to **Teresa San Román**, retired professor from the Department of Social and Cultural Anthropology of the UAB.

Joan-Carles Mèlich, lecturer at the Department of Theories of Education and Social Pedagogy of the UAB, received the National Essay Prize, awarded by the Ministry of Culture and Sport.

Carlota Solé i Puig, Professor of Sociology at the Faculty of Political Sciences and Sociology of the UAB, was awarded the 2023 National Prize for Sociology and Political Science, by the Centre for Sociological Research.

And finally on 14 July 2023, **Salvador Alegret**, lecturer from the Department of Chemistry of the UAB, received the Vives Network Medal of Honour.

Highlight



Anthony Bottoms, honorary doctorate from the UAB

On 22 November, criminologist Anthony Bottoms was awarded an honorary doctorate by the UAB, proposed by the Faculty of Law. Josep Cid, professor of Criminal Law and coordinator of the Bachelor's degree in Criminology at the UAB, was the sponsor.



The UAB confers an honorary doctorate on Monica Heller

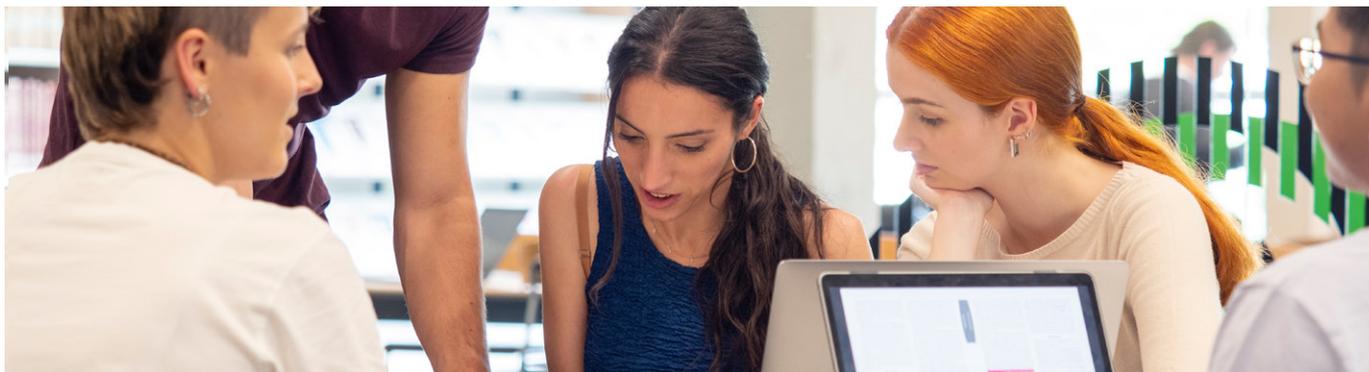
On 28 February the sociolinguist and linguistic anthropologist Monica Heller was awarded an honorary doctorate by the UAB, nominated by the Faculty of Arts. Melissa G. Moyer, Professor of Sociolinguistics in the Department of English and German Philology, was the sponsor.



Juan Manuel Lema, doctor honoris causa by the UAB

On 18 May, chemical engineer Juan Manuel Lema Rodicio was awarded an honorary doctorate by the UAB, nominated by the School of Engineering. Juan Antonio Baeza, Professor at the Department of Chemical, Biological and Environmental Engineering of the UAB, was the sponsor.

Teaching



The UAB has a broad, diverse and innovative range of undergraduate and postgraduate studies, related to social and regional needs, which this year demonstrated its ability to attract new students as seen in its outstanding registration figures.

The increase in courses taught in English, especially postgraduate studies, has favoured the internationalisation of students, which is a prominent feature of Master's degree studies. At the same time, the UAB continued to work to increase the use of the Catalan language in teaching and to guarantee the linguistic rights of the university community. To that end, a study was carried out based on the data obtained from the teaching guides, and accreditation of sufficient knowledge of Catalan by the teaching and research staff was promoted as well as initiatives to increase knowledge of third languages in the university community.

With the aim of publicising and incorporating into formal teaching the challenge-based learning methodology that the UAB has already been employing within the framework of the ECIU University, this year a pilot programme was carried out in the Faculties of Arts and Humanities and the Faculty of Biosciences and next year it is planned to extend it to three more teaching centres.

The incorporation of service learning projects (SL) into degree programmes, especially as final degree projects, is also a step in the same direction,

because it offers students the opportunity for training combined with social involvement.

The introduction of **challenge-based learning**, together with service learning, should facilitate the implementation of a comprehensive system through which society (citizens, third sector, institutions or small companies) can communicate their needs to the UAB, and the university, through multidisciplinary groups of students, researchers and teachers, can then work to respond to these challenges. This innovative process will add to the skills base of graduates in cross-cutting areas of work and real-world complex problem-solving.

In the field of Health Sciences studies, it was agreed to affiliate the **Hospital de Terrassa** and the **Hospital de Mataró** to the UAB, which will allow work placement possibilities for students of the Faculty of Medicine to be extended. The faculty will now be affiliated to six hospitals, instead of four, and students will also be able to benefit from work experience in more than one centre during their training.

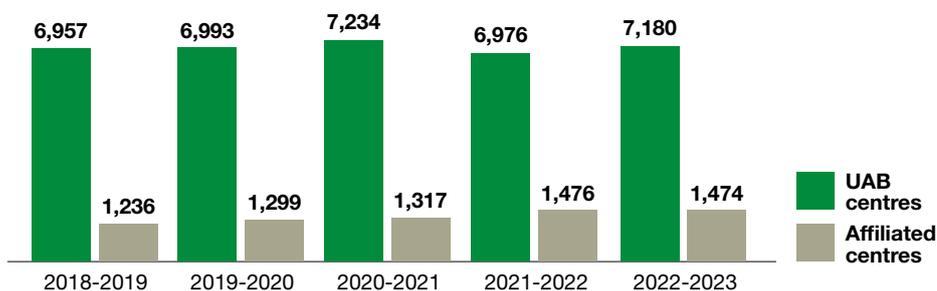
The faculties of Medicine of the UAB and Health Sciences of the UB have also signed an agreement so that sixth-year students of both faculties can do Supervised Clinical Work Placements in centres affiliated to either university. This will allow students to do exchanges and receive practical teaching in different teams and centres.

A collaboration agreement was signed to formalise the subsidy from the Sabadell City Council to the UAB which will allow the renovation and adaptation works of the **Artexil** building agreed last year to take place. These are necessary to house the Teaching Unit of the Faculty of Medicine in Sabadell, where the Nursing Studies will be taught. Free surface rights were agreed for 50 years.

The number of students involved in activities to improve their employability has tripled and the Entrepreneurship Programme launched a new space in the Plaça Cívica of the UAB, which hosted most of the activities designed to promote the entrepreneurial spirit of students. It should be noted that the year ended with the approval of the **UAB Strategic Plan for Entrepreneurship**, which aims to make the UAB a fully entrepreneurial university, and which within the first stage of the entrepreneurial route at the UAB, has facilitated the coordination of the courses to promote an entrepreneurial way of thinking at all levels of the university.

Finally, this was the first year in which the official and continuing education studies of the schools of the UAB Foundation (School of Archival and Document Management, School of Prevention and Integral Security, School of Tourism and Hotel Management and the *Escola Doctor Robert*) were all offered by the UAB affiliated centre, the **FUAB Training School**, after the integration process was completed last year.

Headcount for new students on Bachelor's degrees



Bachelor's degree students registered in UAB centres, 2022-2023

Centre	Students registered		
	Women	Men	Total
School of Engineering	547	2,044	2,591
Faculty of Economics and Business	1,331	1,619	2,950
Faculty of Biosciences	1,251	582	1,833
Faculty of Science	971	1,452	2,423
Faculty of Education	1,907	320	2,227
Faculty of Communication	1,110	640	1,750
Faculty of Political Science and Sociology	694	471	1,165
Faculty of Law	1,383	599	1,982
Faculty of Arts and Humanities	2,353	1,413	3,766
Faculty of Medicine	1,970	702	2,672
Faculty of Psychology	1,462	308	1,770
Faculty of Translation and Interpreting	1,015	269	1,284
Faculty of Veterinary Medicine	701	187	888
Total	16,695	10,606	27,301

Bachelor's degree students registered in UAB affiliated centres, 2022-2023

Centre	Students registered		
	Women	Men	Total
Eina, University Centre for Design and Art in Barcelona	315	113	428
Escola FUAB Formació	532	435	967
Escola Massana. Municipal Art and Design Centre	249	67	316
US Gimbernat	948	662	1,610
US for Nursing Sant Pau	293	49	342
US for Nursing and Occupational Therapy of Terrassa	740	127	867
US Salesiana de Sarrià	85	621	706
Total	3,162	2,074	5,236

US= University School

Highlight



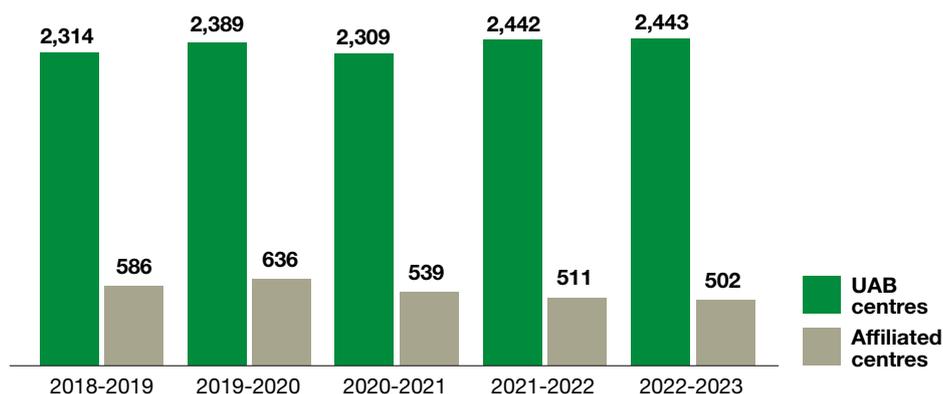
A film to commemorate 50 years of translation and interpreting studies at the UAB

On 25 April, a feature film commemorating the 50th anniversary of the University School of Translators and Interpreters (EUTI), predecessor of the current Faculty of Translation and Interpreting, was screened at the cinema in the Plaça Cívica. Under the title *1972-2022. History of the FTI in twelve voices*, the film describes the origins and development of the centre through the experiences of those who have led it as directors of EUTI or as deans of the faculty. The event was presented by the current Dean, Olga Torres, and by Albert Branchadell, director of the film and former Dean of the Faculty, and Rector Javier Lafuente was also present. All three highlighted the pioneering nature of the centre in Spain.

Teaching staff and students of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, recognised at the VETS Awards

On 15 February, lecturers at the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Maria Àngels Calvo and Laila Darwich Soliva, students of Veterinary Medicine Jèssica Martín Cañabete, Héctor Cuerda López and Laura Campos Vives, and the veterinarian and lecturer at the Hospital Clínic Veterinari Albert Lloret were recognised at the VETS Awards, organised by the Official College of Veterinarians of Barcelona (COVB). The event took place in the AXA Auditorium, in Barcelona, and was attended by Rector Javier Lafuente and the Dean of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Manel López Béjar.

Headcount for new students on Master's degrees



ECIU University: teaching

During the 2022-2023 academic year, the UAB offered two challenges and six micromodules within the framework of the ECIUn+ project (2022-2026), the new Erasmus+ teaching project of ECIU University.

The challenge 'Big Data and Climate Change in Barcelona' included the reception of 12 students from universities of the ECIU. The second challenge was 'Facing Energy Transition through the Development of a New Energy System', proposed by the regional council of Vallès Occidental. Both challenges were worked on in interdisciplinary groups of students and participants from the different universities of the ECIU using challenge-based learning methodology.

The UAB participated in the micro-module organised by the University of Twente (Netherlands) on "Intercultural Competences, Guiding Practical Insights through Citizen Science", which included a mobility stay at the UAB.

This innovative, short-term training initiative also involved training for staff from the member universities (both teaching and research staff and administrative and services staff). To that end, the ECIU University has created different activities and programmes, such as the Leadership Development Programme, which this year was concluded at the UAB. The ECIU University team at the UAB also participated in numerous training activities for teaching and research staff to raise awareness of challenge-based learning methodology.

Undergraduate studies

This academic year, the UAB offered 110 Bachelor's degrees in all fields of knowledge, including 14 double degrees and 5 interuniversity degrees.

In terms of new courses, this year it is worth highlighting the extraordinary reception of the double degree in **Law and International Relations**, unique within the Catalan public university system, which had the highest cut-off mark in the field of social sciences, at 12.83. The Bachelor's degree in **Artificial Intelligence**, taught entirely in English, has been added to the university's official Bachelor's degrees, having been offered as a UAB-specific degree the previous year. With regard to **the combined philology degrees**, all study plans were revised to give students a solid and integrated vision of the linguistic and literary phenomena of both philological areas and specialisations were added in different areas that include subjects with more clearly professional content. As planned, the Bachelor's degree in Nursing offered 150 more places than in the previous year (from 90 to 240 places), which were all filled, maintaining a similar cut-off mark: 11.39 (11.87 in 2021).

This academic year, the number of new students entering UAB-specific schools increased by 2.9%, to 7,180 students (6,976 in 2021-2022), of which 86% had chosen the UAB as their first option in the university pre-registration process. 1,474 new students registered at affiliated centres, a figure very similar to that of the previous year (1,476), when new student numbers grew by 12%.

The upward trend in total registrations that we have seen in recent years continued: 27,301 students registered in university schools, 0.4% more than the previous year (27,203), and in affiliated centres a total of 5,236 students registered, 2.0% more than in 2021-2022 (5,134).

However, the number of students graduating in the 2021-2022 academic year decreased slightly in UAB schools compared to previous years, which had seen an increase, from 5,081 (2020-2021) to 4,982 graduates – 1.9% less. On the other hand, the positive trend continued in affiliated centres, from 990 to 1,001 graduates – 1.1% more.

With respect to courses approved for the 2023-2024 academic year, it should be noted that the Degree in **Sociocultural Gender Studies** and the **Degree in Management of Smart and Sustainable Cities** moved from 180 ECTS credits (three years) to 240 ECTS credits (four years), in compliance with Royal Decree 822/2021. This change also occurred in the Bachelor's degree in **Bioinformatics**, taught jointly by the UAB, the UB, the UPC and the UPF.

