

Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona

Annual report for the 2023–2024 academic year



Annual Report for the 2023-2024 Academic Year

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Information in this report for the
2023-2024 academic year is accurate at 2024.

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

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Presentation



The Annual Report of the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona is a fundamental document when it comes to the ordered dissemination the main results of the university activity and the most important events of the year. It is a publication that contributes to accountability of the university to society and invites us to reflect on the milestones achieved in the pursuit of the university's mission.

Firstly, it should be noted that, the approval of the new Statutes completes a process of renewal of the university's basic regulations in accordance with Organic Law 2/2023 of the university system (LOSU). As a result of an extensive participatory process, the renewal of the Statutes has strengthened us as a community and will allow us to move towards a more modern university that is better positioned to face the challenges of the coming years and thus reaffirm our commitment to actively contribute to the progress of society.

This commitment is evident in the very remarkable results achieved by the UAB during the 2023–2024 academic year in the fields of teaching, research and transfer, and in the implementation of actions and programmes that have a clear impact on the region and that demonstrate the university's high degree of social responsibility.

The UAB is the top university in Spain to raise European funds in the first three years of the Horizon Europe programme, and this year it launched a programme to attract research talent to promote research excellence and its international positioning.

It also launched actions in the fields of innovation and entrepreneurship that have given visibility to the university's innovative ecosystem and have connected it with the challenges of the region and with the socio-economic fabric. The success of the first Innovation Week and the creation of

the Archimedes Accelerator are examples of this. The creation of the Open Science Portal and the approval of the Action Plan of the Citizen Science Hub also strengthen the collaboration between the university and society and bring them closer together. In addition, the launch of the Science Carriage and the Veus project represents an important step in the promotion and dissemination of scientific culture.

In terms of teaching, this year a plan for the development of micro-credentials was launched with a proposal for short training courses adapted to the demands of production. On the other hand, there are already five UAB schools participating in pilot tests to implement challenge-based learning in curricular teaching.

The UAB's Action Plan for Employability, approved this academic year, will allow us to coordinate initiatives so that students and graduates can face their professional future with the best guarantees for success. One of the fundamental points of the plan is to promote the organisation of activities and talks in the different centres of the campus. In addition, the Mentoring Programme, an initiative of UAB Alumni with the support of the Board of Trustees, has become an ideal means of encouraging the collaboration of UAB alumni in the professional futures of final-year students or recent graduates.

This year's celebration of the 20th edition of Ithaca Campus, which is an emblematic programme that has had a very positive impact on thousands of young people, reflects the importance and social and regional scope of the UAB's socio-educational, volunteering and cooperation programmes.

At the same time, the UAB's firm commitment to tackling the climate emergency and its effects has been crucial for the approval this academic year of an ambitious climate policy programme,

with the aim of reducing resource consumption, abandoning the use of fossil fuels and achieving climate neutrality by 2030.

Solidarity, cultural and social awareness activities are central to life on campus and represent the core of the two days of La Comunitària, which enjoyed the enthusiastic participation of the university's groups and associations.

It should be noted that this year's institutional campaign was dedicated to mental health. Under the slogan "Mental health is in play: let's win the game", several activities were programmed with the aim of destigmatising mental health problems and helping people to obtain tools that allow them to achieve recovery and improve their quality of life.

Commitment to the well-being of the community has also been essential in the promotion of inclusive and non-discrimination policies, and this year has led to the creation of the Equality and Diversity Service and the approval of the First Plan for Gender Equality in Labour Matters of the UAB.

Positioned among the top 200 universities in the world in the main international university rankings, the UAB has strengthened the impact of its activity in the generation, transmission and transfer of knowledge and has reaffirmed its international presence.

The drafting and approval of the UAB Statutes this academic year is a clear example of the strength of the university community and its involvement in the present and future of the university. This kind of shared work and understanding is, without a doubt, also reflected in the data and events brought together in this years annual report.

Javier Lafuente

Rector of the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona

Key figures for the 2023-2024 academic year

Courses	Total
Bachelor's degrees	109
Master's degrees	143
PhD programmes	68
Lifelong learning programmes (2022-2023)	457
UAB faculties and schools	15
Attached university schools	10

Teaching	Women	Men	Total
First-year Bachelor's degree students	4,318	2,746	7,064
Total Bachelor's degree students	16,781	10,633	27,414
Bachelor's degree graduates (2022-2023)	3,181	1,837	5,018
Master's degree students	2,010	1,204	3,214
Master's degree graduates (2022-2023)	1,370	812	2,182
First-year Bachelor's degree students in affiliated centres	892	619	1,511
Total Bachelor's degree students in affiliated centres	3,179	2,122	5,301
Bachelor's degree graduates in affiliated centres (2022-2023)	644	354	998
Master's degree students in affiliated centres	434	286	720
Master's degree graduates in affiliated centres (2022-2023)	284	167	451
Lifelong learning students (2022-2023)	4,354	2,312	6,666

Research (2023)	Women	Men	Total
Research groups recognised by the Government of Catalonia			177
Departments			57
Study and research centres			19
UAB research institutes			9
Associated research centres			39
PhD students	2,621	2,132	4,753
Doctoral theses defended (2022-2023)	383	317	700
Articles published in indexed journals Articles (Scopus, Elsevier)			5,171
Priority patent applications			9
Resources destined for research (in €M)			141.5

Internationalisation	Women	Men	Total
Foreign Bachelor's degree students	917	532	1,449
Foreign official Master's degree students	702	420	1,122
Foreign UAB Master's degree students (2022-2023)	574	363	937
Foreign PhD students	999	838	1,837
Outgoing UAB students on exchange programmes	978	359	1,337
Incoming students on UAB exchange programmes	1,098	484	1,582
Foreign students on the Study Abroad programme			2,446
Foreign teaching and research staff	202	205	407

Human resources (2023)	Women	Men	Total
Teaching and research staff	1,932	2,318	4,250
Trainee research staff	275	243	518
Administration and services staff	1,453	844	2,297

Budget (2023)	Total
Expenditure budget (in €M)	379,8

Notes:

- The figures for the 2023-2024 academic year are from 7 June 2024.
- The number of full-time equivalents Bachelor's degree students is 25,861.
- 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 409.
- The number of full-time equivalent teaching and research staff is 2,854.

Governance and institutional activity



Opening ceremony of an academic year dedicated to mental health

On 28 September, the auditorium of the Rectorat hosted the opening ceremony of the 2023-2024 academic year. Professor Joan Deus of the Department of Clinical and Health Psychology at the UAB, gave the lecture “Breaking barriers: mental health and well-being in play, a priority for the new millennium?”, with which the UAB launched the institutional campaign “Mental health is in play: let’s win the game”. The institutional event featured speeches by Esther Zapater, General Secretary of the UAB; Tania Nadal, Chair of the UAB Board of Trustees; Carlos Cordón, Mayor of Cerdanyola del Vallès; Javier Lafuente, Rector of the UAB, and Joaquim Nadal, Minister of Research and Universities.

Activity of the governing bodies

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

The Senate has met for two ordinary sessions: on 20 December 2023 and 20 March 2024. In these sessions, the Rector’s annual report on the university’s general policy lines was approved and the annual report of the Ombuds Officer, the annual report of the Observatory for Equality and the annual report on activities in the field of university ethics were presented. In addition, at the extraordinary session of 30 May 2024, together with the approval of the amendments to the preliminary draft of the Statutes, an institutional declaration on the systematic violation of human rights in Palestine was approved.

The Governing Council met for seven ordinary sessions. 103 agreements were adopted and points of information, debate and approval were discussed. The following are highlighted:

- Approval and submission to the Board of Trustees of the basic criteria for the preparation of the 2024 UAB Budget, the draft Budget of the UAB for the financial year 2024, and of the report on the economic report, the balance sheet, the income statement and the settlement of the Budget of the UAB corresponding to the financial year ended 31 December 2023.
- Approval of general regulations and plans of the UAB in the following areas: Information Security Policy, Regulations for the Registration of the UAB Associations Network, UAB Researchers Incorporation Programme, Regulations for Access to and Use of Open Innovation Laborato-

ries, Regulations on Equal Opportunities for Students with Specific Educational Support Needs, Protocol for Curricular Adjustments for Students with Specific Educational Support Needs.

New statutes of the UAB

During this academic year, the process of drafting the new UAB statutes was carried out, deriving from the coming into force of Organic Law 2/2023, of 22 March, on the university system (LOSU). In September, four working groups were created, made up of people from different levels, who worked with the aim of making proposals for articles corresponding to their area of reflection. The proposals of the groups were transferred to the Statute Drafting Committee. This committee carried out its work during 25 sessions, 17 of which took place before the start of the participatory process that was open to the entire university community, which took place from 16 February to 14 March 2024. The preliminary draft of the Statutes by the Drafting Committee, following the analysis of the contributions presented during the participatory process, was delivered to the members of the Senate so that they could present amendments, which were discussed and approved in the extraordinary session of the Senate on 30 May 2024. Finally, the draft Statutes were approved on 19 June 2024 in a new extraordinary session of the Senate and have been delivered to the Government of Catalonia for final approval.

Board of Trustees

The 2023-2024 academic year was particularly marked by the application of the Organic Law of the University System (LOSU) and the approval of the UAB Statutes. The Board of Trustees participated in the process of defining the UAB Statutes and also began internal work to begin to define how to respond to the new tasks entrusted to it by the LOSU, including ensuring compliance with ethical principles and academic integrity, as well as anti-fraud guidelines, that they must guide the teaching and research; to promote the capture of economic resources, and to prepare, approve and evaluate a three-year action plan aimed primarily at promoting interrelations and cooperation between the University, former students and the cultural, professional, scientific, business, social and regional environment, as well as institutional development.