The study plans for three Bachelor's degrees at the UAB – **Archaeology, Environmental Sciences** and **Nanoscience and Nanotechnology** – have been renewed to update their content in line with the evolution of the professional sector, social challenges and technological advances.

Postgraduate programmes and students

	Estudiants			
	Programmes	Women	Men	Total
Official postgraduate courses (2022-2023)				
Master's degree in UAB centres	117	1,924	1,203	3,127
Master's degrees in affiliated centres	26	412	242	654
PhDs	68	2,559	2,028	4,587
TOTAL	211	4,895	3,473	8,368
UAB postgraduate courses (2021-2022)				
UAB Master's degrees	135	1,582	708	2,290
Postgraduate diplomas	86	725	282	1,007
Specialisation courses	228	1,938	1,096	3,034
TOTAL	449	4,245	2,086	6,331

Postgraduate studies

During the 2022-2023 academic year, the UAB offered 143 official Master's degrees, 117 in its own centres and 26 in affiliated centres, for which nearly 3,800 students registered.

This is a very broad offer, covering all areas of knowledge and pathways (research, professionalising and specialisation). New Master's degrees were added this academic year in the fields of psychology (**Legal and Forensic Psychology**), health sciences (**Pharmacovigilance and Pharmacoepidemiology**) and science (**Erasmus Mundus in Interdisciplinary Mathematics, taught in English**).

Master's degree studies are increasingly contributing to the internationalisation of the UAB, given that 37.5% of the students they attract are foreign – the highest figure to date – and 25% of the courses are taught in English.

In terms of registrations, the figure for first time registrations, 2,945 students, was very similar to last year (2,953), when it increased by 4.6%. Total registrations grew by 2.5%, from 3,690 to 3,781, thanks to a 4.7% increase in registrations in UAB-specific centres. Students completing a Master's degree in 2021-2022 stood at 2,623, practically the same as in 2020-2021 (2,627).

UAB-specific postgraduate studies saw 449 programmes offered in the 2021-2022 academic year, which served to expand and update the knowledge of 6,331 students and professionals, a thousand more than the previous year which was still heavily affected by the

mobility effects of the Covid pandemic. Lifelong learning courses at the UAB have great international prestige, as evidenced by the fact that 44% of UAB-specific Master's degree students are from abroad (1,016 of the 2,290).

With regard to quality assurance processes, it should be noted that in addition to the monitoring processes applied to UAB-specific Master's degrees, similar to those for official Master's degrees, this year the Graduate School's Internal Quality Assurance System (IQAS) was implemented.

The UAB considers it strategic to promote its own training related to local needs in the area and works to understand those needs and offer the most up-to-date and innovative tailor-made training. As a result of the work carried out, this year the offer of lifelong learning courses to companies and government agencies increased. With this same objective, the UAB is also working with the Board of Trustees to analyse the training needs of society and rethink the offer of courses based on the results obtained.

A total of 60 Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) were offered this year by the UAB through the Coursera platform, six of which are new. The total number of registrations was 253,150.

Highlight



Students from ECIU University meet in Barcelona to work on a challenge led by the UAB

On 14 November, 12 students from the universities of Trento (Italy), Twente (Netherlands), Stavanger (Norway) and the UAB met in Barcelona to compile the information necessary to face the challenge "Big Data & Climate Change in Barcelona", proposed by the UAB within the framework of the ECIU University. The challenge was to find solutions to make Barcelona a more sustainable city through the use of big data.

Four UAB students recognised at the Social Economy Awards

In the 2022 Social Economy Awards, organized by the Roca Galès Foundation within the framework of the Social Economy Programme of the Government of Catalonia, Marc Dalmau and Jordi Valls received prizes for their Master's degree dissertations. Both were students of the interuniversity Master's degree in Social Policies and Community Action, coordinated by the UAB and offered by the FUAB Training School. Jordi Signes and Anna Lara also received awards for their final degree project and postgraduate final project respectively.

The UAB and the B30 Area organise a course on environmental sustainability

During the months of March and April, the UAB and the B30 Area Association offered the first introductory course on environmental sustainability for technicians from the organisations of the B30 area. The training was given by teaching and research staff from the School of Engineering and the Institute of Environmental Science and Technology (ICTA-UAB), and dealt with topics such as the circular economy, ecodesign and energy transition.



Third UAB Pitch competition

On 12 December, the final session of the third UAB *Emprèn* Pitch competition was held. The ten finalists had 90 seconds to present their idea or project to the rest of the competitors and a professional jury, which chose as winners Marina Sánchez and Júlia de Mas, students of the Bachelor's degree in Medicine, and Pau Sabrià, a student of the Bachelor's degree in Veterinary Medicine.

Employability and entrepreneurship

The UAB Employability Service has continued to support student entry into the labour market through career guidance activities and the handling of job offers and work placements agreements. Throughout the year, 89 group career guidance activities were carried out, with the participation of 2,926 students, and 69 individual career guidance activities. The number of participants in the activities tripled compared to the previous year. In addition, 1,501 work placement agreements and 2,586 job offers and extracurricular work placements were handled.

On 19 and 20 April 2023 the UAB premiered the **Engega't Fair**. Organised by the Faculty of Political Science and Sociology and the UAB Employability Service, it aims to help define and make visible the professional profiles of the students. Some twenty organisations and companies took part. Also, on 27 April, the 2023 **MEMEnginy** Technology Congress took place, with almost a thousand students and fifty technology companies participating.

Once again the Preparation Course for Selection Processes of the European Union and International Organisations was also offered, and a collaboration agreement was signed with the business support organisation *Barcelona Activa* that will allow a pilot test to be carried out on skills testing in faculties and schools. Once validated, the test can be applied on a large scale, so that each student will know their level of transferable competences.

The Entrepreneurship Unit of the Employability Service continued to encourage entrepreneurship among students through workshops, presentations and competitive activities. Throughout the academic year, five workshops were offered by specialists: on creativity techniques and the generation of ideas; on alternative sources of financing for companies; on the characteristics of the entrepreneurial mind; on Canvas methodology; and on how to do a good micro presentation or elevator pitch. There were also five UAB Sessions, in which students and alumni of the UAB shared their experience as entrepreneurs.

During the month of March the Workshop on Social and Collaborative Entrepreneurship organised by **UAB Emprèn** took place, with the collaboration of the Federation of Worker Cooperatives of Catalonia. The Virtual Course on the Generation of Ideas and Social Entrepreneurship, offered to all UAB students, was also repeated.

It should be noted that the year ended with the approval of the **UAB Strategic Plan for Entrepreneurship**, which aims to make the UAB a fully entrepreneurial university and which, within the first stage of the entrepreneurial route at the UAB, facilitated the coordination of courses to promote an entrepreneurial way of thinking at all levels of the university (see the "Research and the transfer of knowledge and technology" section of this report).



The UAB Challenges innovation workshop returns

The UAB Challenges 2023 disruptive innovation workshop took place on 28 February. Multidisciplinary teams made up of members of different university centres were able to exercise their creativity and devise solutions to the proposed social and environmental challenges. On this occasion, the UAB launched challenges based on four SDGs: end of poverty, quality education, clean water and sanitation, and responsible consumption and production. A jury made up of expert lecturers from the UAB chose four finalist ideas, one for each challenge, and the four corresponding teams had to give a presentation to briefly present their project. The prize for the winning idea went to the WAPER project on clean water and sanitation, by Núria Aguilera and Lluís Casabona.



1st Engega't Fair

On 19 and 20 April the Faculty of Political Science and Sociology hosted the first Engega't Fair, an initiative of the Faculty and the Employability Service to help students define their professional profile and put them in contact with entities in the labour market. With this objective in mind, presentations by the entities and dynamics to create networking opportunities were organised, with timed informal interviews between the students and the employers.

International educational projects

Within the framework of the Erasmus+ programme, 14 projects presented by UAB teaching and research staff were accepted in 2022, with total funding of 1,155,821 euros. Another of the year's highlights was participation in the Key Action 2 - Cooperation Partnerships call, with seven selected projects: two coordinated by the UAB and five in which the UAB is a partner. For example, the FLed project (Learning Design for Flexible Education), led by Professor Ingrid Noguera, from the Department of Educational Theories and Social Pedagogy, which aims to facilitate the design of flexible learning scenarios that are effective for lecturers, was approved.

Within the Erasmus Mundus framework, two projects coordinated by the UAB were selected. The implementation for four cohorts of the Erasmus Mundus MorphoPHEN Master's degree, dealing with animal models of human diseases, was approved. It is designed to alleviate the shortage of specialists in morphological mouse phenotyping, necessary to improve the translation of preclinical results in experimental animals to humans. Also, the one-year NICEST project will study the design of an international Master's degree in next-generation industrial control engineering for the sustainable treatment of the water system.

During the first semester of 2023, two Erasmus+ projects were awarded to the UAB. The TRANSMED project, granted within the Erasmus+ Capacity Building in Higher Education action, with an endowment of 717,688 euros, is of special note. The project will be coordinated by the UAB. The project ('Asian Health Alliance: Developing High-Impact Sustainable Educational Programmes for Transfusion Medicine Professionals for Safe Blood Donation and Supply') aims, on the one hand, to improve the skills of professionals working in the field of transfusion medicine, with special emphasis on improving the knowledge of health and paramedical personnel (nurses and technicians), to make blood transfusions safer and more efficient and save more human lives in Asian countries, and on the other to improve the medical impact and harmonisation of transfusion medicine practice in those countries. The consortium is led by the UAB and its principal investigator is Dr Joaquim Vives, lecturer at the Department of Medicine. The consortium also includes the University of Groningen (Netherlands), the Blood and Tissue Bank (BST) and numerous institutions in India and Sri Lanka, the countries where the project will be implemented.

Erasmus+
Enriching lives, opening minds.

Highlight



Success of the MEMEnginy 2023 Technology Congress

On 27 April, the annual MEMEnginy Technology Congress took place at the School of Engineering. Almost one thousand students and fifty companies from the technology sector participated in the event, which puts the world of work in contact with future professionals in the field of engineering through talks, quick personal interviews and networking spaces. Artificial intelligence, data management, digital transformation and cybersecurity, all areas with a high demand for professionals, were the main themes in the talks.

SO-CLOSE and TRACTION projects present tools to combat social exclusion

On 30 September, the research and innovation projects SO-CLOSE, coordinated by the UAB, and TRACTION, led by the Catalan company Vicomtech with the participation of the UAB, presented their main results at the headquarters of the European Commission in Barcelona. The research teams of the two European projects have worked on the creation of tools to contribute to consolidating museums and cultural institutions as inclusive spaces for digital cultural co-creation with the involvement of society.



5th UAB Teaching Excellence Award

On 10 May **Sònia Casillas Viladerrams**, lecturer at the Department of Genetics and Microbiology of the Faculty of Biosciences, received the 5th Award for Teaching Excellence of the UAB, in an event held as part of Teaching Innovation Day. The Vice-Rector for Studies and Teaching Innovation, María Valdés, and the Chair of the Board of Trustees, Tania Nadal, presented her with the award.

Teaching quality

The UAB is firmly committed to obtaining **institutional accreditation** for its teaching centres. Institutional accreditation is a voluntary process that strengthens the governance and autonomy of the centres and gives visibility to the quality of the courses on offer and the services related to them. During 2022, the Faculty of Law and the Salesian University School of Sarrià obtained institutional accreditation, meaning that 10 UAB centres and one affiliated centre are now in possession of this quality certification. Also in 2022 the third review of the UAB Internal Quality Assurance System (IQAS) was also carried out.

In applying the IQAS, management and advisory tasks were carried out on the processes of creating, modifying and monitoring degree courses. In particular management and advice was offered for the creation of three new Bachelor's degrees, 14 Master's degrees (of which two were Erasmus Mundus degrees) and one doctoral degree, plus the adaptation of the two degrees with 180 ECTS credits – Management of Smart and Sustainable Cities, and Sociocultural Gender Studies – to the 240-ECTS-credit structure, in accordance with Royal Decree 822/2021.

In 2022 the degree accreditation process awarded favourable accreditation for four Bachelor's degrees and two official Master's degrees from four affiliated centres. The 17 doctoral programmes included in the process also received favourable accreditation, of which six received the qualification of "on track to excellence".

With regard to the process of measuring student satisfaction during the 2022-2023 academic year, biannual surveys were carried out on teaching performance and subjects, with the participation of more than 10,000 students. In the satisfaction surveys of graduates from the previous academic year, 2,085 Bachelor's and Master's graduates and 259 PhDs participated.

Regarding surveys aimed at teaching staff, 278 people responded to the satisfaction survey of doctoral thesis supervision for theses defended during 2021-2022, while 1,182 participated in the satisfaction survey for Bachelor's and Master's degree teaching staff.

In relation to the teaching activity assessment process corresponding to 2022, 237 teaching merits were evaluated, of which 93% received a favourable outcome.

With regard to quality training, 30 hours' worth of training activities were carried out aimed at people from our own centres and affiliated centres with responsibilities for quality as well as several information sessions.

During 2022, 17 agreements were also handled – two Bachelor's and 15 Master's degrees, of which one was Erasmus Mundus.

Finally participation in quality projects and conferences included the organisation of the second session of the UAB Quality Community and participation in various activities organised by the AQU Catalunya quality agency, RUEPEP and Red-U.

Lecturer training and teaching innovation

During 2022, 290 training activities aimed at lecturers were organised. These activities received 3,978 registrations and trained 1,838 lecturers.

With the aim of promoting and supporting innovation projects and improving teaching quality, a new series of grants was announced for innovation projects related to official undergraduate studies. 53 projects were submitted, of which 22 received financial support.

There was also a call for funding applications by centres for the organisation of customised training activities. There were 19 applications of which 18 were approved.

Also during the 2022-2023 academic year, the 5th Teaching Innovation Day was organised and took place on 10 May. In addition to the presentation of the 5th UAB Teaching Excellence Award to Sònia Casillas, the day included an opening lecture by Héctor Ruiz on evidence-based teaching innovation, a conversation on challenge-based learning with members of the ECIU University, and three parallel sessions on service learning, the gender perspective, and assessment and teaching strategies.