The interconnection actions of companies, society and the university occupied a significant part of the procedures and meetings held during this academic year, and it working groups were set up, beyond the University, Society and Business Committee, to work more closely with the university to contribute knowledge and contacts. An example of this is the provision of meeting spaces for the university to inform local companies of its strategic projects, as well as the joint collaboration of the Board of Trustees and the UAB in the design of the micro-credentials pilot project. The Board of Trustees also promoted



different projects, providing economic collaboration and supporting them with ideas and contacts. The total budget for projects promoted in the 2023-2024 academic year was 84,644 euros and they were carried out within the framework of the University, Society and Business programme.

With the aim of improving innovation and transfer at the university, this year the Board of Trustees continued to contribute to the Hub B30 project, aimed at transferring knowledge to the business fabric and creating collaboration networks. The Board of Trustees also continued to collaborate with the UAB to promote the field of sport at the university and promoted initiatives aimed at promoting equality.

In addition to all the actions carried out within the framework of the University, Society and Business programme (see the chapter on “Social and environmental commitment”), the Board of Trustees used the powers attributed to it by law in the areas of university community, programming and management, and economics. Specifically, during this academic year, a total of 23 meetings of the commissions and eight plenary sessions were held, and 266 agreements made.

Approval of the new statutes of the UAB

On 19 June, the Senate approved the new statutes of the UAB by a large majority of 83%. The UAB becomes the first public university in Catalonia to approve new statutes after the approval of the Organic Law of the University System (LOSU), in 2023.

Recognition of UAB teaching staff

This year, **Antoni Serra Ramoneda**, retired professor of the Department of Business and former rector of the UAB, was awarded an honorary doctorate by the University of the Balearic Islands in recognition of his scientific and social merits and links with the Balearic Islands.



Sandra Nogué, a researcher from the Department of Animal Biology, Plant Biology and Ecology of the UAB and CREA, was awarded the 2023 City of Barcelona Award in the science category.

The Government of Catalonia approved the award of the Narcís Monturiol Medal for scientific and technological merit to **Prof. Antonio Villaverde**, Professor of Microbiology in the Department of Genetics and Microbiology.

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

Josep Maria Vallès, former rector and retired professor of Political Science at the UAB, has been awarded the 2023 Justice Prize, the highest distinction awarded by the Catalan government in this field.

Highlight



Alliance of public universities in the metropolitan region of Barcelona

On 24 November, the rector of the UAB, Javier Lafuente, the rector of the UB, Joan Guàrdia, the rector of the UPC, Daniel Crespo, and the rector of the UPF, Laia de Nadal, presented the Barcelona Knowledge Alliance (BKA) at the Torre Glòries in Barcelona. This platform establishes a framework for collaboration to promote culture, science and knowledge transfer and to achieve greater international visibility and improve the international positioning of the universities that are part of it for the benefit of the city of Barcelona, the metropolitan region and Catalonia.



The Vives Network of Universities awards the Medal of Honour to Gemma Rigau

On 10 July, Gemma Rigau, honorary lecturer in the Department of Catalan Philology at the UAB, received the Medal of Honour from the Vives Network of Universities at an event held at the Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya. Professor Joan Mascaró, also an honorary member of the Department of Catalan Philology at the UAB, gave Rigau's laudatio. The award recognises professional career and commitment to science, culture and society.



The UAB benefits from an interdisciplinary campus with a wide and innovative range of studies, which has demonstrated a great capacity to attract students and a high level of employability and insertion of graduates in the labour market.

The 2023-2024 academic year closed with the approval of the **Plan to increase teaching in Catalan at the UAB (PIDOC UAB)**, a language planning instrument that should allow the UAB to achieve an increase in teaching in Catalan language provided for in the Plan for the strengthening of the Catalan language in the university and research system (PEC), approved in 2022 by the Interuniversity Council of Catalonia. The Plan is the result of the analysis of data on the language of instruction for Bachelor's and Master's degree subjects and its main objectives are to ensure that the offer of Bachelor's degree studies supported by public funds can be taken in Catalan, that there is a reasonable balance between Catalan and other languages in the field of postgraduate studies, and that Catalan is the majority language in professionalising or qualifying Master's degrees for regulated professions.

In terms of the UAB's language use policy, it is worth mentioning the modification of the UAB's Academic Regulations to regulate the language in which the assessment tests of the subjects must be written.

Taking into account social demand, in the 2023-2024 academic year the UAB completed the expansion of the number of places for degrees in Medicine and Nursing which had begun in previous years and boosted the increase in teaching spaces. The UAB therefore announced a tender for the construction

of a new building to house the Faculty of Psychology and the Institute of Neurosciences, which will also contribute to consolidating the UAB's position in the field of health.

In addition, this year the competition to rehabilitate the old **Artèxtil** factory in Sabadell was decided, and the building will host in the future the Nursing and Medicine studies of the Parc Taulí Teaching Unit of the Faculty of Medicine.

It should also be noted that this academic year the collaboration between the UAB and the UB for the joint training of students in the field of health began. On 5 and 6 July, the facilities of the UAB - Casa Convalescència hosted the first **UAB & UB Med Summer School**, for students between the third and sixth year of the Bachelor's degrees in Medicine of the UAB and the UB.

On the other hand, the UAB launched a plan for the development of **micro-credentials**, which should facilitate the design of short training courses that respond to the demand of production for new specific skills and abilities.

With regard to the introduction of **challenge-based learning** in curricular teaching, five schools are already participating in pilot tests to implement it. In addition, a call has been made for entities and institutions to submit proposals for projects that can be carried out by UAB students using the service learning (SL) and challenge-based learning (CBL) Methodologies.

Finally, it should be noted that this year the **UAB Action Plan for Employability** was approved, which should make it possible to promote coordinated initia-

tives so that students and graduates can face the future with the best chances of success. In this area, the good results obtained in the 2023 survey on labour market outcomes for graduates, coordinated by AQU Catalunya, should be highlighted, with employment rates at the UAB averaging 90% for Bachelor's degrees and 91% for Master's degrees.

Bachelor's degree studies

The UAB has a consolidated offer of 109 Bachelor's degrees, covering all areas of knowledge. 91 bachelor's degrees are offered in the UAB'S own centres and 18 in affiliated centres. The offer includes 14 double degrees and 5 interuniversity degrees. There are 12 degrees that are mostly taught in English.

In the 2023-2024 academic year, two innovative Bachelor's degrees at the UAB - the Bachelor's degree in **Sociocultural Gender Studies** and the Bachelor's degree in **Smart and Sustainable City Management** - passed from 180 ECTS credits (three years) to 240 ECTS credits (four years) to adapt to Royal Decree 822/2021. The change also occurred in the Bachelor's degree in **Bioinformatics**, taught jointly by the UAB, the UB, the UPC and the UPF. In addition, the renewed curricula of the Bachelor's degrees in **Nanoscience and Nanotechnology, Archaeology and Environmental Sciences** were launched.

The number of new students in the 2023-2024 academic year remained over 7,000 (7,064) in UAB centres, with a slight decrease of 1.8% compared to

New undergraduate students, academic year 2023-2024

Centre	Enrolled students				
	Women		Men		Total
UAB centres	4,318	61.1 %	2,746	38.9 %	7,064
Affiliated centres	892	59.0 %	619	41.0 %	1,511
Total	5,210	60.8 %	3,365	39.2 %	8,575

Bachelor's degree students registered in UAB-specific centres, academic year 2023-2024

Centre	Registered students				
	Women		Men		Total
School of Engineering	579	21.7 %	2,085	78.3 %	2,664
Faculty of Economics and Business		45.3 %	1,592	54.7 %	2,908
Faculty of Biosciences	1,275	68.3 %	591	31.7 %	1,866
Faculty of Sciences	958	39.6 %	1,459	60.4 %	2,417
Faculty of Education Sciences	1,893	84.8 %	338	15.2 %	2,231
Faculty of Communication Sciences		65.0 %	613	35.0 %	1,753
Faculty of Political Science and Sociology	685	60.6 %	446	39.4 %	1,131
Faculty of Law		70.6 %	583	29.4 %	1,983
Faculty of Arts and Humanities		61.4 %	1,423	38.6 %	3,689
Faculty of Medicine		73.7 %	748	26.3 %	2,839
Faculty of Psychology		82.7 %	306	17.3 %	1,768
Faculty of Translation and Interpreting		79.9 %	255	20.1 %	1,271
Faculty of Veterinary Medicine	700	78.3 %	194	21.7 %	894
Total	16,781	61.2 %	10,633	38.8 %	27,414

Bachelor's degree students registered in affiliated centres, academic year 2023-2024

Centre	Registered students				
	Women		Men		Total
Eina. University Centre of Art and Design of Barcelona	337	71.7 %	133	28.3 %	470
FUAB Training School	510	54.4 %	428	45.6 %	938
Escola Massana. Municipal Art and Design Centre	241	77.5 %	70	22.5 %	311
Gimbernat University School	968	58.8 %	678	41.2 %	1,646
Sant Pau University Nursing School	287	86.7 %	44	13.3 %	331
Terrassa University Nursing and Occupational Therapy School	745	85.5 %	126	14.5 %	871
Salesiana de Sarrià University School	91	12.4 %	643	87.6 %	734
Total	3,179	60.0 %	2,122	40.0 %	5,301

Highlight



Arrenca el projecte per fer realitat el Campus Urbà de Ciències de la Vida i la Salut

El 18 de juny es va presentar la proposta guanyadora del concurs per adequar l'edifici Artèxtil com a futura seu del Campus Urbà de Ciències de la Vida i la Salut. Es tracta del projecte de Vivas Arquitectos i Tomàs Morató, que destaca per la funcionalitat, la bona contextualització amb l'entorn i la ciutat, la qualitat arquitectònica, la sostenibilitat i l'eficiència energètica. La previsió és que les obres comencin el primer semestre del 2026 i s'acabin el 2027.