1,100

items of computerised
classroom equipment

ICT tools for teaching

During the 2022-2023 academic year, teaching support services were fully operational. Currently, the use of the Online Campus is almost total, given that 81% of the subjects are present and 98% of students use it. Our current objective is to detect specific needs in which technology can add value to teaching.

This year, a series of initiatives aimed at improving the functions and usability of the Online Campus were carried out, including: the possibility of downloading a browsable file with the contents of the virtual classroom; an environment for automatic validation of activities requiring scheduling (CodeRunner); new functions in the management of tests and question banks, and improvements in usability and support in the case of incidents.

We have collaborated in the design and teaching of courses on the use of Moodle and on the creation of more attractive classrooms. There were also sessions aiming to identify user needs. Other initiatives with an impact on teaching included the development of GitHub Education, which will be particularly relevant for engineering studies. In terms of specific projects, the UAB participates in **Lean+**, financed with funds from the UniDigital Plan, to improve teaching based on learning analytics.

In accordance with our policy for updating computerised classrooms, this year 1,100 items of existing equipment were renewed, contributing to a more up-to-date and secure technological environment.

Language training

During the 2022-2023 academic year, 6,556 students enrolled in the courses offered by UAB Idiomes. Specifically, 3,299 students enrolled on courses at the Language Service (UAB Idiomes Campus) and 1,375 people received certification.

For the 14th consecutive year, the UAB offered a language level test to all new Bachelor's degree students. The results for English showed that 69% of students have level B2 or higher.

The Language Service continued to update the official UAB Nomenclature with new terms, based on interuniversity work carried out within the Vives Universities Network. In terms of text revisions and translations, 1,053 documents were processed in 2022, representing more than 7,350 pages.

The Language Service was also present in institutional activities such as La Comunitaria UAB, and in activities to support internationalisation: the International Welcome Days, participating in the institutional welcome talk and the "Catalan from Scratch" workshop, and the language volunteering workshop.

As part of the current Plan for Languages, in 2023 the UAB published three calls for grant applications to promote improvement in the university community's competence in third languages and the use of English as a working language. Scholarships to study languages at UAB Languages Campus were also awarded.

Highlight



Orientation and promotion activities

This year represented the consolidation of a hybrid model of Bachelor's degree, with a promotional campaign that combines the best of face-to-face and the best of online learning.

Open days took place over two days in person and one day online. The UAB was present once more at the **Education Fair**, again with digital catalogues that can be downloaded with QR codes. Face-to-face visits to the campus for secondary school groups and visits to UAB teaching centres also took place, as well as **Families Day**. Additional campus visits for individuals and families were also organised.

The campaign to promote Master's degrees, postgraduate programmes and doctoral studies continued to use the **UAB Online Fair** formula, which puts future students in direct contact with the coordinator of each programme, whether they are from Catalonia or from any other country in the world.

It should be noted that throughout the course more than **90,000 people provided their email addresses** to register for activities or stay informed about the courses and services on offer.

The campaign closed with the presentation of the **new UAB logo**, which transmits the values of the UAB and its character as a young, public and forward-looking university; leader in the rankings and a benchmark for research; a university of Barcelona, Catalonia and the world; transformative, supportive, diverse, sustainable and participatory; and with a campus offering unique experiences.

Research and transfer of knowledge and technology



During the 2022-2023 academic year, the UAB achieved very impressive results in raising funds for research. In 2022 the UAB surpassed 100 million euros in resources raised for the second consecutive year.

As a result of the impact and growing internationalisation of the university's research groups, the UAB has maintained a notable level of participation in the Horizon Europe programme, with a return of 22.8 million euros in 2022. It is also worth highlighting the significant number of European Research Council grants obtained this academic year, which include two Synergy Grants. Through Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA), the UAB obtained funding for two doctoral student training projects, with an international and interdisciplinary profile, within the call for the creation of doctoral networks, and a COFUND project to incorporate PhD students in the field of mental health. These results reaffirm the importance of doctoral studies at the UAB as a way of attracting new researchers.

The strategy of attracting and retaining research talent has been essential to reinforce the research potential of the UAB. During 2022, 17 Ramón y Cajal researchers joined the UAB and a complementary call for applications for the requalification of the university system, in the Margarita Salas modality, was resolved offering 23 new places. The UAB therefore completed its participation in this programme with a final result of 171 postdoctoral contracts.

In relation to the ECIU University, this year the activities and pilot structures of the SMART-ER institute were launched,

promoting a research focus on finding answers to major social challenges. Participation in the Boogie-U (Boosting Innovation and Entrepreneurship through European Universities) project, the innovation and entrepreneurship aspect of the ECIU University, culminated in several activities, among which was a mentoring programme aimed at UAB spin-offs.

In relation to the transfer of technology and knowledge to society and the production sector, nine Proof of Concept grants were obtained in the call for applications from the Ministry of Science and Innovation and seven Product Grants from the Catalan grant agency AGAUR. Also, three projects by UAB research groups benefitted from a grant for the financing of pre-commercial valorisation activities through the UAB Proof of Concept call in 2022. In addition, the UAB Research Park offered support for transfer, innovation and entrepreneurship and developed programmes to devise solutions to social and production challenges.

With regard to the valorisation of research results, it should be noted that once again this year the UAB consolidated its leadership among Spanish universities in numbers of patent applications to the European Patent Office.

The UAB Open Labs promoted the campus this year as an open innovation laboratory. The RecicLab co-creation process, carried out within the framework of the Circular B30 PECT, contributed to the shared strategy of promoting circular economy projects to work towards a zero-waste model.

The UAB receives two Synergy Grants from the ERC

This year the UAB received two Synergy Grants from the European Research Council (ERC). This is the first time that the UAB has overcome the intense competition to obtain this type of grant, designed to offer support for highly complex projects. Both grants, for the sum of 9.9 million euros, will allow the development of large-scale projects over the next six years.

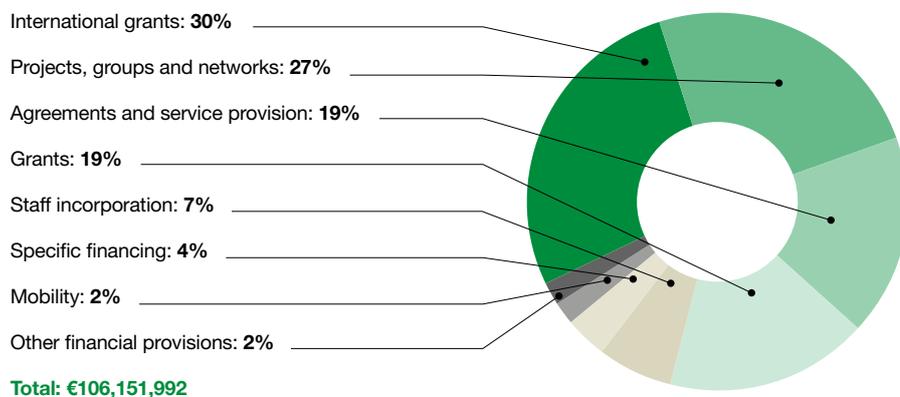
The 'A Post-Growth Deal' (REAL) project, led by researchers **Giorgos Kallis** and **Jason Hickel**, from ICTA-UAB, together with **Julia Steinberger**, from the Institute of Geography and Sustainability of the University of Lausanne (UNIL), received a Synergy Grant to explore paths for post-economic growth that reduce the use of energy and material resources while guaranteeing a dignified life and the fight against poverty.

The project 'Re-thinking the 'Green Revolution' in the Medieval Western Mediterranean (6th-16th centuries)' (MEDGREENREV), coordinated by Prof. **Helena Kirchner**, of the Department of Ancient and Medieval Studies of the UAB, was awarded a Synergy Grant to study the Islamic Green Revolution. Through a holistic approach and a broad time frame, this project will integrate bioarchaeological, paleoenvironmental and environmental data.

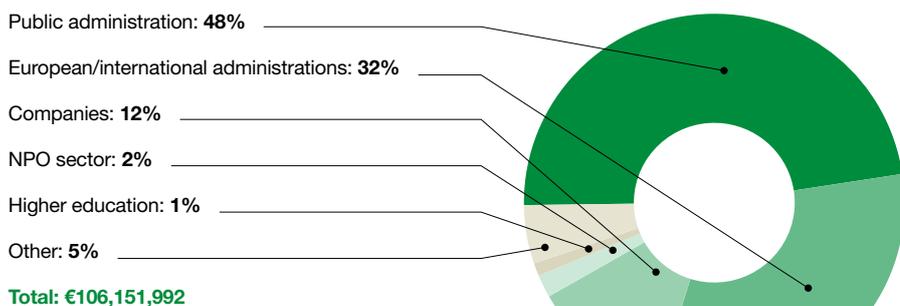
106

million euros in resources raised for research (2022)

Research funding by main categories, 2022



Research funding by type of organisation, 2022



Highlight



Jeroen van den Bergh receives an ERC Advanced Grant

Jeroen van den Bergh, ICREA researcher at ICTA-UAB, received an ERC Advanced Grant to carry out the project ‘Climate policy versus economic growth: Views, models and innovative strategies’ (CLIMGROW), which will analyse the extent to which concerns about economic growth hinder socio-political support for an ambitious climate policy and how this situation can be rectified.

Carlos Tornero receives an ERC Consolidator Grant

Carlos Tornero, a researcher from the Department of Prehistory, obtained an ERC Consolidator Grant to carry out the project ‘Revealing Earliest Animal Domestication in the Fertile Crescent’ (READ), which aims to offer an alternative approach to studying the origins of animal domestication in the Neolithic. Carlos Tornero is a Ramón y Cajal lecturer and researcher at the UAB and a researcher attached to the Catalan Institute of Human Palaeoecology and Social Evolution (IPHES-CERCA).

Marcos Fernández and Andre Groeger receive an ERC Starting Grant

Marcos Fernández-Martínez, postdoctoral researcher at the University of Antwerp who joined the Department of Animal Biology, Plant Biology and Ecology of the UAB this academic year, obtained an ERC Starting Grant to carry out the STOIKOS project, on the elementary diversity of organisms. Andre Groeger, researcher at the MOVE centre (Markets, Organisations and Votes in Economics) of the UAB and assistant lecturer at the Department of Economics and Economic History, was awarded a Starting Grant to carry out the RUST-DEC project to study rural areas in developing countries.



On 24 February, the opening ceremony of the **Joint Centre for Electron Microscopy at the ALBA (JEMCA)** took place, located inside the ALBA synchrotron – a pioneering facility in which the UAB participates which offers electron microscopy services to the scientific community. The new scientific infrastructure involved an investment of 5.8 million euros, of which 50% was financed by the Department of Research and Universities through the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF).

Research centres

This academic year the **Centre for Research and Studies for Organisational Development (CRiEDO)**, was launched, bringing with it more than 30 years of experience of the Organisational Development Studies group in the field of educational organisation analysis.

The CRiEDO aims to offer study, research, teaching and any other activity related to the organisational development of institutions linked to training and education. Specifically, this centre offers services aimed at the improvement, innovation and development of organisations dedicated to training, based on processes of reflection and scientific analysis, and designs and implements actions aimed at institutional improvement and evaluation and diagnosis processes.



CRiEDO Award goes to the Tarlatana School, for its project carried out in a highly complex environment

The Tarlatana School, located in the Can Puiggener neighbourhood of Sabadell, won the 1st CRiEDO Award for Innovation and Development of Educational and Training Institutions for its pedagogical project. The award recognises good educational practices carried out by this pre-school and primary school, as well as the impact on the territory and dedication to the vulnerable groups of the Living Schools (Escoles Vives), of which this centre is one. The prize was awarded on 10 November as part of the opening ceremony of the CRiEDO.



This year also saw the creation of the **Centre for Research in Performing Arts (CRAE)** with the aim of promoting research in performing arts and encouraging connections with other approaches,

as well as promoting, recovering and disseminating tangible and intangible heritage related to the performing arts. The CRAE is a result of 26 years' experience of theatre studies at the UAB and involves the participation of researchers from five departments of the Faculty of Arts and Humanities. The new centre will establish agreements with academic and theatrical institutions, and will organise research and transfer activities.

In terms of affiliated research centres, this year the **Computer Vision Centre (CVC)**, which is a consortium of the Government of Catalonia and the UAB, together with technology companies, joined the Deep Tech Talent Initiative of the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) to support the development of courses and training that contribute to accelerating careers in deep tech. Specifically, the CVC will contribute to this initiative through an offer of training in AI and entrepreneurial skills, and will promote the generation of new highly qualified job profiles in AI.

Finally, the consortium formed by the **Institute of Agrifood Research and Technology (IRTA)** and the UAB was designated as a reference centre in animal welfare by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, for a period of two years. Led by IRTA, the consortium will provide scientific and technical advice to public administrations so that they can implement European legislation on animal welfare and the corresponding official controls.

The UAB Open Labs promoted the campus as an open innovation laboratory and, through a co-creation process with **RecicLab**, contributed to the promotion of circular economy projects. It should also be noted that this year the Regulation of the UAB's open innovation laboratories was approved. This regulation sets out the purposes, functions and governing and management bodies of this type of laboratory, and provides for the drawing up of rules for use and access. Finally, within the framework of the SMART-ER research institute, researchers from the UAB, the University of Twente (Netherlands) and Stavanger University (Norway), coordinated by the University of Linköping (Sweden), created the **ECIU Urban Transformation Collaboratory (ECIU-UTC)** consortium with the aim of designing a living lab distributed throughout Europe.

Strategic research communities

The UAB Strategic Challenge-Oriented Communities (CORE) are research networks formed by research groups and centres from the UAB and the UAB Sphere, focused on strategic challenges. There are currently four active communities: Smart and Sustainable Cities, Cultural Heritage, Mental Health, and Education and Employability.

Among the main activities carried out this year is the organisation of the third cycle of Cervella't talks by the **CORE in Mental Health**, together with the Institute of Neurosciences. The talks take place as part of International Brain Week. This year the meeting dealt with anxiety, stress, Alzheimer's disease and autism, among other issues. The CORE in Mental Health also participated in the preparation of "Towards the next generation of excellent young doctoral researchers into mental health by developing an intersectoral and transdisciplinary approach" (TOUCH), a project funded by the COFUND programme, which will allow the incorporation of 24 PhD students in the field of mental health at the UAB and at the UAB Sphere (see the "Doctoral Studies" section of this report).

The network comprising the **CORE in Cultural Heritage** and the **UAB OpenLabs** carried out the technical production of the virtual exhibition 'InterMedit: the Mediterranean Exchange in Antiquity, which opened on 27 April at the Puig des Molins Monographic Museum in Ibiza. The exhibition, which offers immersive visits, includes around 50 pieces that have been digitised in 3D by the UAB, some of which were obtained for the first time with a maximum level of detail, as is

the case of the Esculapi d'Empúries. Also, nine pre-school and primary schools, with more than 200 pupils, and two secondary schools, with a total of 100 pupils, participated this year in the third Investiga.edu programme and in the Summer Archaeology Youth Campus, coordinated by CEPARQ, the Department of Prehistory and the CORE in Cultural Heritage. The initiative aims to awaken interest in archaeological research and the heritage of the territory among young people and children in rural areas.

This year for the first time the UAB had its own stand with the **CORE in Smart and Sustainable Cities** at the Smart City Expo World Congress (SCEWC), the international event focusing on cities and smart urban solutions organised by Barcelona Trade Fair.

Finally, it should be noted that, through the **CORE in Education and Employability** and the Research Group on Social Risk in Childhood and Adolescence (IARS), the UAB has joined the research centres of the Network of Universities for Children and Adolescents (RUIA), which promotes the rights of children and adolescents through research, innovation, training, and the dissemination and transfer of knowledge.



Highlight

Five researchers with ERC grants join the UAB and the UAB Sphere

Five researchers with ERC grants have joined the UAB to carry out their funded research projects: the physicist and historian **Gemma Cirac** obtained a Starting Grant to carry out the CLIMASAT project, which will study the history of climate discourses, practices and policies between the 1980s and 1990s; the palaeoecologist **Sandra Nogué** received a Consolidator Grant to carry out the TIME-LINES project, which studies variability in biodiversity changes; anthropologist **Dan Brockington** was awarded an Advanced Grant for the CONDJUST project, which will analyse conservation models and data and explore the epistemic communities that produce them to develop new theories on socially just and data-oriented conservation; and the researcher **Alex Taylor** joined the Institute of Neurosciences of the UAB (INc-UAB), where he will carry out the UNIPROB project thanks to a Consolidator Grant. Finally, physicist **Gerard Ariño-Estrada**, who won a Starting Grant, will join IFAE to work on the CHLOE-PET project.

The UAB joins the Semiconductor and Microchip Alliance of Catalonia

The UAB now forms part of the new Board of the Semiconductor and Microchip Alliance of Catalonia, a public-private initiative promoted by the Government of Catalonia that will bring together the agents of this ecosystem to lead its transformation and consolidation in Europe. The UAB has an outstanding nucleus of research groups in the field of semiconductors in the areas of microelectronic technology, devices, sensors, SoC/IP design, verification, radio frequency and organic electronics.



On 18 November, the UAB theatre held the first **Ciència i empenedoria en femení** (Women in scientific entrepreneurship) seminar. Organised by the Offices of the Vice-Rectors for Innovation, Transfer and Entrepreneurship and for Students and Employability, the seminar aimed to give visibility to female role models in innovation and entrepreneurship on campus, identify the needs of researchers, create a network and publicise specific resources for women to innovate and be enterprising.

ECIU University: re-search and innovation

During the 2022-2023 academic year, the **Research Institute for Smart European Regions (SMART-ER)** project continued. This is the research side of the ECIU University that aims to create a virtual research institute focused on addressing complex social challenges of 11 SDG of the United Nations. Within the framework of the SMART-ER Seed Programme 14 pilot projects were continued; three citizen science pilot projects were initiated; a public engagement unit was created; and a governance model based on the creation of research communities was implemented, driven by expert research field coordinators.

This year saw the culmination of the **BOOGIE-U (Boosting Innovation and Entrepreneurship through European Universities)** project funded by the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT), to promote innovation and entrepreneurship in the six institutions that form part of the consortium.

Work led by the UAB to promote the creation of start-ups and scale-ups this year included the production of a methodological guide to improve support for start-ups and a mentoring programme was launched jointly with the Research Park to improve services to spin-offs and tech-based companies derived from the university. Thanks to this programme, five startups benefited from up to six mentoring sessions with experts in their field with the aim of improving performance.

Research support services

This academic year, the new **Service Charter of the UAB libraries**, which sets out all the services that libraries offer to the university community was approved, and the Regulations for use and access to the digital library was also approved.

This year the **UAB Institutional Open Access Policy was finalised** with information about depositing a thesis by compendium of articles, as well as the publications deposited in the digital repository for assessment as merits in the internal employment competitions for academic staff, and the **UAB Institutional Open Access Policy for research data** offered by the CORA-RDR as a repository point for the dissemination of research data to all research staff. In addition, several conferences were organised during **International Open Access Week** and **International Open Education Week**, and improvements were made for obtaining funding for open access journal articles.

With regard to Scientific and Technical Services, this year the merger of several technological units was approved. Specifically, the merger of the Biomolecular Luminescence and Spectroscopy Laboratory and the Genomics Service led to the creation of the **Biomolecular Genomics and Spectroscopy Service (SGiEB)**; the merger of the Microscopy Service and the X-Ray Diffraction Service resulted in the creation of the **Microscopy and X-Ray Diffraction Service (SMiDRX)**. Finally, the **Biomolecular Archaeology and Palaeoecology Laboratory (BiomAP)**, affiliated with ICTA, was created.

Strategic entrepreneurship plan

On 12 July, the Governing Council approved the first **UAB Strategic Plan for Entrepreneurship**, which aims to transform the UAB in those aspects necessary to become a full entrepreneurial university, a concept that encompasses both business entrepreneurship and intrapreneurship and self-employment.

Resulting from a self-diagnosis process, the plan contemplates three fundamental milestones: the achievement of an organisational model that allows the development of an entrepreneurial and innovation culture in the university; the generation and development of culture and an entrepreneurial mindset that fosters the development of talent, creativity and knowledge in all university groups. It also plans for support at all stages of the entrepreneurial process and the optimisation of social and economic returns for the UAB and the local environment.

To achieve these goals, the plan sets out a set of specific objectives and actions that are directly involved in producing content for the three key phases that make up the UAB entrepreneurial itinerary, clearly related to the UAB's own strategy: the creation of an individual but also collective entrepreneurial mentality (positive, creative, communicative, motivated and resilient community), the development of the idea, prototyping and validation of the entrepreneurial project, and the acceleration of that project.



Camille Noé Servin, a student from the PhD programme in Psychiatry, won first prize in the UAB “Thesis in 4 minutes” competition. The winner, who is writing her thesis on brain changes in pregnant mothers, also received the Joan Oró distinction, as a representative of the UAB in the final of the “Present your thesis in 4 minutes” competition, organised by the Catalan Foundation for Research and Innovation, held on 22 June at the CaixaForum in Lleida.

Highlight

The UAB receives five ICREA Acadèmia grants

The Catalan Institute for Research and Advanced Studies (ICREA) awarded five ICREA Acadèmia grants to the UAB. Specifically, in the 2022 programme, the following teaching staff received funding: **Albert Quintana**, from the Department of Cell Biology, Physiology and Immunology and the Institute of Neurosciences; **Xavier Pons**, from the Department of Geography; **Sergi Vidal**, from the Department of Sociology; **Raquel Piqué**, from the Department of Prehistory; **David Reverter**, from the IBB and the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology; **Alba Hernández Bonilla**, from the Department of Genetics and Microbiology, and **Neus Vidal Barrantes**, from the Department of Clinical Psychology.

The UAB awards seven MSCA-Postdoctoral Fellowships projects

Seven UAB projects received funding for MSCA-Postdoctoral Fellowships (PF) in the MSCA-PF-2022 call of the Horizon Europe programme. The projects last two to three years and are awarded to experienced researchers so that they can carry out their projects and improve their training.

The UAB publishes thesis no. 11,000 in TDX

The UAB is first Catalan university to have reached the figure of 11,000 doctoral theses published in the Theses and Dissertations Online (TDX) repository. This repository, managed by the Consortium of University Services of Catalonia (CSUC), allows consultation of the full text of more than 40,000 doctoral theses.

Doctoral studies

With 4,587 doctoral students and 745 theses defended (2021-2022), 25% of them with international research components, the UAB is a research-intensive university that sees doctoral studies as a strategic area. The 68 doctoral programmes at the UAB therefore have a great power in attracting postgraduate students from all fields of knowledge, as reflected in 38% of theses written by international PhD students.

As part of its policy for doctoral studies, this academic year the UAB Governing Team and Executive Management Team signed an agreement with the Academic Staff Works Committee for the extension of contracts for trainee research staff, as provided for in the Law on Science, Technology and Innovation.

As part of the 2022 Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions call for the creation of doctoral networks, this academic year the UAB obtained funding for two doctoral student training projects with an international and interdisciplinary profile. Specifically, the UAB will be a partner in the project ‘MiFuture: ultra-massive MIMO for future cell-free heterogeneous networks’, led at the UAB by Professor Gonzalo Seco from the Department of Telecommunications and Systems Engineering, and also in the ‘EPOG-DN: Economic Policies for the Global Bifurcation - Doctoral Network’ project, led at the UAB by Giacomo D’Alisa, an ICTA-UAB researcher.

Finally, on 18 November and 19 May the awards ceremonies for doctoral degrees and special prizes took place. Through these awards the UAB is able to reflect the value of the effort and dedication of young researchers and their contribution to the generation of knowledge.

The UAB wins COFUND project to recruit PhD students re-searching mental health

The project ‘Towards the next generation of excellent young doctoral researchers on mental health by developing an intersectoral and transdisciplinary approach’ (TOUCH), led by the UAB, is part of the 30 European projects that received Marie Skłodowska-Curie Action-COFUND funding in 2022. With a budget of almost five million euros, this project will allow 24 PhD students to be incorporated into a strategic area for the university: mental health and well-being. The TOUCH project is based on a multidisciplinary and cross-cutting vision and includes the participation of several departments of the university, seven institutions of the UAB Sphere and the CORE in Mental Health. The UAB is also participating in the ‘Doctoral Training Programme in Functional Advanced Materials: Towards a Better Future’ (DocFam+) project, awarded to the Institute of Materials Science of Barcelona (ICMAB-CSIC) and also within the framework of the MSCA-COFUND call.



From 27 February to 2 March, the UAB showcased its entrepreneurial and innovative capacity and gave visibility to its derived tech companies at its stand at the 4YFN (Four Years from Now) Fair, which took place at the Gran Via Trade Fair as part of the Mobile World Congress.

UAB Research Park

The **UAB Research Park** has continued to work to promote the transfer of knowledge to society in all areas, increasing the university's interaction with the business and social environment. With this objective in mind, a new initiative was launched this year to bring companies into closer contact with the research facilities on the UAB campus called: '**The innovation tour**'. The tour includes visits to laboratories, facilities and research groups in a specific sector so that companies in the area can discover what they can offer them.

Along with the CORE in Smart and Sustainable Cities network, the UAB arranged to participate in the **Smart City Expo World Congress (SCEWC)**, organised by the Barcelona Trade Fair. This was the first year that the UAB had its own stand, where it promoted the visibility of technological capabilities, knowledge and significant projects carried out by the university's research groups to improve the lives of citizens.

Together with the International Projects Office and the UAB Research Management Area, the PRUAB provided advice to the university's research staff on the preparation of innovative projects for Horizon Europe and national research calls.

In terms of activities in the field of entrepreneurship, this year the UAB Research Park organised workshops and programmes to promote entrepreneurship and bring out the talent and creativity of research staff. The UAB Research Park organised seven workshops to train research staff in entrepreneurial skills. It is also worth mentioning that the UAB Research Park participated in organising a seminar on *Ciència i empenedoria en femení* (Women in scientific entrepreneurship).

The UAB Research Park also organised programmes to devise solutions based on the challenges of industry and society, such as the **AI4ALL in the Artificial Intelligence Applied to Industry Programme**, involving 21 participants and five projects, and the **Explorer Programme**, in which 25 young people had the opportunity to train and acquire the necessary skills to be able to develop a solid, viable and sustainable business idea.

This year, the UAB Research Park organised activities to validate business ideas, such as the '**Validate your Research**' programme, aimed at doctoral candidates, in which eight projects were assessed, and the '**PoC Training Programme**' course, in which 14 researchers participated to accelerate the transfer of their projects to the market. The UAB Research Park also ran the **Consolida't** programme again this year. There were 38 participants in the project,

which supports micro businesses and freelance workers to help them to consolidate, strengthen or reinvent their businesses.

Finally, the UAB Research Park took part in the **4YFN (4 Years from Now Fair)**, which was held at the Gran Via Trade Fair from 27 February to 2 March 2023 as part of the Mobile World Congress (MWC), where it showcased the UAB's entrepreneurial and innovative capacity at its own stand and promoted the visibility of seven spin-off mobile and digital technology companies covering the logistics, animal health, big data, energy and mobility sectors.

In terms of the UAB Research Park spaces for companies, this year the Eureka building hosted 18 companies and Research Module B hosted six.



9

R&D&I projects at the UAB were funded by the Proof of Concept call, set up by the Ministry of Science and Innovation in 2022.

B30 Hub

This year, as part of B30 Hub, the UAB Research Park organised different activities in cooperation with the other members of the platform to promote innovation in the B30 area through cooperation between administrations, companies and knowledge generators and R&D. The UAB Research Park participated in the Circular B30 regional specialisation and competitiveness project (PECT), coordinated by Cerdanyola del Vallès City Council, with participation from Mollet del Vallès City Council, the UAB, the ESADE Foundation and the Eurecat technology centre. The project aims to kick-start a transformation into a sustainable ecosystem of research and innovation, through a network of open labs in the B30 region and achieve a zero-waste model. This academic year saw the co-creation process of RecicLab, a new open laboratory at the UAB dedicated to the circular economy.