El Campus Urbà de Ciències de la Vida i la Salut és fruit de la col·laboració que mantenen l'Ajuntament de Sabadell, la UAB, la Corporació Parc Taulí i la Fundació FUNDIT-ESDI. L'activitat de formació, recerca i transferència es distribuirà en una superfície de 7.625 m², dels quals 2.787 es destinaran a la Unitat Docent Parc Taulí de la Facultat de Medicina de la UAB.



Nou màster interuniversitari en Enginyeria de Semiconductors i Disseny Microelectrònic

El 4 d'abril, a la seu del Departament d'Empresa i Treball de la Generalitat de Catalunya, es va presentar el nou màster interuniversitari en Enginyeria de Semiconductors i Disseny Microelectrònic. El màster serà ofert per la UAB, la UPC, la UB i la URV, amb la col·laboració estratègica de l'IMB-CNM-CSIC, i es posarà en marxa el 2024-2025. S'impartirà en anglès i l'objectiu és formar la propera generació de professionals en aquest àmbit estratègic.

Graduate Programmes and Students

		Students				
	Programmes	Women		Men		Total
Official postgraduate (2023-2024)						
Master's degrees in UAB-specific centres	117	2,010	62.5 %	1,204	37.5 %	3,214
Master's degrees in affiliated centres	26	434	60.3 %	286	39.7 %	720
PhD programmes	68	2,621	55.1 %	2,132	44.9 %	4,753
TOTAL	211	5,065	58.3 %	3,622	41.7 %	8,687
UAB postgraduate course (2022-2023)						
UAB-specific Master's degrees	133	1,570	66.6 %	786	33.4 %	2,356
Postgraduate diplomas	74	677	71.1 %	275	28.9 %	952
Specialisation courses	250	2,107	62.7 %	1,251	37.3 %	3,358
TOTAL	457	4,354	65.3 %	2,312	34.7 %	6,666

Postgraduate studies

2022-2023 (7,180). 86% of new students had chosen the UAB as their first choice in the university pre-registration process. In the affiliated centres, the number of new students exceeded 1,500 (1,511), 2.5% more than the previous year.

Total registrations for 2023-2024 were very similar to those of the previous year, but the upward trend of recent years was maintained. Therefore there were 27,414 students registered in UAB centres, 0.4% more than in 2022-2023 (27,301), and 5,301 who have done so in affiliated centres, 1.2% more than in 2022-2023 (5,236).

With regard to the number of graduates in the 2022-2023 academic year, the data have been very similar to those of the previous year, with differences of less than 1%: 5,018 people graduated from UAB centres (4,982 in 2021-2022) and 998 from affiliated centres (1,001 in 2021-2022).

In relation to the offer approved for the 2024-2025 academic year, it is worth highlighting the **dual mention** of the Bachelor's degree in **Business and Technology** taught by the Faculty of Economics and Business at the Sabadell campus of the UAB, which consists of carrying out part of the studies in a company or institution. On the other hand, the interuniversity degree in **Bioinformatics** (UAB-UB-UPC-UPF) will be offered at a public price. And, as part of the process of remodelling the UAB's Bachelor's degrees, the renewed Bachelor's degree in **Social and Cultural Anthropology** will be offered next year.

In the 2023-2024 academic year, the UAB has maintained a consolidated offer of 143 university Master's degrees, covering all areas of knowledge and training pathways (professional, research and specialisation). 117 Master's degrees are offered in UAB centres and 26 in affiliated centres. It should be noted that this is a highly internationalised offer: 27% of official Master's degrees are offered in English and 35% of students are foreigners.

Of the new proposals for this academic year, noteworthy are the start of the **Erasmus Mundus master's degree in Morphological Phenotyping of Human Disease Models (MorphoPHEN)**, coordinated by the UAB, and the good reception of the new official Master's degree in **Archival and Information Governance**, offered by the FUAB Training School, with 44 new students.

Registrations for official Master's degrees have increased by 4% overall, both in terms of new admissions and total registration. The number of new students was 3,057 (2,945, in 2022-2023) and the total number of students overall was 3,934 (3,781, in 2022-2023).

During this academic year, the UAB participated in the creation of the new official interuniversity Master's degree in **Semiconductor Engineering and Microelectronic Design**, which will be launched in the 2024-2025 academic year, jointly promoted with three other Catalan public universities (UPC, UB and URV) and with the strategic collaboration of the IMB-CNM-CSIC. The aim is to contribute to the training of professionals in a field that the European Union considers critical.

In the field of **lifelong learning**, during the 2022-2023 academic year, the UAB offered 133 UB-specific Master's degrees and 324 postgraduate and specialisation programmes, which enabled more than 6,500 professionals to expand and update their knowledge.

In the 2023-2024 academic year the UAB drew up a new plan to introduce **micro-credentials** as a new training modality, through which a set of pilot microcredentials are proposed to be implemented by the School for Continuing Education. The plan is supported by the Ministry of Science, Innovation and Universities' Microcreds Plan, with a grant linked to Next Generation funding.

Microcredentials are short, specific training periods that are designed primarily to respond to the societal demand for new skills and abilities, and more specifically to the changing demands of the labor market. It is for this reason that the need and definition of microcredentials is done collaboratively with representative actors of the territory. Micro-credentials allow professionals to acquire specific knowledge and obtain a certificate without having to take a full academic program. At the same time, they are cumulative; that is, the sum of microcredentials can lead to the recognition of a higher-ranking program (a postgraduate and even a Bachelor's degree).

The offer of MOOCs on the Coursera platform has grown significantly thanks to the launch of 11 new courses. In total, 73 courses are offered, which have had 169,833 enrolments, and in 26,802 cases the training has been completed.



ECIU University students meet at the UAB to complete a challenge and a micromodule

From 1 to 5 July, students from the UAB and six other universities of the ECIU University worked together to solve the “TechFit Challenge”, offered by the UAB Physical Activity Service and the Sports Service of the University of Trento, and the “Fortress Europe” micromodule, offered by the Fundació Autònoma Solidària of the UAB. After months of working virtually, they met at the UAB in person to learn first-hand about the activity carried out on campus and present the proposed final solutions.

Challenge-based learning

Challenge-based learning (CBL) and service learning (SL) are two methodologies that seek to put the university at the service of society and, in a single project, connect student learning with the resolution of real challenges and needs. The UAB works to promote these methodologies of meaningful learning that are connected to the territory so that students can complement their training by solving social and environmental needs in their environment.

Challenges UAB coordinates and centrally supports all processes related to the management of social and environmental challenges that are worked on through CBL and SL and with the co-creation of knowledge with the different agents of the territory. In order for the challenges to be real, it should be noted that this year a call was made for entities and institutions to communicate their needs and challenges or those of the groups with which they work.

With regard to the CBL methodology, specifically, throughout this academic year progress continued to incorporate it into curricular teaching through different pilot centres. The faculties of Education Sciences, Psychology and Veterinary Medicine joined the **CBL pilot programme**, which started last year in the faculties of Biosciences, and Arts and Humanities. More than 40 members of the teaching staff of the three new centres have been creating the corresponding working groups and receiving the necessary training and support to implement the CBL in individual subjects and Bachelor's and Master's degree final projects.

With regard to the activities to promote **service learning (SL)** at the UAB, it is worth mentioning the training “I tutor a TFG in SL, how do I do it? Exploring supervised teaching committed to the territory”, organised by the UAB Service Learning Office, which took place in November. The aim of the training was to provide attendees with practical tools and the necessary knowledge to take on the role of tutors for bachelor's degree final projects with the SL methodology, as well as to learn how these projects are developed at the UAB. The training had 142 attendees. It is worth noting the high participation of the faculties of Medicine, Education Sciences, Veterinary, Law, and Arts and Humanities.

Also, the **ECIU University** has continued to expand the training offer of **challenges** worked on with CBL methodology and **micromodules** for the university community of the member universities, the so-called **ECIU Learning Opportunities (ELO)**. The UAB has led four of these challenges, with the participation of more than fifty students from different disciplines and universities in the consortium. The UAB has offered seven micromodules. In addition, ECIU University has reached a very significant milestone within the framework of the European Universities initiative: it was the first alliance to issue **digital micro-credentials**, through the EDC (European Digital Credentials) platform, which detail the competences obtained during the learning process, including the level of expertise and the ESCO, and can be stored on the Euro-pass platform.

Highlight



The UAB hosts the 1st Challenge-Based Learning Conference

On 17 May, the UAB hosted the first Challenge-Based Learning Conference, which brought together nearly 80 people who attended different sessions on this methodology based on real experiences. The conference included, among other activities, a round table on practical experiences of CBL at the UAB, two parallel sessions and a session in which UAB and ECIU University Challenges were presented to the attendees.



5th Annual Service Learning Day of the UAB

On 25 April, the Faculty of Translation and Interpreting of the UAB hosted the 5th annual SL Conference of the UAB, on the service learning projects carried out at the UAB. The conference included a round table, a session for the co-creation of SL projects and an associations fair, and nearly 200 people participated. During the event, prizes were awarded to the best Bachelor's degree final project using SL methodology of the UAB, convened by the Fundació Autònoma Solidària.



First Careers Day of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine

On April 18, the first **Careers Day of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine**, took place, organised to give visibility to the different job opportunities and work fields in the field. The future professionals were able to have direct contact with the 22 companies and organisations in the veterinary sector and in food science and technology participating in the event. The meeting also served to exchange information on current training and professional needs, as well as on technological advances in the fields of veterinary medicine and food science.

Employability and entrepreneurship

This year, the **UAB Action Plan for Employability** was approved. The plan is the result of a process of reflection in which all the UAB agents involved in the employability system participated. The plan aims to make it possible to promote coordinated initiatives so that students and graduates can face their professional futures with the best chances of success.

One of the objectives of the plan is to promote the organisation of employment activities and talks in schools, which show students the professional options available to them and bring them closer to companies in related sectors. This year, in addition to the **MEMEnginy** technology fair (School of Engineering), which has reached its tenth year, and the **Engega't** fair (Faculty of Political Science and Sociology), it is worth mentioning the launch of the first **Careers Day of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine**.

The UAB Employability Service has continued to support the employment of students with career guidance activities and the management of job offers and internship agreements. Thus, throughout the course, 87 group career guidance activities have been carried out, with the participation of 2,617 people, and 1,761 internship agreements and 3,179 job offers and extracurricular internships have been managed.

Second-year UAB students from nine UAB faculties were called upon this year to take the **key competence test**

developed by Barcelona Activa: a self-diagnosis test that provides the level of competence and identifies up to 21 relevant competences in the current labour market. Once the results have been analysed, the UAB and Barcelona Activa will jointly design training itineraries in competences that will be deployed during 2024-2025.

In terms of promotion and support of entrepreneurship, 44 group activities were carried out, with a total of 577 attendees. Workshops, talks, lecture **series**, such as the "Female Leadership" cycle, organised with the University-Business Programme of the Faculty of Economics and Business, and competitions to stimulate student creativity, such as the fourth year of the **Emprèn Pitch individual micro-presentation of projects** competition and the new **Desaf· AI** to find solutions to social and environmental challenges with the help of artificial intelligence.

The **AI Challenge competition** brought together UAB students and alumni with the aim of devising innovative solutions to contribute to the SDGs "Clean Water and Sanitation" and "Gender Equality". They did so following the Design Thinking methodology and with the help of artificial intelligence tools (such as Groq, Perplexity or Leonardo.AI) to strengthen the project ideation process. A jury selected four winning teams, two for each challenge, based on the level of creativity, feasibility and impact of the proposals.

Visionaris, the new program to promote entrepreneurship

This academic year, **Visionaris** the UAB's programme to promote the entrepreneurial mindset, was launched. Visionaris is aimed especially at UAB students, but it is open to the entire university community. It is a course that aims to acquire cross-cutting entrepreneurship skills, such as leadership, creativity and risk management. This objective is achieved through the work of a project contributed by the student, the teaching of methodologies such as Design Thinking and Lean Startup to validate the feasibility of the project, and mentoring. Under the slogan "Enterprise today for the world of tomorrow", this initiative also aims to promote the creation, from the campus, of entrepreneurial projects with an impact that take root in the territory.

People who complete all the training receive mentoring from market specialists in the sector for their project. In addition, the three best projects have the mentoring of specialists to develop a first prototype and can participate in the UAB stand at 4YFN, the MWC's start-up fair.

The course is free and allows the recognition of 3 ECTS credits for undergraduate students who complete it. Visionaris is an initiative of Emprèn UAB with the support of the Cerdanyola del Vallès City Council.



Success of the new Mentoring programme

On 8 July, the closing ceremony of the UAB Mentoring programme took place. The programme is an initiative of UAB Alumni with the collaboration of the Board of Trustees, through which graduates from the university with professional experience in team or project leadership accompany final-year students or those who have recently graduated to support them in their personal development and boost their professional careers. Last year the Mentoring programme was launched as a pilot plan and this year it has brought together 75 pairs of mentors and students from all faculties. The students presented the action plans that they had prepared at the closing ceremony.

Highlight



2nd Awards for the Best Final Degree Project Related to Social Entrepreneurship

On 21 February, the UAB presented the second Awards for the Best Final Degree Project Related to Social Entrepreneurship, which for the 2022-2023 academic year went to Marina Sánchez, a graduate in Medicine, and Gerard Viladrosa, a graduate in Business Administration and Management in English. The awards were presented within the framework of the User Representation Committee of the Employability Service. The aim of the awards, which have the support of the UAB Board of Trustees, is to promote the production of final degree projects on this subject and to give visibility and recognition to students with entrepreneurial concerns.



School of Engineering's First Hackathon

On the weekend of 18 and 19 May, the first year of Took place. The hackathon is organised by the School of Engineering and brought together students and professionals from various disciplines and universities to solve real challenges proposed by the companies NTT DATA, Ferrocarrils de la Generalitat de Catalunya and Caixa Enginyers. For more than 32 hours straight, participants had the opportunity to demonstrate their ingenuity and technical skills in a practical and collaborative learning environment, in which they worked with specialists from the companies.

International educational projects

Within the framework of the Erasmus+ programme, in 2023 a total of 21 educational projects with the participation of the UAB were granted, with a total of €1,279,102.86 obtained. It is worth mentioning the participation in the Key Action 2 - Cooperation Partnerships call, with 15 projects selected: four coordinated by the UAB and 11 in which the UAB is a partner. The projects coordinated by the UAB are the following: **"Higher education action response for trauma support"** (HEARTS), led by María Esther Fernández, lecturer in the Department of Sociology; **"Language and Translation - Literacy in digital environments and resources"** (LT-LIDER), headed by Pilar Sánchez, from the Department of Translation and Interpreting and East Asian Studies; **"Developing AI Tools for Sharing Intelligence about the Local Labour Markets of VET graduates"** (AIVET), led by F. Xavier Rambla, from the Department of Sociology, and **"InCreasing ORal Comprehension through an InnoVative diagnostic and training digital tool for Romance Languages"** (CORALIVE), led by Lorraine Baque, from the Department of French and Romance Philology.

Within the framework of Erasmus Mundus actions, three Erasmus Mundus Master's degrees in which the UAB were renewed: **Europhotonics**, **Mundus MAPP** and **GLOBED**. The renewal of GLOBED, which is a two-year European Master's degree specialising in the complex relationship between education policy and internal development, has made it the first Erasmus Mundus

Master's degree coordinated by a Spanish university to renew for the third time. On the other hand, it is worth mentioning the approval of the **Greenenergy** project, coordinated by the UAB, aimed at developing a joint Master's degree in EU green energy law.



The UAB, recognised by the Erasmus Mundus programme

The UAB has been awarded by the European Commission for the path and results achieved over the twenty years of history of the Erasmus Mundus high-level interuniversity Master's programme. The award was presented during the conference "Beyond Borders and Boundaries: 20 years of Erasmus Mundus", held on 27 and 28 May in Brussels. The UAB has participated continuously in the programme since it was launched. Currently, the University offers nine Erasmus Mundus Master's degrees, two of which it coordinates: GLOBED (Education Policies for Global Development) and MorphoPHEN (Human Diseases Models Morphological Phenotyping).



Carles Górriz receives the 6th UAB Award for Teaching Excellence

On 7 May, the sixth UAB Teaching Excellence Award was presented as part of the 6th UAB Teaching Innovation Conference. This year Dr. Carles Górriz, of the Department of Private Law, was distinguished for his institutional involvement, the innovative nature of his teaching and the very favourable results he has obtained in the assessment of the students. The event was chaired by the Vice-Rector for Studies and Quality, Tatiana Rovira, and was also attended by Montserrat López, president of the Academic Committee of the UAB Board of Trustees, and Josep Maria de Dios, lecturer in international private law, who acted as sponsor of the winner.

Teacher training and innovation

This year, 124 training activities aimed at teachers were carried out, of which 74% improved teaching. 1,700 members of the PDI participated and have represented a total of 7,893 hours of training.

In 2023, the UAB opened a call for grant applications for teaching innovation projects in schools, which aimed to improve the teaching and learning processes of students in one or more subjects of one or more degrees during the 2023-2024 academic year. 38 projects were submitted to the call, of which 23 received funding.

In the field of teaching innovation, it is also worth mentioning the organisation of the 6th Conference on Teaching Innovation at the UAB, which took place on 7 May and was dedicated especially to the impact of artificial intelligence tools in teaching. The conference included the talk "Re-imagining artificial intelligence. An approach to decision automation technologies from science and technology studies", by Professor Núria Vallès Peris, and a conversation with Professors Sergi Robles and Ingrid Noguera on the impact of artificial intelligence tools at the university, as well as several presentations. During the conference, the 6th UAB Teaching Excellence Award was presented to Dr. Carles Górriz.

Teaching quality

Following the quality requirements established in the European Standards and Guidelines (ESG) for quality assurance in higher education, in 2019 the UAB obtained a favourable assessment of the certification of the implementation of the institution's Internal Quality Assurance System (IQAS). Since then, the cross-cutting IQAS has been reviewed and updated. In 2023, it was extended to introduce research and transfer processes to comply with the accreditation model for doctoral centres and schools, which incorporates this new dimension. In addition, during the year, the management systems of the Faculty of Translation and Interpreting were evaluated to achieve institutional accreditation of the centre (pending the final resolution) and support was given to the School for Doctoral Studies so that it can prepare to apply for it. The School for Continuing Education was also supported in the design and development of its IQAS.