The UAB Research Park also organised different workshops and participatory working sessions to draw up a map of initiatives in the territory – both in the public and private sectors – related to the circular economy and identified challenges in this area, in conjunction with the CORE in Smart and Sustainable Cities. The Generation of Ideas Programme was also carried out to train research staff and set up projects to eliminate and revalue waste.

This year, three innovation brunches were organised, which brought together more than 100 companies, researchers, technicians from local councils and social agents.

Research valorisation and patents

In 2022 the UAB Office for Research Valorisation and Patents received 28 new inventions from the university's research groups. As a result, the UAB achieved approximately 0.15 inventions per million euros invested in research.

By sector, most of the inventions were in the field of human health; the other main sectors were food technology and materials technology.

In 2022 the UAB applied for 16 new unique patents and signed six transfer agreements with national and international companies.

1st

university in the country in terms of European patent applications (2022)

Highlight

Three UAB researchers received a BBVA Leonardo Grant

Sònia Boadas, a lecturer of the Department of Spanish Philology, and **Javier Rodrigo**, an ICREA Acadèmia researcher and lecturer of the Department of Modern and Contemporary History, were awarded a Leonardo Grant from the BBVA Foundation in the field of humanities. Using this grant, **Sònia Boadas** will carry out a project called *CREATEXT: la creació del text dramàtic al Segle d'Or*, (CREATEXT: the creation of dramatic texts in the Spanish Golden Age), and **Javier Rodrigo** will carry out a project called *VOLGA: la violència contra les dones en el marc de la guerra contra la guerrilla a Espanya, 1936-1952* (VOLGA: violence against women in the framework of the war against guerrillas in Spain, 1936-1952). **Raül Andero**, an ICREA researcher in the Neuroscience Institute (INc), was awarded a Leonardo Grant in the field of biomedicine.

UAB researchers participated in two projects selected by Caixa-Research

Júlia Lorenzo, a researcher at the Institute of Biotechnology and Biomedicine (IBB) and the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, and **Raül Andero**, an ICREA researcher at the INc, are participating in two projects funded by a call from CaixaResearch for health research projects this year.

Three UAB researchers received grants from La Marató charity for mental health projects

This year TV3's La Marató charity fundraiser was dedicated to mental health and will fund three projects led or participated in by lecturers from the Faculty of Psychology. **Roser Nadal**, a researcher from the Institute of Neurosciences and the Department of Psychobiology and Methodology in Health Sciences, is leading a project on psychopathic and prosocial traits in children. **Miquel Domènech**, a researcher from the Department of Social Psychology, and **Estel Gelabert**, from the Department of Clinical Psychology and Health, are participating in two projects on anxiety and depression disorders.



On 15 June, around 400 European project management professionals from Catalonia gathered in the UAB Auditorium for the annual meeting organised by the Agency for the Management of University and Research Grants (AGAUR). Under the theme of 'Professionalising research management in Catalonia', the meeting highlighted the work of people in research management and served as a reflection on various aspects related to recognition, training and professionalisation.

Research dissemination

Over the course of the 2022-2023 academic year, 98 research dissemination campaigns were carried out.

These campaigns resulted in 1,417 impacts in state media, of which 1,370 were in the written press (paper edition) and 47 on television.

With regard to international dissemination, 47 press releases were sent to international agencies during the academic year (from September to August). Those published through the AlphaGalileo agency obtained 23,000 visits and those published in EurekAlert 38,618. In total, 61,618 visits from science journalists from different international media outlets were counted.

84 scientific articles were also published in the UABDivulga electronic journal, which has 2,889 subscribers. During the 2022-2023 academic year, the publication received 941,387 visits.

In the field of biosciences and health sciences, the following projects are worthy of note: the impact of research carried out by neuroscientists at the UAB who managed to modify predictive processes in the brain for the first time using non-invasive electrical stimulation; the start of a project to develop new precision antibiotics that eliminate infections without producing side effects; the design of nanoparticles that neutralise the COVID virus; demonstrating that a peptide, dynorphin gran, protects neurons from the accumulation of β -amyloid, one of the main triggers of Alzheimer's disease; and the identification of the mechanism that explains the appearance of tumours

in the head and neck, caused by endogenous aldehydes which are present in tobacco and alcohol.

In the fields of the environment and ecology, the UAB proposed specific science-based actions to the European Parliament to fight against pollution in the Mediterranean. A team of chemical engineers from the UAB put into circulation the first urban bus that runs on biomethane obtained from treated wastewater, and it was also observed that microplastics deposited in the sea bed have tripled over the past 20 years.

In terms of technology and experimental sciences, the UAB recently joined the European Laboratory for Learning and Intelligent Systems (ELLIS). It should also be noted that physicists at the UAB have developed a magnetic material capable of imitating the way the brain stores information, and that a study in conjunction with NASA clarified the geological history of the site where Viking 1 landed on Mars in 1976. A prototype for an autonomous vehicle for rural areas was also successfully tested, adapted to areas without any wireless coverage, lack of road markings and changes in the surface of the road.

In the field of social sciences, a project on the difficulties and professional precariousness faced by content creators on YouTube and another on immigration as the only alternative to the depopulation of Spain both stand out. Other highlights include a research project to detect the needs of women suffering from early pregnancy losses in terms of assistance, and bereavement support; digital tools

to combat the exclusion of refugees; the creation of a European cluster of research projects on migration; and the presentation of the Catalan Radio Sound Archive.

Some of the most significant findings in the field of humanities include the discovery of the consumption of different drugs by the prehistoric populations that inhabited the island of Menorca 3,000 years ago, the first direct evidence of these practices in Europe. The oldest document written entirely in Catalan was also discovered, the *Llibre dels jutges de la Seu d'Urgell* and an unknown work by Lope de Vega was also discovered using artificial intelligence. Furthermore, a sanctuary involving rituals never before observed in an Egyptian temple was discovered in Egypt.

In the area of the transfer of technology and knowledge, the Distinkt company was set up in collaboration with ICN2 and CSIC to market an intelligent ink based on nanotechnology, which makes it possible to combat the counterfeiting of official documents, banknotes and luxury products. Also, a patent licensing agreement was signed with North American company Anew Medical that will allow researchers at the Institute of Neuroscience (INc-UAB) and the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology to progress towards the study of gene therapy for Alzheimer's disease and Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS).

149th

in the world and first in Spain in the QS World University Rankings

UAB in the rankings

In this year's **QS World University Rankings**, the UAB moved up 29 places to 149th in the world and continues to rank as the top university in Spain for the second consecutive year. In terms of indicators, the UAB is ranked 60th in the world in terms of sustainability, 109th for academic reputation, 123rd for its international research network and 145th in citations per academic. In the **2023 Times Higher Education World University Rankings**, the UAB was ranked 183rd in the world and held second position in Spain. Finally, the UAB is ranked 143rd university in the world according to the **Best Global Universities** ranking, published by North American newspaper 'U.S. News', and is ranked 301-400 in the **Academic Ranking of World Universities**.

The latest ranking for Spanish universities produced by the **CYD Foundation** once again ranked the UAB in first place and awarded it the highest number of high-performance indicators out of the 80 universities analysed.

In the **2023 QS World University Rankings by Subject**, the UAB was ranked among the top 100 universities in the world in ten disciplines: anthropology, archaeology, economics and econometrics, education, geography, modern languages, linguistics, mathematics, sociology and veterinary science. Furthermore, the UAB was among the top 200 universities in 35 out of the

54 scientific disciplines classified by QS, just as in the previous year. With regard to classification by broad areas of knowledge, the UAB improved its position in two of the five areas analysed compared to last year, and is in the top 100 in three areas: 91st in arts and humanities, 99th in natural sciences and 95th in social sciences.

In the **Global Ranking of Academic Subjects**, the UAB is among the 100 best universities in the world in biotechnology (76-100), agricultural sciences (51-75), ecology (76-100), economics (76-100), geography (34) and veterinary science (5).

Finally, the UAB was ranked 85th in the world in the arts and humanities by the **Times Higher Education Ranking by Subject**.

Highlight

Presentation of the Complementary Plan on Astrophysics and High Energy Physics

The presentation of the Complementary Plan on Astrophysics and High Energy Physics, a strategic programme led by the IFAE, which aims to develop advanced technologies for the exploration of the universe and its components, took place on 9 February at the Faculty of Science of the UAB. The programme presentation was attended by the Minister for Science and Innovation, **Diana Morant**; the Catalan Minister for Research and Universities, **Joaquim Nadal**; the Rector of the UAB, **Javier Lafuente**; the director of IFAE, **Eugenio Coccia**; the scientific coordinator of the Plan, **Ramon Miquel**, and representatives of the other six autonomous communities involved.



UAB participates in a research project at the Mercat del Peix (Fish Market)

On 12 January the rector of the UAB took part in the signing ceremony of the institutional protocol for the promotion of the Citadel of Knowledge and the laying of the first stone at the Fish Market research complex. In addition to Rector **Javier Lafuente**, the protocol was signed by the President of the Government of Catalonia, **Pere Aragonès**; the Rector of the UPF, **Oriol Amat**; the Mayor of Barcelona, **Ada Colau**; the Minister for Science and Innovation, **Diana Morant**; the Minister for Research and Universities, **Joan Subirats**; the Rector of the UB, **Joan Guàrdia**; the President of CSIC, **Eloísa del Pino**; the Director General of BIST, **Eduard Vallory**, and the Director of the Pasqual Maragall Foundation, **Arcadi Navarro**.

International projection



International institutional activity

This year the UAB's activities in the field of international relations have now fully returned to the same level as they were prior to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Around 20 international visits were received and the UAB also took part in the main international university fairs in Europe (EAIE), Asia (APAIE) and America (NAFSA), as well as Australian university fairs. With regard to the African continent, visits were made to several universities and institutions in Ghana, Senegal and Botswana as part of the activities for the 4 Universities Alliance. These visits allowed the promotion of both regular studies and student exchanges, as well as unique programmes aimed at international students, in addition to setting up cooperation in the field of research. A total of 30 new international agreements were signed.

With regard to courses aimed at international students, the consolidation of the UAB Barcelona Summer School and the preparation of the **UAB International Tracks (IT)** for the 2023-2024 academic year should both be mentioned. UAB International Tracks are packages of Bachelor's or Master's degree courses (from 24 to 30 ECTS credits) related to a specific subject or interdisciplinary area. They are taught entirely in English and aim to provide international students with the opportunity to study for a full semester at the UAB and be awarded the corresponding certificate.

Over the course of the year, the UAB received more than 20 visits from academic and diplomatic representatives, and hosted around 100 representatives from foreign universities as part of the EAIE Congress.

Among the **visits received**, special mention should be made of those from the Consul Generals for the Netherlands, Cuba, Argentina and Portugal. With regard to visits from heads of universities, the UAB received visits from representatives of American universities such as the TEC of Monterrey (Mexico) and the University of Chile, and in the latter case, a framework agreement was signed to strengthen relations between the two universities, particularly between the two faculties of Law. Representatives from universities in South Africa, such as the **University of Cape Town**, also visited the UAB. With regard to Asian universities, the UAB received visits from the **University of Hanoi** (Vietnam), within the framework of A4U, and the **University of Macau** (China). There are plans to work with the latter institution in the fields of biosciences, engineering, communication, political sciences and sociology.

With regard to **institutional trips**, the UAB participated in **APAIE** (Asian-Pacific Association for International Education) **Congress**, which it had not been possible to hold in person for the past three years. It took place in Bangkok (Thailand) from 13 to 17 March, and the UAB delegation met with around thirty universities from the Asia-Pacific region. During this trip, the UAB also participated in the **Exchange Fair Circuit of**

Australia, with the aim of promoting programmes such as the UAB Barcelona Summer School, Selected Courses and UAB International Tracks, in addition to student exchanges. As a result of these meetings, a start was also made on creating alliances in the field of research through doctoral co-supervision.

A UAB delegation led by Rector Javier Lafuente took part in the main American fair, the **NAFSA Conference**, held in Washington, where meetings were held with around 30 universities. Beyond student exchanges, cooperation with COILS (Collaborative Online International Learning), cooperative research programmes aimed at undergraduate students, the promotion of the UAB Barcelona Summer School, the International Tracks and the Study Abroad programmes offered by the UAB Foundation were all discussed.

During its stay in the United States the delegation took the opportunity to launch the **UAB Alumni East Coast Chapter in New York** and to meet with national and international organisations based in the city. The delegation also met with the president of **Brooklyn College**, one of the most significant institutions at the City University of New York (CUNY), with which the UAB maintains an excellent relationship.

Overall, during the year, more than 50 agreements were managed, and 30 new international agreements were signed as a result of the UAB's international institutional activity, based on which new alliances were set in motion and relationships with institutions we were already working with were consolidated.

UAB participates in the 32nd EAIE Congress in Barcelona

The **32nd EAIE (European Association for International Education Congress)**, which had been put off for two years, finally took place in Barcelona from 13 to 15 September, with record attendance by institutional representatives from national and international universities. The UAB took an active part in the event: by presenting the campus and the university's activities to around 100 university representatives. It met with more than 50 universities, and organised a reception at the *Casa Convalescència* attended by representatives of some of the institutions with which it has the closest ties, such as McGill University, Thompson Rivers University, Keio University and the universities of California, Melbourne, Tel Aviv and Hawaii.

Participation in networks and consortia

The **ECIU** (European Consortium of Innovative Universities), chaired by Màrius Martínez, Vice-Rector of International Relations at the UAB, celebrated its 25th anniversary with a meeting between the 14 member universities based around an exhibition called 'ECIU Back to the Future', on the University of Twente campus in the Netherlands.

The ECIU faces a future based on the challenge of growing the ECIU University project and becoming a truly European university. The ECIU University has now moved from pilot phase to start-up phase, during which an enormous growth in activities is expected due, in particular, to the ECIUn+ teaching project (2022-2026), which forms part of the Erasmus+ programme.

With regard to training activities in member universities, the UAB hosted the most recent sessions of the ECIU Leadership Development Programme. This year the ECIU created its first gender equality, diversity and inclusion plan. Based on this plan, gender equality, inclusion and diversity will be incorporated into the organisation of the ECIU, research, innovation and education processes, and into the daily life of all the people involved in the ECIU.