In the application of the Internal Quality Assurance System, the tasks of management and consultation for the processes of creation, modification and monitoring of degrees were carried out. Of particular note is the management and consultation on the creation of three Bachelor's degrees, 13 Master's degrees (one of which is Erasmus Mundus) and one specialisation.

With regard to the degree accreditation process, four Bachelor's degrees and five official Master's degrees obtained favourable accreditation in 2023.

For the process of discerning student satisfaction, during the 2023-2024 academic year, six-monthly surveys to evaluate the teaching performance of teachers and subjects were scheduled and managed, and responded to by more than 10,000 students. A total of 1,863 Bachelor's and Master's degree graduates and 316 PhD graduates participated in the satisfaction surveys of graduates from the previous academic year.

With regard to the surveys aimed at teaching staff, the satisfaction survey of the supervisors of doctoral theses defended during 2022-2023 was responded to by 278 people.

In relation to the evaluation process of teaching activity corresponding to 2023, 286 sections were evaluated, of which 90% received a favourable response.

With regard to quality training, activities totalling 32 hours were carried out aimed at people from UAB and affiliated centres with quality responsibilities in addition to several information sessions.

Finally, with regard to participation in quality projects and conferences, it is worth mentioning the organisation of the third session of the UAB Quality Community and participation in the 13th CIDUI 2024 Symposium, the 12th Conference on Quality Technical Units and various activities organised by AQU Catalunya.

Catalan will be part of the OLS platform of the Erasmus+ mobility programme

Until now, the OLS (Online Linguistic Support) platform included the official languages of the European institutions and other languages included in university programmes, but left out Catalan, along with Basque and Galician. Catalan is now therefore recognised as a language of international mobility. The universities of the Vives Network collaborated with the Government of Catalonia to promote this measure. The incorporation of Catalan into the OLS was also one of the commitments set out in the Plan for the Strengthening of the Catalan Language in the University and Research System of Catalonia, promoted by the Department of Research and Universities.

Erasmus+

Enriching lives, opening minds.

ICT tools for teaching

The Campus Virtual is the UAB's Moodle-based teaching platform. This tool is used in practically all Bachelor's and Master's degrees, as well as university-specific subjects, and its use currently continues to grow, as shown by the 5% more total users and 6% more pages consulted this year compared to the previous year.

During the 2023-2024 academic year, a series of initiatives were carried out aimed at improving the functionalities and usability of the Campus Virtual. In particular, it is worth highlighting the new design of the environment, with a simple and modernised style, the result of the change to a different version of Moodle. Also, the different menus of the virtual classroom were reviewed and restructured, the Wooclap tool was included, to encourage participation in synchronous activities, and the question bank and the gradebook have been improved.

The Information Systems Planning Area has collaborated in the design and delivery of the courses focused on the use of Moodle and has carried out advisory and needs-gathering sessions. It has also taken part in a cross-disciplinary group aimed at the analysis of generative artificial intelligence in teaching, and is working on an Erasmus+ project in order to define and incorporate good practices in this field.

With regard to computerised classrooms, a total of 1,100 existing computers have been updated, and a pilot test has been carried out to manage computers in conventional classrooms with a new tool (Microsoft Intune).

Language training

During the 2023-2024 academic year, 6,680 students enrolled in courses offered within the Idiomes UAB programme: 3,190 in Idiomes UAB Campus, mainly Catalan and English, and 3,490 in Idiomes UAB Barcelona, mostly Spanish. Idiomes UAB Campus accredited the language level of 1,336 people.

For the fifteenth consecutive year, the UAB has offered a language level test to all new Bachelor's degree students. Participation in the English test was 41.23%, and 65% of people who took it demonstrated that they have a level equivalent to a B2 or higher.

The Language Service has continued to update the official nomenclature of the UAB with new terms, based on the inter-university work carried out within the framework of the Vives Network. With regard to the revision and translation of texts, 1,053 commissions were handled in 2023.

The Language Service has been present in institutional activities such as La Comunitària UAB, a day in which it has offered activities to disseminate linguistic diversity on campus, and also in activities to support internationalisation.

Within the framework of the current Plan for Languages, in 2024 the UAB published two calls for grant applications to promote the improvement of the university community's competence in third languages and the use of English as a working language. In addition, 89 scholarships were awarded to study languages at UAB Idiomes Campus and 18 scholarships for summer courses.

Highlight



Orientation and promotion activities

UAB promotion campaigns are always carried out with real student UABers, to highlight the diversity of the UAB community and the wealth that this diversity brings to the campus and to the experience of studying at the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona. This year students with disabilities have been the protagonists.

In 2024, the UAB maintained its commitment to a campaign to promote Bachelor's degrees that combine face-to-face and online activities. Two face-to-face open days and one online day were offered. The UAB participated in the Saló de l'Ensenyament education fair with digital catalogues that can be downloaded with QR codes and by distributing sought-after tote bags. There were also campus visits by secondary school groups, and visits by UAB teachers to secondary schools, Family Day and a full season of YouTube version campus visits. Visits to the campus were also extended for individuals and families.

For the graduate campaign, the virtual fair formula for Master's degrees, postgraduate courses and doctoral degrees was maintained three times a year, allowing future students to contact the coordinators of each programme directly.

The positive results of the promotional activities are evident in the more than 87,000 people who provided their email address throughout the academic year to register for activities or to stay informed of the UAB's course offer and services.

This year saw the first promotional campaign carried out entirely with the new UAB logo.

Research and dissemination of knowledge and technology



HR EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH

The UAB Renews its HR Excellence in Research Distinction

The European Commission has granted the UAB the renewal of its HR Excellence in Research distinction, part of the EURAXESS initiative. This award identifies European organisations that work to achieve a better research environment in accordance with the European Charter for Researchers and the Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers.

In the 2023-2024 academic year, the UAB's research and dissemination activity has gained influence, visibility and impact. In 2023, as a result of the activity of the university's research groups, the UAB attained a significant increase in resources for carrying out research. It ranked as the number one university in all of Spain for its research fundraising efforts during the first three years of the Horizon Europe programme, having raised 62.2 million euros, which were used to fund 101 innovation and research projects from 2021 to 2023.

To consolidate this achievement, while working to ensure a favourable generational handover and bolster the university's research competence, the university is implementing a new **Research Talent Attraction and Retention programme**.

With this programme, the UAB plans to attract and consolidate, within the next five years, up to 30 promising and influential researchers in all areas of study to enhance the university's excellence in research. To foster emerging leaderships and new lines of research, a call for applications has also been opened for a pre-competitive research support programme. Additionally, with the creation of its own programme for the recruitment of trainee research staff, the university upholds its strategy for supporting a key phase in the training of research staff.

The advancement of the university's research groups has also been the aim of the two funding opportunities for the acquisition and renovation of scientific and technological equipment.

The creation of the **Open Science portal** manifests the UAB's commitment to transparency and collaborative research, and this year's approval of the **Citizen Science Hub Action Plan** establishes a framework

for collaboration with regional agencies and citizens in addressing significant social challenges.

On an international scale, this challenge-driven open research methodology has been the focus of the first **ECIU University Research Conference**, hosted by the UAB. Meanwhile, through the Open Labs programme, the university community has taken part in the designing of projects to improve the campus.

With respect to the **dissemination of knowledge and technology**, it's worth noting that the UAB has maintained a leading position among Spanish universities in regard to its number of application submissions for European patents.

Regarding its innovation and entrepreneurship initiatives, the university's first **Innovation Week** showcased the university's innovative environment, while at the same time providing a basis for involvement in addressing the challenges of the territory and its socioeconomic fabric. Additionally, as part of the UAB's Strategic Entrepreneurship Plan, the **Arquimedes Accelerator** was launched this year, with the objective of supporting companies linked to the university and exploring possibilities for funding. Meanwhile, the B30 Hub has been working to promote collaborative innovation with regional entities, and the network of Open Labs, coordinated by the UAB as part of the Circular B30 territorial specialisation and competence project, has been enhanced through the inauguration of CircuLab.

In the realm of dissemination of knowledge, the implementation of the Science Carriage and the Veus project has contributed to the promotion of academic culture and the spreading of university-generated knowledge.

The CoARA Initiative at the UAB

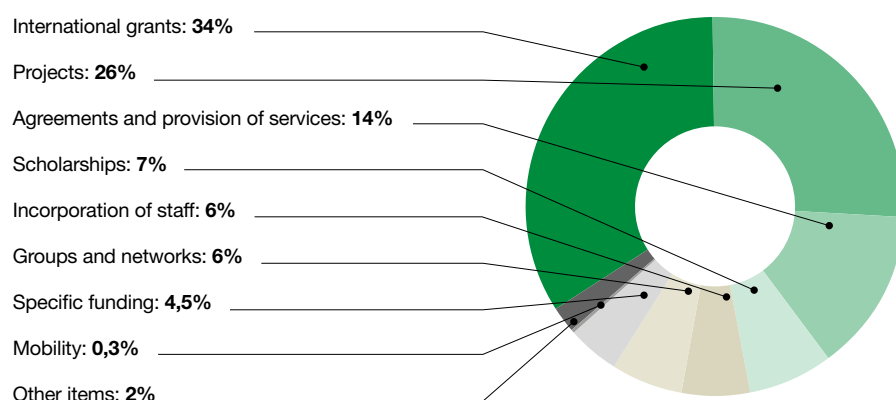
The evaluation of research has become a key component in assuring the quality and relevance of the knowledge generated from research activity. For this reason, the European Union has adopted a proactive approach for the transformation of evaluation systems, with the aim of promoting transparency, diversity and excellence in scientific advancement. One of the essential pillars of this approach is the European initiative Coalition for Advancing Research Assessment (CoARA), organised by Science Europe and the European University Association, with support from the European Commission. This project brings together organisations focused on research and the evaluation of research, with the goal of establishing a set of common principles for the reformation of research evaluation.

The UAB joined CoARA in 2022, and, under the direction of the Office of the Vice-Rector for Research, it organised a working group for the purpose of reflecting on research methodologies and evaluation standards, in order to align the institution's own strategies with the models promoted by European policy. Specifically, during the 2023-2024 academic year, a conference titled "New Practices for the Evaluation of Research" was organised, as well as an action plan for the involvement of the university research community in the reflection process for the UAB's implementation of the CoARA principles. In addition, it is worth noting that the UAB has actively participated in three CoARA working groups: Towards Transformations, Early-and-Mid-Career Researchers (EMCRs) and Multilingualism and Language Biases in Research Assessment.

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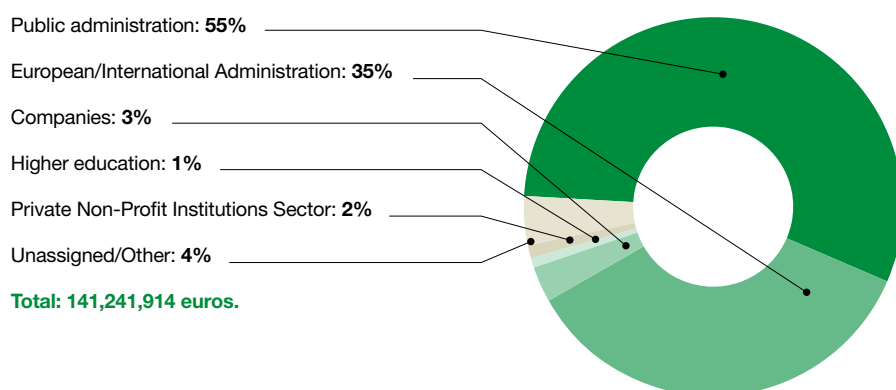
million euros in resources raised
for research (2023)

Research funding by main categories, 2023



Total: 141,241,914 euros.

Research funding by type of organisation, 2023



Total: 141,241,914 euros.

Highlight

Four UAB researchers receive an ERC Starting Grant

Álvaro Fernández-Llamazares, a researcher at ICTA-UAB and the UAB's Department of Animal Biology, Plant Biology and Ecology (BABVE), received a grant to develop the project "Assessing long-term changes in Indigenous Environmental Knowledge", which will analyse indigenous environmental knowledge systems to determine how they change over time and the ecological impacts that this change may entail.

The researcher **Johannes Langemeyer**, from ICTA-UAB, was awarded a grant to carry out the project "Fostering Internet-based Values of the Environment" (BIG-5), which emphasizes the role of the Internet and social networks in the development of new ways of relating to nature.

The researcher **Oriol Marquet**, affiliated to the ICTA-UAB and the Department of Geography of the UAB, received a grant to carry out the project "The active travel backlash paradox: opposition and acceptability determinants of built environment-based sustainable travel interventions", which will analyse the causes of opposition movements against some public proposals in the transport sector aimed at reducing car use and promoting more sustainable transport systems.

Meanwhile, the researcher **Daniel Edmiston** joined the Institute of Government and Public Policies and the Department of Political Science and Public Law of the UAB this academic year, where he will carry out the project "Who counts? Incorporating a 'missing minority' to re-examine the profile, drivers and depth of poverty across Europe."



29th Annual Research Conference of Spanish Universities

The opening ceremony of the 29th Annual Research Conference of Spanish Universities was held on 30th November, organised by the CRUE in collaboration with the UAB. Attendees included Diana Morant, Minister of Science, Innovation and Universities, Javier Lafuente, Rector of the UAB, Joaquim Nadal, Minister of Research and Universities, and Eva Alcón, President of the CRUE and Rector of the Universitat Jaume I. Over the course of the three-day conference, half a thousand specialists in research management and science policy analysed and exchanged experiences while forming proposals for protocols regarding key issues related to Research, Development, and Innovation at Spanish universities.

Research centres

Three centres linked to the UAB renewed their Severo Ochoa distinctions in the 2023 call for applications for the State Subprogramme for Institutional Strengthening of the Ministry of Science, Innovation and Universities. Specifically, the **Barcelona Institute of Materials Science (ICMAB-CSIC)**, the **Centre for Ecological Research and Forestry Applications (CREAF)** and the Josep Carreras Leukaemia Research Institute renewed this seal of excellence. In the same call, the Maria de Maeztu distinction was awarded to the **Institute of Microelectronics of Barcelona – National Center for Microelectronics (IMB-CNM-CSIC)**, located on the UAB campus.

It is also worth noting that the UAB, along with the University of Crete (Greece), the Centre for Biology of the Czech Academy of Sciences and the Institute of Parasitology (Czech Republic), will be part of the **new reference centre for the welfare of aquatic animals** created by the European Union. This centre will support and assist the European Commission and EU countries in the application of animal welfare requirements by developing scientific and technical studies, organising training courses and disseminating research results and information on technical innovations.



Commemoration of the 40th anniversary of the Centre for Demographic Studies

On 12 February, the Palau de la Generalitat de Catalunya hosted an institutional event to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the **Centre for Demographic Studies (CED)**, a research centre owned by the UAB and headquartered at the Bellaterra campus.

Attendees included Anna Cabré, founder and honorary director of the CED, Javier Lafuente, rector of the UAB, Joaquim Nadal, Minister of Research and Universities, and Albert Esteve, director of the CED, lecturer at the UAB, and reviewer of the highly relevant work that the centre has contributed in recent years to the field of demography, particularly regarding the demographic challenges facing Catalonia. Additionally, Albert Esteve presented the report *The Catalonia of the 8 million*, which provides an analysis of the Catalan population that has undergone an increase from six to eight million inhabitants.

Chairs

This year, the UAB and the Puigvert Foundation have created the Puigvert Foundation Chair in Urological Robotic Surgery – UAB. Affiliated with the Department of Surgery of the UAB, this chair will contribute to the innovation and progress of advanced robotic surgery specialised in the field of urology.

The UAB and iVascular, which specialises in the design and manufacturing of medical devices, have signed a collaboration agreement that has led to the creation of the **Chair of Research in Surgery**, affiliated with the Department of Surgery of the UAB. The aim of the agreement is to establish a strategic collaboration between the two entities in a key area of clinical practice.

As a result of the collaboration between the Galatea Foundation, the Barcelona Medical Association (CoMB), Mutual Mèdica and the UAB, the **Chair for the Health of Health Professionals** was created. This chair, attached to the Department of Psychiatry and Legal Medicine of the UAB, will promote research on prevention and care and will promote specific training to offer an adequate response to the needs of health professionals.

The UAB and the National Museum of Science and Technology of Catalonia (MNACTEC) signed an agreement for the creation of the **Chair for Research in Heritage, Technology and Society** with the aim of promoting research, teaching, training and dissemination activities on society and industrial heritage.

Finally, it should be noted that UNESCO has renewed the **UNESCO Chair in Communication** until 2028. This chair will continue their work in promoting intercultural dialogue and inclusive education.



"Thesis in 4 Minutes" competition

Gala Pujol Infantes, a student of the Cell Biology doctoral programme, won first prize at the UAB's "Thesis in 4 Minutes" competition, and was also awarded second place in the competition of the same name organised by the Catalan Foundation for Research and Innovation, in which all Catalan universities took part.

Doctoral programmes

The UAB conceives the doctorate as a fundamental strategic area to attract research talent and to maintain intensive research activity. With 4,753 doctoral students and 700 theses read (2022-2023), of which 22% have been mentioned internationally, the UAB's 68 doctoral programmes have a great power to attract postgraduate students from different fields of knowledge.

With regard to the activities of the 2023-2024 academic year, it should be noted that the UAB will participate in two European MSCA COFUND programmes awarded in the 2023 call. One of the programmes is coordinated by the UAB, under the leadership of Albert Guisasola, professor in the Department of Chemical, Biological and Environmental Engineering. It is TRAMPOLINE ("A training programme to promote the industrial adoption of microbial electrochemical technologies"), which will train young researchers in microbial electrochemical technologies (TEM) or bioelectrochemistry to address global environmental challenges. The UAB will also participate in the GREENS programme ("A Training Programme on 5R's implementation in the design, manufacturing and application of micro and nanorobotic platforms"), which will be led at the UAB by Eva Pellicer, professor in the Department of Physics. The GREENS programme aims to implement the principle of the five Rs (reduce, recycle, rethink, repair and reuse) from the manufacture of robotic platforms to disposal, to ensure the sustainability of the process and minimise its environmental impact.

The TOUCH ("Towards the next generation of excellent young doctoral researchers on mental health by developing an intersectoral and transdisciplinary approach") doctoral training programme of excellence, awarded in the 2022 Marie Skłodowska-Curie (MSCA COFUND) call, has opened its first call this year, with 13 places. This programme, led by the UAB, will allow the incorporation of 24 doctoral students within a strategic area for the University: mental health and well-being.