With regard to the internationalisation activities of the **4 Universities Alliance (A4U)**, network, in November 2022 the Vice-Rector for International Relations, Màrius Martínez, was part of the A4U delegation that carried out an institutional visit to Senegal and Gambia with the aim of establishing relationships with the most important universities in these two countries, as well as promoting the undergraduate and postgraduate courses taught in English offered by the universities that are members of the Alliance. The foundations to promote the signing of cooperation agreements with A4U were also laid. Meetings were held with six of the main universities in Senegal, three Senegalese research centres and two Gambian universities. In May the UAB also took part in the Alliance delegation that visited two universities in Botswana in the framework of the KA107 programme, the Botswana International University of Science and Technology and the University of Botswana.

In June the UAB received a visit from the University of Hanoi (HANU), one of the Vietnamese universities with which the Alliance has had a relationship since 2020, as part of the Erasmus+ programme, and which participated in the 'A4U Vietnamese Partners' Day' virtual conference in 2020.



Highlight



UAB inaugurates the Japanese Studies Office – JF Sakura Network

On 14 October the UAB inaugurated the Japanese Studies Office, a centre for the promotion of the study and research of the Japanese language and culture recognised by the Japan Foundation (JF), an institution affiliated with the Government of Japan. The UAB, the university with the highest numbers of students of Japanese in Spain and the first to offer official Japanese language exams, is also the first university in Spain to obtain a Sakura Network office for Japanese studies, as well as the only one to house headquarters for official cultural institutions of China, South Korea and Japan.



The ECIU Leadership Development Programme at the UAB has now concluded

From 14 to 17 March the final sessions of the 17th ECIU Leadership Development Programme took place at the UAB, focusing on the alignment of the institutional strategies of each university with the general ECIU University strategy. The final session was attended by Màrius Martínez, Vice-Rector for International Relations at the UAB and current president of the ECIU, and Katrin Dirksen, secretary general of the ECIU.



On 19 June and 10 July, the UAB Auditorium hosted the welcome sessions for students from the two UAB Barcelona Summer School intakes this year, which received more than 500 participants.

Welcome and support for the international community

During the 2023-2024 academic year, the **International Support Service (ISS)** consolidated the hybrid service format, provided both online and in person, and increased communication via email (12,453 emails were dealt with) while individual meetings via Microsoft Teams were encouraged for processes requiring more interaction. Large scale activities such as student welcome sessions in September were carried out via online sessions on Microsoft Teams. A total of 43 welcome sessions were provided for a total of 2,728 international students.

Through the **International Support Service (ISS)** support was provided to non-EU students for renewing their study permits, either by informing them about how to obtain a digital signature or by providing them with support for the electronic submission of their foreign language qualifications. The ISS supported 194 students from eight Erasmus Mundus programmes and 113 international postgraduate grant holders.

The UAB also welcomes international students at the beginning of each term through its International Welcome Days (IWD). Over two days they can take part in a variety of fun activities to get to know the campus and its services as well as the different university clubs and associations.

Mobility programmes

During the 2022-2023 academic year, the figures for participation in mobility programmes dramatically increased. Intra-European mobility almost reached pre-pandemic figures, while mobility outside Europe increased by more than 60%.

The participation of the UAB in the **Erasmus+** programme allowed more than a thousand UAB students (1,002) to study at universities in Europe and abroad, and the UAB in turn welcomed a total of 1,121 students. As part of the same programme, 53 members of the UAB teaching and research staff and 32 members of the administrative and services staff spent time at universities, mainly in Europe, and 66 students undertook work placements in companies.

The **SICUE** state programme facilitated mobility for 270 students, of which 144 were hosted by the UAB and 126 were from the UAB and spent time at other universities in Spain.

The **UAB Exchange Programme**, the UAB's own programme for student mobility to non-European countries, led to the departure of 287 students, 65% more than the previous year, while the UAB received 429 students, 85% more than the previous year. With regard to work placements, 30 UAB students carried out placements outside Europe.

Specific programmes for international students (Study Abroad) saw an increase of 21.5% in the number of students taking part this academic year, with a total of 2,378 students. The Business and Management Master's degree programme was consolidated and con-

tinues to receive most of its students from Germany and Denmark. Various initiatives were carried out to improve programmes, such as the addition of subjects related to artificial intelligence and emotional well-being, and the extension of courses for STEM students, who represent 30% of the international university community.

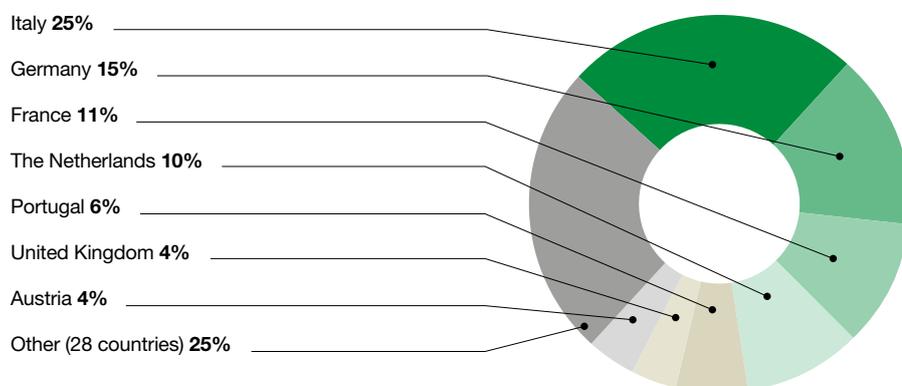
UAB Barcelona Summer School

The eighth year of the UAB Barcelona Summer School involved record numbers of participants and registrations. There were 29 subjects on offer, three more than last year, in all areas of knowledge, taught over two periods six-week periods in June and July. There were more than 650 registrations and 521 participants. Of these, 68% were international students who were highly diverse in origin, with over 40 nationalities represented. The countries where most students were from included Australia, Canada, the United States, Singapore, South Korea, Italy, the United Kingdom, Egypt, France, China, Brazil, Mexico, Switzerland and the Netherlands. The Buddy Programme, which facilitates interaction and networking among participants, was renewed and included weekly cultural and sports activities and visits and a series of challenges to get to know the campus.

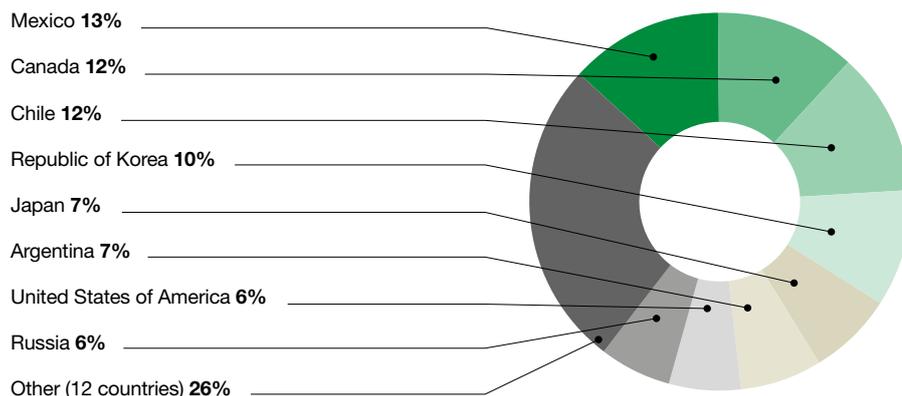
Participants in mobility programmes during the 2022-2023 academic year

	Incoming	Outgoing
Erasmus Estudis	1,121	1,002
Erasmus Work Placements		66
UAB Exchange Programme	429	287
UAB Exchange Programme Work Placements		30
SICUE	144	126
Study Abroad	2,378	
TOTAL	4,072	1,511

Countries of origin of Erasmus+ students at the UAB, 2022-2023 academic year



Countries of origin of the UAB Exchange Programme students at the UAB, 2022-2023



Highlight



UAB inaugurates the UAB Alumni East Coast Chapter

On 24 May the UAB Alumni East Coast Chapter was inaugurated in New York (USA). This is a network to promote the exchange of professional experiences and contacts between Catalans living on the East Coast of the United States who have studied at the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona.

The event, presided over by the Rector of the UAB, Javier Lafuente, was also attended by the Vice-Rector for International Relations of the UAB, Màrius Martínez, the director of the New York Office at the Delegation of the Government of Catalonia to the United States, Maria Pilar Pérez Ordoño, and the coordinators of the Chapter, Montse Cebrián and Roger Sunyer.

The event was attended by around 50 graduates, as well as representatives of Catalan organisations in the city, such as the Institut Ramon Llull, the Catalan Institute, the ACCIÓ Office and the Delegation of the Government of Catalonia.

It is the third international chapter set up by the UAB. In 2016 one was set up in Brussels (Belgium) and in 2018 one in Beijing (China).

The UAB Alumni Chapters are local groups located internationally that offer graduates who reside in that area the opportunity to meet each other and work together. They are groups that seek to broaden the opportunities and benefits of cooperation between people from different areas of knowledge who share a geographical location.

Social and environmental commitment



The third 'Recerkids' congress at the UAB

On 17 May, the third 'Recerkids' congress took place, where 215 children shared the results of their research at the UAB Faculty of Biosciences. The programme, set up by the Department of Research and Universities of the Catalan Government with cooperation from the UAB, aims to bring scientific research to 5th and 6th year primary-school pupils. This year, the theme revolved around zoology and biodiversity, particularly the impact of invasive species on ecosystems.

Board of Trustees University-Society Programme

The Board of Trustees, as the body that ensures the participation of society in the university, set up the University-Society Programme, which through strategic actions contribute to strengthening the links between the university and society and the local area.

The actions included in the programme are particularly aimed at students, both before they enter university (support for socio-educational programmes such as the Argó Programme) and during their time at the UAB (Impuls grants from the support programme for people with special needs) and once they have finished their studies (UAB Alumni network and job placement surveys carried out by AQU Catalunya with the support of the Board of Trustees). They also promote innovation and teaching quality, through participation in the Teaching Excellence Award given annually by the UAB.

The Board of Trustees is committed to initiatives that promote equality and inclusion (dissemination of the UAB protocol for action in situations of gender-based and LGBTphobic violence) and emotional health and well-being (provision of sports equipment for national and international championships in which UAB students participate, support for the UAB Games and the strategic plan for the promotion of sport at the UAB).

Overall, the resources agreed for the 2022-2023 academic year for projects in the areas of University, Society and Business was a total of 104,464 euros.

University social responsibility

During this academic year, in the area of university social responsibility, it is worth highlighting the implementation of instruments to guarantee and promote the ethics and integrity of the members of the university community. Along these lines, the UAB Principles and Values document was updated and transformed into the new UAB Code of Ethics, and an Ethical Channel was set up as an electronic communication tool for reporting breaches of regulations or actions that transgress the Code of Ethics.

A human rights due diligence project was also launched to further guarantee and enforce respect for human rights in accordance with current international standards.

The first Student Forum was organised this year, with the aim of discovering the concerns and needs of the student body in four essential areas to improve their quality of life during their time at the university. These areas were emotional well-being, responsible eating on campus, the need for welcoming spaces, both outside and inside campus buildings, and the need for basic skills related to self-management, communication and digital competences.

The second report on university social responsibility was also presented, for 2021.

Equity and student support

The UAB has a number of grants available that aim to provide financial support to students in order to promote equity and equal opportunities for access to and continuation of university studies.

One of the UAB's commitments to promoting equality is the call for study grants for emergency situations, which in the 2022-2023 academic year led to the award of 27 grants. Grants for compulsory work placements also increased to 40.

This year 20 new Itaca – Banco Santander grants were awarded to high school students who had achieved high levels of academic performance and who have difficult socio-economic backgrounds, to help them study at the UAB.

The Santander Progreso gender supplement was launched, which provides grants to students who register for degree programmes in which students of their gender are a minority, and who are already in receipt of a general grant. 18 grants were awarded for the 2022-2023 academic year.

The call for applications for study grants for victims of gender-based violence, which was launched last year, awarded 12 grants to help compensate for the difficulties faced by members of this group and prevent them from dropping out of university studies.

The UAB also offers grants to work in different areas of the university while studying. The 2022-2023 call offered 67 grants.



Socio-educational programmes

With the aim of strengthening the relationship between society and the university, the UAB has different socio-educational programmes that are carried out both on campus and in schools in the surrounding area.

Programmes such as the *Ítaca Campus*, the *Argó* programme, the Hedera social mentoring project set up by *Fundesplai* and the FAS, and the *Brúixola* peer mentoring project in the transition from high school to the UAB, promote a relationship between the university and secondary school students. The *Ítaca Campus*, which encourages students who are at risk of dropping out to continue their studies after compulsory education, has just celebrated its 20th year, in which 325 students from 67 secondary schools in 20 towns participated.

Based on the same objective, different teaching and research centres at the UAB offer a wide variety of programmes and projects, such as the scientific olympiads, discipline-specific conferences and debate leagues.

The UAB also wants to show its commitment to the most disadvantaged areas of society and the surrounding environment. For that purpose the university has another set of socio-educational programmes aimed at accompanying

The *Argó* Awards for baccalaureate and vocational training research projects were presented

On 29th June, the 20th *Argó* Awards ceremony took place. The jury awarded 18 prizes and 21 quality awards in the category of baccalaureate research projects, for which 520 projects were presented. Eight prizes were awarded in the category of vocational training projects, with a total of 27 projects presented.

and supporting primary and secondary school pupils who, due to their socio-cultural or personal circumstances, find it difficult to achieve their academic goals. These are the *CROMA 2.0* programme and the socio-educational mentoring programme for secondary schools, which also aims to motivate children and young people to continue studying after the age of 16.

Overall this year, 729 people were able to benefit from the UAB's socio-educational programmes.

The UAB also has the *Universitat a l'Abast* programme, which offers opportunities for training and social involvement with a focus on lifelong learning linked to active ageing, with no generational, social or geographical limits, to reduce potential barriers between a large part of society and university education.

Highlight



UAB celebrates the International Day of Persons with Disabilities

On 2 December the UAB held its fifth institutional day to commemorate the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, which this year focused on mental health, especially among university students. The closing ceremony included an artistic performance by Susoespai. During the event, the UAB Board of Trustees awarded two grants to students with disabilities to help them attend university and complete their higher education studies.