Furthermore, it should be noted that on 15 November and 17 May, the award ceremonies for the doctoral degrees and the extraordinary doctoral awards for this academic year took place. Armand Sánchez, professor of the Department of Animal Science and Food, was the sponsor for the first ceremony and gave the presentation "Serendipity or chance and necessity. Reflections of a geneticist". Joan Subirats, emeritus professor of the Department of Political Science and Public Law, was the sponsor for the second ceremony with the presentation "Scientific knowledge and social change".

Finally, it should be noted that, within the framework of the 10th anniversary of the Industrial Doctorates Plan, Dr. Laia Bosch Camós, who developed her thesis at IRTA-CReSA, within the doctoral programme in Animal Medicine and Health, was awarded an Impact 2022 Industrial Doctorates Award.

Highlight

New ERC Consolidator Grants at the UAB

ICTA-UAB researcher **Panagiota Kotsila** has received a Consolidator Grant from the European Research Council (ERC) to develop the IMBRACE (Embracing Immigrant Knowledge for Just Climate Health Adaptation) project, which will analyse the link between climate, health and immigration.

Also beneficiaries of the same call were MOVE researcher **Joan Lluís**, a professor of the Department of Economics and Economic History, to carry out the "Optimal Immigration Policy" project, and ICN2 researcher **Elena del Corro García**, to carry out the "Triboelectric energy generators for self-powered medical implants" project.



The ICTA organises the Growth vs Climate Conference 2024

On 13 March, the Minister for the Ecological Transition and the Demographic Challenge, Teresa Ribera, together with the Rector of the UAB, Javier Lafuente, the Secretary of State for Social Rights, Rosa Martínez Rodríguez, and the Director General of Environmental Policies of the Government of Catalonia, Marc Vilahur, participated in the opening ceremony of the Growth vs Climate Conference 2024, organised by the ICTA-UAB. This congress, which took place from 13 to 15 March, brought together around 400 scientific, political and activist personalities with the aim of addressing the most pressing environmental problems of our time.



1st ECIU University research conference

On 3 and 4 October, the UAB hosted the first research conference organised by ECIU University within the framework of the project “ECIU University Research Institute for SMART European Regions” (SMART-ER). Throughout the two days, participants discussed common challenges, presented the results of some of the lines of research implemented within the SMART-ER project and forged new collaborations between member universities.

ECIU University: research

In the field of research, ECIU University continued with the activities of the SMART-ER (ECIU University Research Institute for Smart European Regions) project, funded through the Horizon 2020 SwafS (Science with and for Society) project, which aimed to pilot a virtual research institute on relevant issues related to SDG 11, from a challenge-based approach and with a focus on collaboration with society, public participation and citizen science. Within the framework of the project, this year the **ECIU Research Conference** took place at the UAB, and brought together around 300 attendees (including researchers and actors of the quadruple helix) during two days of talks and work sessions to share experiences, establish connections and advance in joint solutions in research and innovation.

Although the SMART-ER project ended on 31 January 2024, some ECIU member universities have decided to continue funding the so-called **Seed Programme** through their own call to facilitate the continuity of research relationships already started. ECIU University also continues to fund the **ECIU Researchers Mobility Fund**, which supports short-term stays for researchers who want to start working on a possible European competitive project proposal.

Research support services

During the 2023-2024 academic year, the **Library Service** has participated in the creation of the new UAB Open Science portal, especially in the areas of open access, research data and open educational resources.

With regard to open access, this academic year the funding for publishing open access journal articles has been improved with the allocation of 387 APCs to teaching and research staff and doctoral students, who have been able to publish their articles free of charge and in open access. On the other hand, it is worth highlighting the signing of new transformative agreements with publishers, specifically with Cambridge University Press, the Royal Society of Chemistry, IEEE and the American Institute of Physics. In addition, the deposit of research data in the CORA-RDR repository has been started and training has been provided to teaching and research staff on this subject, so that at the end of 2023 there were 117 datasets published.

This year, 181 training sessions have been carried out to support research, teaching and learning, in which 6,436 users participated. There were also 349 attendees at the sessions on accreditation, scientific production and open access, research data, intellectual property and information resources.

The completion of the project to implement RFID technology in the UAB libraries has made it possible to take a leap forward in the self-lending of documents and in the streamlining of internal collection management tasks.

It is also worth mentioning the creation of new spaces for the Map Library within the Humanities Library and the location of the European Documentation Centre within the Social Sciences Library.

With regard to the Scientific and Technical Services, this year all the activities of the **Chemical Analysis Service** (SAQ) have resumed after the stoppage due to the expansion of the laboratory and the installation of new instrumentation in the area of chromatography and mass spectrometry.

Finally, this year two service laboratories were created: the **Veterinary Laboratory for the Diagnosis of Infectious Diseases** (LVDMI) and the **Mutagenic Evaluation Service** (SAMut).

UAB Open Science Portal

This year, the UAB's institutional website launched a new portal dedicated to open science, a strategy of the university to share knowledge and data with social actors in the environment, whether locally or in the international context. The aim of this portal is to contribute to supporting all open science practices, providing training, platforms, infrastructures and advice. The portal details the different axes of the open science strategy – open access, citizen science, open research data, scientific dissemination, open education, scientific integrity and metrics for research evaluation – and describes the different initiatives undertaken by the institution and the university community. It also includes an agenda of activities related to open science.



Archimedes Accelerator Investment Forum

On 13 December, the Archimedes Accelerator Investment Forum took place at Casa Convalescència, in which six UAB spin-off companies and four entrepreneurial incubator projects presented their business proposals to an audience made up mainly of investors.

Entrepreneurship

Within the framework of the **UAB Strategic Entrepreneurship Plan**, approved in 2023, several actions have been carried out this academic year to make the UAB a full entrepreneurial university, a concept that encompasses both business entrepreneurship and intrapreneurship and self-employment. To achieve this goal, the plan proposes a set of specific objectives and actions that have a direct impact on giving content to the three key phases that make up the entrepreneurial itinerary: the creation of an entrepreneurial mentality; the development of the idea, the prototyping and validation of the entrepreneurial project, and the acceleration of the entrepreneurial project.

In accordance with this approach, during the 2023-2024 academic year, the **Visionaris** programme has been created, the Archimedes Accelerator has been launched and the *Emprèn UAB* portal has been created.

The **Archimedes Accelerator** is aimed at spin-off companies and technology-based companies at the UAB and offers them specialised tools and sessions to grow their business model and make it scalable. The first edition of the Archimedes Accelerator, promoted with the collaboration of Santander Universities, has had the participation of 14 UAB start-ups, mostly from the field of life sciences and from various fields, such as the energy, environmental and technological sectors.

The **Visionaris** programme is mainly aimed at students, but is open to the entire university community. Based on the project that each student contributes, this programme provides them

with the transferrable entrepreneurship skills and trains them in the different phases of creating a company. In addition, the projects that complete the training receive mentoring from specialists.

This year the **Emprèn UAB** portal was created, offering specialised advice to everyone at the UAB with an entrepreneurial idea or project and who want to develop it. Similarly, under the slogan **“Aprendre a Emprendre”** (learn to be enterprising, in English), the Emprèn UAB portal had its own stand at La Comunitat UAB to disseminate activities in the field of entrepreneurship using a playful approach.

Valorisation of research

In 2023, 41 new valorisation and transfer projects of the University's research groups were initiated. These new projects (invention disclosures) accounted for 0.15 inventions per million euros invested in research in 2022. By sector, most of the inventions belong to the field of biomedicine.

Also during 2023 the UAB applied for nine new unique priority patents and signed eight transfer agreements with national and international companies.

It should be noted that the UAB has continued to lead the Spanish universities in European patent applications.

1st

university in Spain for European patent applications (2023)

Highlight

The UAB receives ten ICREA Academy grants

The Catalan Institution for Research and Advanced Studies (ICREA) has awarded ten ICREA Academy grants to the UAB. Specifically, in the 2023 programme, the following teaching staff were recognised: **Agustí Nieto-Galan**, from the Department of Philosophy; **Albert Rimola**, from the Department of Chemistry; **Enrique Hernández**, from the Department of Political Science and Public Law; Helena Kirchner, from the Department of Sciences of Antiquity and the Middle Ages; **Jordi Surrallés**, professor of Genetics and scientific director of the Research Institute of the Hospital de Sant Pau; **Alberto Fernández Teruel**, from the Department of Psychiatry and Legal Medicine; **Sílvia Gómez Mestres**, from the Department of Social and Cultural Anthropology; **Eva Østergaard-Nielsen**, from the Department of Political Science and Public Law; **Aurora Ruiz-Herrera**, from the Department of Cell Biology, Physiology and Immunology, and **Antonio M. López**, from the Department of Computer Science.

Knowledge transfer in social sciences and humanities

On 9 May, around 250 researchers met at the UAB for the conference “Knowledge transfer in the social sciences and humanities”, organised by the AccessCat Network, coordinated by the UAB. The event was supported by the Office of the Vice-Rector for Transfer, Innovation and Entrepreneurship and the AGAUR, and with the collaboration of the UAB Research Park and the Directorate General for Transfer and the Knowledge Society of the Government of Catalonia.



Constitution of the UAB Business Collective

On 18 October, the UAB Business Collective was presented in the Eureka building of the UAB campus. The creation of this collaboration space aims to promote the interaction of companies in the territory with the university, through a more agile and close relationship, and thus improve the transfer of knowledge to society. Specifically, the aim is to respond to the challenges and needs of companies in three key areas for innovation: research, talent and connection with the territory. The collective is made up of 13 companies from various sectors, such as pharmaceuticals, the environment, mass consumption and mobility.