CROMA 2.0 children visit the UAB

On 30 May more than 200 children from 21 schools in Cerdanyola del Vallès, Montcada i Reixac, Rubí, Sabadell and Terrassa who participate in the *CROMA 2.0* socio-educational programme, visited the campus accompanied by UAB students. These same students give workshops in schools to awaken an interest in learning among 5th and 6th year secondary pupils who are in a situation of socio-economic vulnerability.



Sixth National and Fifth International Congress on University Service Learning

From 25 to 27 January, the University ApS Congress took place at the UAB – Casa Convalescència, organised by the 12 Catalan universities through the ApS(U)CAT Network. The conference, which was attended by the Minister for Universities and the rectors of Catalan public universities, was attended by around 300 people and more than 200 posters were presented on different service learning projects that are carried out at a university level.

Social and volunteering programmes

The task of creating a university community that is more committed to and supportive of society has become a reality through the participation of more than 300 people, including students, PTGAS (technical, management, administrative and service staff), and PDI (teaching and research staff), in volunteer programmes in the social sphere managed by the *Fundació Autònoma Solidària (FAS)*. These programmes, such as the Justice Programme (in penitentiary or juvenile justice centres), socio-educational programmes or the Social and Health Programme, were attended by more than 2,300 people who are at risk of social exclusion or in a difficult personal or health-related situation. More than 4,000 people participated in training and awareness-raising activities on asylum, migration, human rights, global justice, migrant youth, the environment and health.

As part of the global justice education project, the sixth edition of the Arcadi Oliveres Awards was held for the best Bachelor's Degree Final Projects in sustainable development and global justice carried out during the 2021-2022 academic year. The competition received 56 applications and in the end 28 prizes were awarded to students from different degree programmes being taught at the UAB.

Cooperation for development

During the 2022-2023 academic year, the XL call for projects aimed at PDI and PTGAS staff members was resolved. Specifically, seven international cooperation projects and two global justice education projects were approved, with a total allocated budget of €56,850.95.

The projects will be implemented in partnership with universities, educational and civil society organisations in Peru, Brazil, Colombia, Turkey and Iran. The proposals promote the strengthening of universities for the defence of rights and are oriented towards work on human rights, intercultural communication, sexual and gender rights, health, environmental justice, gender justice and equal rights and opportunities for access to education.

The E2022-2023 call, aimed at promoting the participation of Master's and doctoral degree students in cooperation actions, has resulted in the approval of five projects focusing on education, health and environmental justice in Angola, Brazil, Ecuador, Peru and Chile.

Supporting people with disabilities

The UAB Inclusion Service, which supports students with specific educational needs (PIUNE), attended 793 students this academic year. With the aim of guaranteeing equal opportunities for all students, the PIUNE provides guidance for future UAB students and promotes support measures for students with disabilities or specific educational needs while they are studying. In addition, PIUNE manages the adapted transport service on the Bellaterra campus and the walking companion service for people who have difficulty finding their way around.

As part of the MeetUp Inclusió programme of psycho-emotional guidance for students with Asperger's syndrome studying at the UAB, this year a talk on 'Autistic spectrum disorder: a university perspective' took place on 15 March and was organised by the Asperger's Association of Catalonia in conjunction with the PIUNE. The event provided tools to better understand students with ASD and raise awareness among UAB students about the difficulties that students with ASD face at university.



Welcome programme

This academic year 37 applicants for international protection residing in the University Vila (student residences) and 35 refugee students who are taking UAB degrees and postgraduate courses via the #UABRefugi 2022-2023 grant, all received support. The programme received participation from 13 UAB students who acted as social mentoring volunteers for young refugees.



UAB reorganises passenger transport services

This academic year the UAB carried out a reorganisation of the road transport service for people travelling to the campus to make it more efficient and sustainable. The intercity bus stops (for passengers coming from other towns) are now located at only two points, so that the main areas on campus can be reached on foot in less than 10 minutes. These two stops are both also connected to the UAB's campus buses, which will continue to circulate around the campus and stop at each faculty.

Highlight



Opening of the bicycle lane between Cerdanyola, the UAB and Badia

The bicycle lane connecting the UAB and Cerdanyola with the town of Badia del Vallès was opened on 15 March. This new *Bicivia* section connects Badia del Vallès with the car park located in front of the UAB Faculty of Arts and the University's cycle lane network. In future, this bicycle lane will connect to Barberà del Vallès, where it will link up with the 6th *Bicivia* lane, which in turn will connect Vallès with Besòs – passing through Cerdanyola, Ripollet, Montcada i Reixac, Santa Coloma de Gramanet and Sant Adrià de Besòs – and Barcelona.



13th Health and Sustainability Week

From 17 to 21 April, as part of the 13th Health and Sustainability Week, physical activity sessions, talks and awareness-raising activities related to food and mental health, environmental commitment and sustainable mobility were held, and visits were organised to the wastewater treatment plant and the future *RecicLab*. Workshops were also given on repairing clothes and household appliances.

Environmental management

This academic year it is worth highlighting the approval of the Healthy and Sustainable Campus Plan for 2023-2027 and the launch of the Sustainability Office, with the aim of comprehensively addressing all the challenges of the UAB campus in this area.

The new office, attached to the Directorate of Architecture and Logistics, covers everything from the protection of the natural environment and the monitoring of biodiversity on campus, to the dynamics related to the most efficient possible management of resources, such as energy, water and waste.

Projects to promote mobility committed to collective transport, the rationalisation of private vehicles and the use of bicycles, among other active mobility measures, also continued. According to the results of the survey on mobility habits among members of the UAB university community in 2023, the use of public transport increased from 52.6% in 2001 to 67% in 2023.

During the 2022-2023 academic year, various actions were carried out to move towards a more circular university, with waste prevention and reuse prioritised. For example, a study was carried out to implement improvements in the selective waste collection circuit, which will enable the waste generated on campus to be recycled and maximum value achieved.

It is also worth highlighting a 3.4% reduction in the overall energy consumption of the UAB in 2022 compared to 2019, which shows that the deployment of renewable energies at the UAB and energy efficiency and conservation measures have contributed directly to the reduction of overall energy consumption.



The Healthy and Sustainable Campus Plan for 2023-2027 is approved

The Healthy and Sustainable Campus Plan for the 2023-2027 period was approved on 28 June. The new plan is divided into 20 strategic objectives that cover the areas of community (active lifestyle, emotional wellbeing, healthy eating and leisure), campus (mobility, resources, waste, energy, water, territory and biodiversity) and knowledge (research, teaching, communication and learning).

One of the new cornerstones of the Plan is the creation of synergies between teaching, research and campus management in order to develop innovative, interdisciplinary and participatory projects that have a direct and applied impact on the entire university community, as well as on the physical space at the UAB.

University community



Large numbers of participants in *La Comunitària UAB*

This year *La Comunitària UAB* event was held twice, once in the autumn (5 October), to celebrate the start of the academic year, and once in the spring (20 April), coinciding with the 13th UAB Health and Sustainability Week. At both events a good number of stands were set up representing different campus associations to raise awareness of these entities and of the services available at the university. Numerous recreational and cultural events were held as part of the programme.

The UAB community

The campaign to raise awareness of the use of the Catalan language at university was the focus of this academic year's awareness-raising campaign. Under the slogan **'Don't touch my language'**, the university aimed to make explicit its commitment to the presence of the Catalan language in teaching and research, which is one of the points all Catalan public universities added to the Commitment against the Educational Crisis document, which was put forward by student movements and signed by the ACUP (the Catalan Association of Public Universities). The campaign permeated all institutional activities and played a key role in the dissemination and marketing campaign for this academic year.

The UAB, in compliance with Law 3/2022 on university conduct, approved the **UAB Code of Conduct** this academic year, setting in motion a participatory process open to the entire university community that resulted in a regulatory text that provides the university with a comprehensive system of protection and a guarantee of acceptable conduct based on a model that promotes a culture of peace and conflict prevention.

This year, the UAB changed the format of its main festival and launched ***La Comunitària UAB***. This is a cultural and recreational day with a new format, aimed at the whole university community, held twice during the academic year, in the autumn and in the spring. The main objective is to present a sample of all the activities offered by the university groups and associations.

Student participation

The UAB has a very active community and a network of associations that participate in the different social and cultural activities on campus. The UAB provides support through the Community Revitalisation Unit, which has a whole range of resources and equipment available to different university associations.

Specifically, support was provided to 76 groups registered in the Associations Directory, of which 15 were newly created, with 2,750 members. This year, the unit planned five training activities aimed exclusively at associations, for the first time. It also provided financial support for 80 activities organised by 44 groups and associations, and for seven student councils to participate in sector activities beyond the university.

A total of 189 people registered for training activities to become class representatives. Representing 427 academic groups or associations, 699 people are currently registered on the Class Representative List.

This year, 29 people were selected as equality representatives. This role is set out in the 4th Action Plan for Gender Equality at the UAB.

With regard to institutional representative bodies, it is worth highlighting that eight centres have active student councils, in which 342 people regularly participate. This year the UAB Student Council (CEUAB) renewed its members and held two plenary sessions.

Observatory for Equality

During the 2022-2023 academic year the Observatory for Equality carried out a diagnosis of the situation and the results of equality policies in order to draw up the 1st Plan for Equality in Labour Matters and the 5th Action Plan for Gender Equality at the UAB.

With regard to awareness-raising and prevention activities and campaigns, it is worth highlighting the creation of a leaflet entitled 'At the UAB we take action against gender-based violence', containing the information points and instruments available to the university community, and the workshop on 'Masculinities and young people: what can we men do about gender-based violence?' offered for the first time as a credit-based activity for undergraduate students. These activities also include the 18th institutional day in commemoration of International Women's Day, the fifth institutional day in commemoration of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities (see the section on "Social and environmental commitment" in this report), the International Day against Gender Violence, the International Day of Women and Girls in Science, and the International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia and Transphobia (IDAHOBIT).

Among the activities funded by the State Pact against Gender-Based Violence, this year the Observatory set up a stand and an information point at the two *La Comunitària UAB* events. There was also an interactive mural called 'This is gender violence', a symbolic run called 'Obstacles to an academic career', and the third and fourth editions of Fúria Fest, a music festival against gender violence.



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

On 22 March, the seventh awards ceremony for the best Bachelor's Degree Final Project with a gender perspective at the UAB was held in the auditorium of the Central Administration and Executive Building. This year, the Observatory, in cooperation with the Catalan Women's Institute, presented awards to 46 projects out of a total of 102 submitted.

Human Resources

This year the UAB continued with policies that prioritise actions to attract and retain talent and to stabilise and reduce the temporary nature of positions for PDI and PTGAS staff members and their opportunities for promotion.

Along with the Department of Universities, the Catalan universities agreed on a plan of action for generational renewal and against the precarious nature of jobs in public universities. This plan, which will be implemented over the next three years, is endowed with a total of 65 million euros, which will be allocated to the creation of full-time teaching posts and the improvement of PTGAS staffing levels. Among other measures, the plan will enable the UAB to offer 120 assistant lecturer positions for the 2023-2024 academic year.

The necessary modifications were made to the Academic Staff Regulations to adapt the profile of assistant lecturer to the entry into force of the LOSU legislation. Adaptations were also made in relation to adjunct lecturers and visiting lecturers. With regard to the regulation of the new post of substitute lecturer, the UAB joined the proposal for a common agreement between public universities to regulate the working conditions of substitute lecturers, without prejudice to the agreements that may be reached in the future within the framework of collective bargaining.

In 2022 the number of public employment positions for teaching and research staff at the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona rose to 95 permanent teaching posts, of which 14 were reserved for the recruitment of research staff from the Ramón y Cajal programme or from other state or international programmes

of excellence that have obtained an I3 certificate. In 2022, 17 places were also created for assistant lecturers as part of the *Serra Hùnter* programme.

Within the framework of the programme for the promotion of academic chairs, 70 places corresponding to 2021 and 2022 were offered this year.

This was a year of orientation towards improving quality for PTGAS staff and establishing the framework for working on a plan to strengthen the position of PTGAS staff members at the UAB, so that the needs of the university can be met.

The implementation of the new administrative support model for departments (UISAD) is now complete. The number of units in the university was reduced from 61 to 34 with the aim of increasing capacity and specialisation.

The 2022-2023 academic year also saw the implementation of the UAB Working from Home Plan, with the introduction of a control system, regulations for remote working and compulsory and voluntary courses for staff training. The agreements signed this year with the Governing Council and the PTGAS Committee facilitated the regulation of working from home, digital disconnection and the regulation of minimum hours.

With regard to the public offer of employment for PTGAS staff members at the UAB for 2022, 79 positions were made available, 41 for permanent state contracts (*funcionari*) and 38 for non-government staff (*laboral*). A public offer to stabilise 35 state contracts was also approved.

Highlight



International Women's Day

On 9 March, the 18th institutional day commemorating International Women's Day was held, with an event to recognise the work of Dr Pilar Carrasquer Oto, a lecturer from the Faculty of Political Science and Sociology and member of the QUIT research group, as an expert on the division of labour and the use of time by gender, as well as the analysis of the gender pay gap at universities.



UAB wins the Vives Network Debating League

The UAB team (consisting of students Pau Hernández del Àguila, Rocío Albert Zayas and Dominik Andràs) won the 2023 Vives Network Debating League, which took place from 27 to 29 March at the University of Valencia. The competition was attended by 10 teams from universities in the Valencian Country, Catalonia and the Balearic Islands, who debated the question 'Is tourism sustainable?' In addition, UAB student Dominik Andràs was also chosen as the best speaker in the competition.



The 'Don't touch my language' campaign is all over campus

The campaign to disseminate the slogan for this year's academic year, 'Don't touch my language', highlighted the richness of the Catalan language by on the walls, posters and banners around the UAB campus, as well as on merchandise.

Ombud's Office

In 2022 the Ombud's Office at the UAB attended a total of 161 complaints. The authors were Bachelor's degree students (64), postgraduate students (7), official Master's degree students (15), UAB Master's degree students (5), doctoral students (18), PDI (20), PTGAS (8) and people from outside the UAB (24). By area, the complaints can be divided into academic (58), administrative management (44), UAB institutional (26), economic (16) and work-related (15). The two specific issues that caused the most complaints were teaching and assessment (25) and the management of academic certificates (14).

The UAB Ombudsman, Maria Jesús Espuny, participated, during 2022, in the XIII Meeting of Ombudsman, Defenders and University Mediators of the Xarxa Vives Network, which took place at the University of Lleida on the 7th and 8th of July, and at the XXIV State Meeting of the State Conference of University Defenders (CEDU), which took place in Santiago de Compostela from 28 to 30 September.

Friends of the UAB

The Friends of the UAB association, which brings together members and former members of the university community and friends of the UAB, elected Dr Susanna Baqué as its new chair and renewed the association's board of directors.

This year saw the 20th Friends of the UAB Festival, an event to award prizes and pay tribute to the people who help to make the UAB a great university and who make the social impact of the activities carried out at the university more visible.

The winners of the Friend of the UAB Awards were Josep Oliver, a lecturer from the Department of Applied Economics and outstanding researcher and science communicator; Carlota Solé, the first female professor of Sociology at the UAB and a great expert on minorities and migration; the journalist Rosa Maria Calaf, a TV correspondent for the Spanish national TV network (TVE) in many destinations around the world and one of the founders of the Catalan TV3 network; and basketball player and philanthropist Ricky Rubio, who through his foundation has made significant donations to the Vall d'Hebron and Germans Trias i Pujol University Hospitals.

The UAB Collective Award went to the Computer Vision Centre, and the Friends of Libraries Award went to the Centre for Sociological Studies on Everyday Life and Work (QUIT).

UAB Alumni

UAB Alumni is a network of UAB graduates, a community of professionals with an international presence in more than a hundred countries, which aims to promote lifelong learning, professional training and the creation of networking spaces.

A highlight this year was the inauguration of the UAB Alumni East Coast Chapter in New York, a network that promotes an exchange of professional experiences and contacts between Catalans living on the East Coast of the United States who have studied at the UAB (see the section on "International projects" in this report).

Professional and personal relationships among the alumni community were encouraged through sectoral networks, spaces for exchange and contact between professionals. The established programme of face-to-face and online activities related to human resources and labour relations, the world of business and economics, geography and the field of biosciences continued. The programme was completed with a proposal for professional improvement webinars aimed at all students who have recently finished their studies, in coordination with the Employability Service. This year also saw the launch of the UAB Mentoring pilot programme to help students and former students discover their true potential and promote their professional careers.

The UAB also offers students a set of discounts on lifelong learning, with discounts on fees for the UAB's own postgraduate and Master's degrees and the official Master's degrees offered by the UAB Foundation. Access to library services is also available.



UAB takes 58 podiums at the Catalan University Championships

A total of 870 UAB students (420 women and 450 men) took part in the 38th year of the Catalan University Championships (CCU), where they won 58 medals: 26 gold, 17 silver and 15 bronze. In individual sports, the UAB excelled in swimming and taekwondo, while in team sports it came first in men's indoor football and handball and in women's volleyball.

Cultural activities

During the 2022-2023 academic year, 125 activities were organised in different cultural spaces on and off campus, including 18 educational activities, 4 exhibitions, 37 screenings, 20 theatre and dance performances and 38 musical performances. A total of 46 activities were held in the UAB theatre and 42 in the UAB cinema.

The most significant exhibitions were: *Més enllà de Tutankhamon* (Beyond Tutankhamon) curated by Josep Cervelló and José Lull, *Descartadas* (Rejected) curated by Marc Espín, and *Nazario*, organised as part of the Master's degree in the Management and Analysis of Artistic Heritage, which were held in the UAB Exhibition Hall.



Music took pride of place at the Christmas and spring concerts of the UAB Choir and Orchestra, organised in conjunction with the UB Pharmacy Choir and the Salvat Ensemble Orchestra with a performance of Mozart's Requiem. A concert was also given in tribute to the 50th anniversary of Mike Oldfield's Tubular Bells, performed by the group Opus One.

As for professional theatre and dance performances, the programme included *Del caos a l'èxtasi* (From Chaos to Ecstasy) a tribute to David Jou, professor

of Physics at the UAB, *Solitud a Stromboli* (Solitude in Stromboli) performed by Fina Rius and directed by Imma Colomer, and *El misantrop* de Molière (Molière's Misanthrope) by the company *El Vers Retrobat*, and the choreography *Stocoma*, by Clémentine and Lisard, which was used to commemorate International Dance Day. In the musical sphere, highlights included the performance of the Martín Burguez Trio as part of the programme at the Cerdanyola Blues Festival, a performance by Basque singer-songwriter Anari and one by Quartet Moana, who performed a repertoire of songs written by female composers.

Two productions by the Theatre Group and the Dance Group at the UAB also held premieres: a play called *Amor i Informació* (Love and Information), by Caryl Churchill, directed by Ricard Gázquez, and a new choreography called 'Rise', directed by Laia Santanach.

Eight educational activities were also organised, seven of which with academic recognition, which received around a hundred registrations, including participation in the Choir, the Chamber Choir, the Orchestra and the Permanent Theatre Group, as well as various workshops.

With regard to academic support activities, 58 activities were carried out, including the Inclusive Artistic Week, which was held as part of the commemoration of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, and various festivals organised by the departments. Finally, support was provided for 42 activities carried out by members of the university community.

Highlight



Award Ceremony for the 2023 Literary Awards

The 2023 Literary Awards, organised by the UAB and the Cerdanyola del Vallès Town Council, were held on 11 May. This year, Mireia Mejías won the 14th Caterina Albert Short Narrative Award for Young People; Alexandre Planas won the 18th Miquel Martí i Pol Poetry Award, and Eduard Roure won the 29th Valldaura – Pere Calders Memorial Novel Award.



Concert to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Tubular Bells at the Synchrotron

The Alba Synchrotron hosted a concert to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the release of Mike Oldfield's album Tubular Bells on 25 May. Performed by the Opus One orchestra, formed in part by UAB lecturers and former students, under the direction of Xavier Alern, lecturer in of Musicology at the UAB, the event attracted a live audience of 4,526 people on the UAB's YouTube channel.

Resource management and organisation

351.7

million euro budget
(budget spent in 2022)

Implementation of the budget

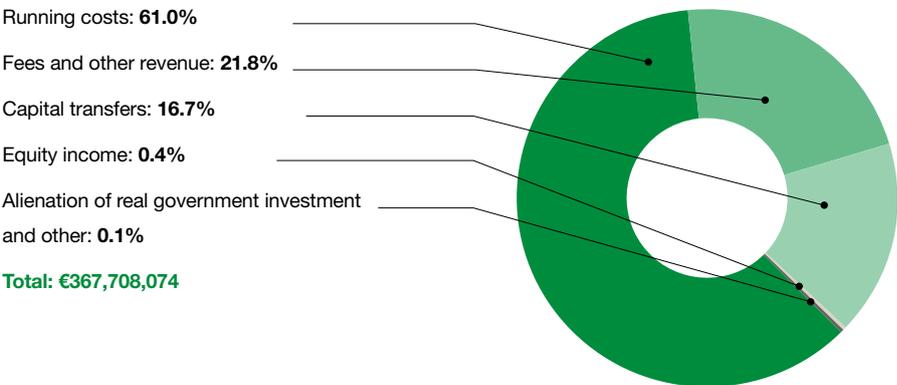
The implementation of the 2022 budget was marked by the recovery of activity at the university, which compensated for and overcame the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the cyberattack in previous years. In economic terms, the Government of Catalonia approved the 2022 budget on 29 December 2021, while, due to the cyberattack, the university itself approved the budget for the current year on 17 May 2022.

This year, 2022, current funding from the Government of Catalonia increased slightly with respect to the previous year. There were additional resources provided to fund more places on the Bachelor’s degree in Nursing for the 2022-2023 academic year. With regard to registration for the 2022-2023 academic year, official fee reductions continued to be applied, both for Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees which began in the 2020-2021 academic year, and which were compensated for by the Government of Catalonia as part of the payment made for this year.

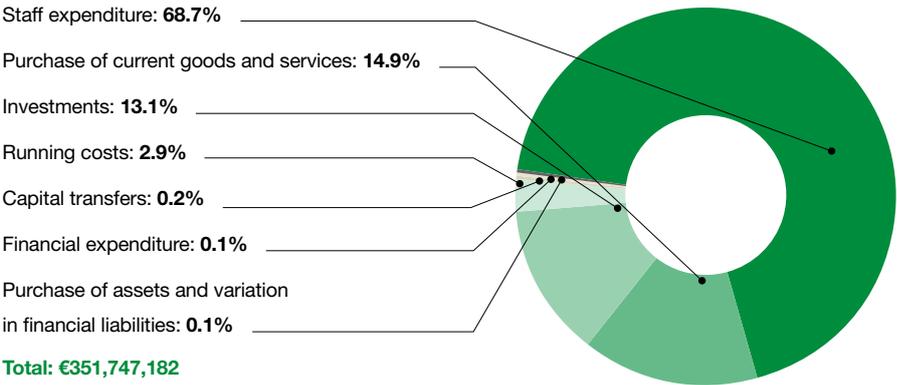
The main reason the university reached a budget surplus of 2.2 million euros is that all research and teaching activities on campus have now resumed.

During the 2022 financial year, apart from the impact of the cyber-attack at the beginning of the year, the treasury did not experience any further strain in relation to remaining payment obligations. The balance at the end of the year was 45.7 million euros for the

Settlement of the 2022 incoming budget. Rights recognised



Settlement of the 2022 outgoing budget. Obligations



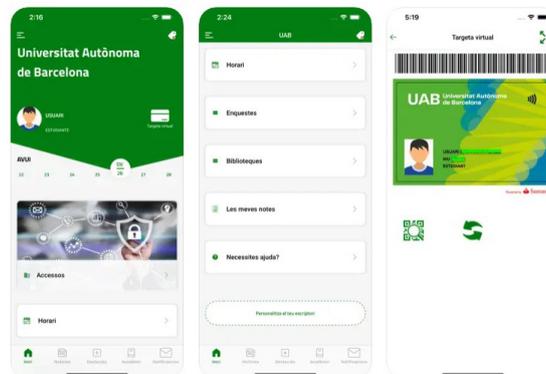
Note: the difference between the rights recognised (€367.708.074), part of which correspond to final and/or pluriennial income, and the obligations incurred (€351.747.182) does not determine the budget deficit or surplus for the year, as part of this income may have originated from previous years and may be spent in years subsequent to the one in which it was settled.

first time in many years. This was due to the collection at the end of the year of all the monies due from the Government of Catalonia, and the receipt of research

grants through European funding as well as the Recovery and Resilience Mechanism.

UAB launches an App that includes a smart university card (TUI)

This academic year the UAB launched a mobile application, App UAB, available to the entire university community, which is a replacement for the UAB Academic Mobile app. In addition to important public information about the university, such as the course catalogue, news and social networks, the new app includes a smart university card (TUI), a virtual access system to spaces and car parks, UAB libraries, notifications, a calendar and, depending on the user's profile, access to the Online Campus, academic grades and records or work-related procedures.



Organisation

As part of digital transformation process for management procedures at the university, this year the first call was published for the detection and prioritisation of digital transformation requirements. Specifically, the call responds to the need to have flexible management tools and procedures in place that are adaptable to change, that make it possible to improve the efficiency, flexibility and agility of internal management, and that facilitate transformation, to respond effectively and sustainably to constant changes in society. The call received a total of 34 applications from centres and 240 from central offices. The decision about which projects will be carried out will be made in alignment with the university's strategy, in a transparent manner and with the aim of optimising the available resources and increasing the success rate of the projects, as well as the impact on the satisfaction of internal and external users.

In order to adequately manage service requests and process incidents, the Jira ticket management application was implemented in 75 of the 80 processes selected to improve processing and traceability.

With regard to digitisation, it should also be noted that a new model of data governance was set up in order to create an adequate record of all the data generated in the different areas of university activity and to ensure interoperability.

Finally, in terms of organisation, it should be noted that the Working from Home Plan for PTGAS staff signed this academic year was deployed, and the

integrated departmental administrative support units (UISAD) are now in operation.

Internal Information System and Ethical Channel

This academic year the Governing Council approved the regulations for the functioning of the Internal Information System and the procedure for the functioning of the UAB Ethical Channel, with the aim of promoting and improving integrity, good governance and transparency, as well as good practices in public management, and promoting compliance with the law and the principles or rules of ethics and good governance and administration that must be followed by all members of the university community.

The approval of the Regulations and the implementation of the Ethical Channel aims to promote an appropriate response to behaviour that is against the law, the UAB Code of Ethics or the established principles or rules of good governance. The Internal Information System protects people who report infractions, and the Ethical Channel facilitates the communication of situations, actions or omissions that represent legal infractions or are contrary to the UAB Code of Ethics.

The implementation of the Internal Information System includes the updating of the university's Code of Ethics, which is the result of a participatory process open to the entire university community.

Management and organisation of the UAB Foundation

During the 2022-2023 academic year the UAB Foundation (FUAB) underwent internal reorganisation processes that led to changes to its academic organisation, including the consolidation of the FUAB Training School, and the restructuring of various foundations of the UAB Corporation. The university approved the dissolution of the Wassu UAB Foundation and the redirection of the project for the prevention of female genital mutilation within the framework of FAS activities, and Alumni ceased to be a standalone foundation and has now become part of the overall organisation at FUAB.

One of the most significant tasks achieved in the area of management was the conclusion of the negotiation of the addendum to the *Casa Convalescència* agreement with MIA St. Pau, which led to an increase of €680,000 in the annual rental fee for the building.

This year we celebrated the 20th anniversary of the university's Archival and Records Management studies and the 25th anniversary of Tourism studies. The different workshops organised fostered relationships with top companies in the fields of archiving, health and safety, and tourism and hospitality. Students and lecturers at the FUAB also received numerous awards and recognitions.

This year the UAB Foundation worked with the UAB and the Research Park on the CRM ODOO project, a platform to manage the relationship with the user or client, to provide good quality service and improve information and communication processes.



Campus UAB

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

University Hospitals

(Faculty of Medicine teaching units)

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

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