UAB Research Park

During the 2023-2024 academic year, the UAB Research Park worked to increase the university's interaction with the business fabric, promoting collaboration between the different areas of knowledge, fostering interdisciplinarity and promoting the transfer of knowledge to society. To that end, this year the **UAB Business Collective** was created – a space for connecting with 13 leading companies to respond to their challenges and needs in three key areas for innovation: research, talent and connection with the territory. The first **UAB Innovation Week** was also promoted, which has brought together 650 people and has managed to bring society closer to the technologies and knowledge generated on campus. Within the framework of this event, activities on various topics were carried out in different parts of the university and spaces were created for meetings and relationships between the UAB community, start-ups, companies in general and investors. In addition, together with the International Projects Office and the Research Management Area of the UAB, the PRUAB has advised the university's research staff in the preparation of innovation projects with companies for Horizon Europe and national calls for applications.

With regard to supporting the challenges of the environment, the UAB Research Park has participated in regional projects to promote innovation at the local level, through associations between knowledge generators, companies, administrations and society. The park

participated in the Circular B30 project, to promote the circular economy in the Vallès region through innovation and public-private collaboration.

The UAB Research Park's methodology for identifying social challenges and agreeing on solutions among all the key actors has also been consolidated. This procedure allows the park to catalyse the transfer of knowledge and improve the territory through the research and innovation generated at the UAB. Specifically, this year seven participatory processes were promoted with local entities.

In the field of entrepreneurship, the UAB Research Park has promoted projects that foster an innovative and entrepreneurial ecosystem. Within the framework of the new **Emprèn UAB strategy**, the Park has promoted activities to generate an entrepreneurial mindset at the UAB, such as **Creató**, a gymkhana to encourage the University's students to get involved in solving the challenges of the campus, which had 135 participating students.

The UAB Research Park also promoted five programmes to help researchers devise and validate entrepreneurial ideas, based on research results. In the sixth year of the **AI4ALL** (Artificial Intelligence Applied to Industry) programme there were 30 participants, and in the 14th **Generation of Ideas** Programme, 12 participants worked to develop entrepreneurial projects in 'One Health'. On the **PoC Training Programme** course, 14 researchers

participated to accelerate the transfer of their projects to the market. Within the framework of the **"Validate your research"** programme, aimed at doctoral students, four projects received advice. Finally, the park also promoted the **Consolidat** programme, with 38 participants, to support micro-enterprises and self-employed people to consolidate, strengthen or reinvent their businesses. In addition, activities were organised to boost the entrepreneurial ecosystem, such as **Entrepreneur's Corner** and the **Connecta conference**, to put entrepreneurs in the early stages who are looking for collaborators in contact with UAB students and alumni.

For the second consecutive year, the park has had its own UAB stand in the **4 Years From Now** fair to give visibility to UAB spin-off and EBT companies, and to the UAB's mobile and digital sector technologies.

With regard to communication and dissemination, the UAB Research Park has continued to work to give visibility to successful cases of collaboration between the university and the economic and social fabric, in collaboration with the university's Area for Communication and Promotion.



The UAB present at the Four Years From Now (4YFN) fair

La UAB ha estat present al saló Four Years From Now (4YFN), la fira d'empreses emergents que va tenir lloc del 26 al 29 de febrer dins del Mobile World Congress de Barcelona (MWC). L'estand de la UAB va donar visibilitat a una representació de les empreses derivades i de les tecnologies creades per investigadors de la UAB en sectors com ara les ciències de la vida, l'energia i el medi ambient o l'enginyeria.

Highlight



Fifth year of the AI4ALL programme

On 21 December 2023, a Demo Day took place as the final act of the "Artificial Intelligence Applied to Industry" (AI4ALL) programme. **Energethics** and **Sinfon.ia** were selected as the best projects of the five that have been developed during the programme, and received a prize of 3,000 euros to participate in the AI Accelerator programme of the RDI-IA Network. This programme is promoted by the UAB Research Park, the UAB School of Engineering, the CVC and the IIIA-CSIC.



14th year of the Generation of Ideas Programme

"**Replantem**", a project to renature urban spaces, has been selected as the best project in the 14th year of the Generation of Ideas Programme, focused on the vision of 'One Health'.

The Generation of Ideas Programme is a UAB Research Park initiative within the framework of the Emprèn UAB programme. This 14th year of the programme has had the support of Santander Universities and the collaboration of the One Health Platform and sponsorship from Reig Jofre and the Sant Cugat City Council.

Hub B30

The **B30 Hub** is an open innovation network promoted and led by the UAB to promote collaboration, economic development and social cohesion of the territory around the B30 corridor. The B30 Hub works to find solutions to social, economic and environmental challenges in the region, with a focus on shared agendas. In other words, it works with regional agents to promote the development of viable alternatives that can change dominant practices to move towards a more resilient, digital, green and fair, which prioritises people and nature.

During the 2023-2024 academic year, Hub B30 carried out major actions to promote energy communities and the sustainability of economic activity estates, and to support active ageing.

On 20 March, the first meeting of the **working group on energy communities** took place with the aim of coordinating regional initiatives, identifying barriers in the design and implementation of energy communities and shared consumption projects and finding synergies between the various actors involved.

Also, as a result of the interest of the Union of Industrial Estates of Catalonia (UPIC), a member of the B30 Hub, in working on the areas of sustainability and circularity in economic activity estates and to include other actors who would contribute scientific and technical knowledge, a joint project was carried out with the participation of the B30 Hub, UPIC, the ICTA-UAB

and the University of Aveiro. On 4 October, the project partners presented the challenge "**Towards smart, sustainable and resilient industrial estates**" as part of the ECIU University Research Conference. This conference provided an interactive forum to discuss common challenges, forge partnerships between stakeholders and contribute to the implementation of shared policies to improve the resilience of cities and society.

Finally, the B30 Hub has supported the process of creating and boosting a network to articulate a **shared agenda on ageing in the northern metropolitan region**, which includes the regions of Vallès Occidental, Vallès Oriental and Maresme, promoted by the UAB, Sabadell City Council and the Parc Taulí Health Corporation (CSPT). During the first half of 2024, three co-creation sessions were held with the aim of disseminating and putting into practice the methodology of shared agendas, identifying the lines for change and defining the thematic working groups.



Innovation Fair

On 17 October 2023, the Innovation Fair took place. The fair was one of the central activities of the first UAB Innovation Week, and aims to connect UAB research with the challenges of society, showcasing the wide range of technologies, services and innovative ideas on campus.

Campus Open Laboratory

The UAB campus is an ideal environment to develop and experiment with new solutions, products or services in collaboration with users. In that sense, the campus is a real living lab that allows the active participation of different actors to contribute knowledge, experience and points of view for the development of solutions adapted to their needs and specific contexts. With the aim of strengthening these capacities and activating the use of the campus as an environment for the co-creation of solutions to the challenges of the territory and the campus itself, this year the UAB has launched the **“Open Laboratory Campus: co-creating solutions in a smart campus”** programme, with the support of the Board of Trustees.

Within the framework of the programme, which is open to the entire university community, six multidisciplinary working groups were created and they have developed proposals to improve the sustainability, food, mental health and visibility of the university. The projects had the support of a facilitator or ‘teamcher’, an expert in the subject who coordinates and stimulates the group of participants and allows them to learn the methodology of learning, research and innovation based on challenges.

The prize for the best solution, endowed with 5,000 euros, went to a project to improve the restaurants system at the university through the application of technology and the cooperation of the campus restaurants.

First UAB Innovation Week

From 16 to 20 October 2023, the first **UAB Innovation Week** was held – an event that aims to bring the University’s innovative and technological ecosystem closer to the region and to connect entrepreneurial projects and the knowledge generated on campus with companies. To that end, more than 250 meetings were held throughout the week between different institutional, business and academic actors to explore ways of working together and to show the different innovation projects on campus. The programme also included different debate tables and conferences with the aim of promoting knowledge and technology transfer with social and economic returns for society. Overall, around 650 professionals participated in the event.

The **Innovation Fair**, organised by the UAB Research Park, was one of the highlights of the week. In a single day, talks and round tables were scheduled to show the innovative projects generated on campus and study synergies with the business fabric. In addition, the programme included a matchmaking and project co-creation session that brought together more than 25 start-ups and 90 R&D groups with 74 companies and entities to work together on different innovation challenges.

The week was also a space for debate, reflection and experimentation, with talks dedicated to the synergy between artificial intelligence and music, and female entrepreneurship.

The UAB Innovation Week had the support of the UAB Board of Trustees, the Department of Business and Labour of the Government of Catalonia, Santander Universities and the news daily El País. In addition, the activity is part of the Spain Up Nation strategy, funded by the European Union – Next Generation EU, within the Recovery and Resilience Plan of the Government of Spain.



Science and entrepreneurship by women

As part of Innovation Week, on 20 October 2023, the conference “Science and entrepreneurship by women: overcoming imposter syndrome” took place at the UAB. This is the second year of this conference, which aims to give visibility to female role models in innovation and entrepreneurship on the UAB campus, identify their needs and facilitate networking among participants. On this occasion, the conference focused on the internal and external limitations encountered by female researchers, as well as on the challenges and strategies to overcome imposter syndrome and break the glass ceiling.



Launch of CircuLab

On 3 April 2024, the UAB hosted the presentation of the results of the regional specialisation and competitiveness project (PECT) “B30 Hub: beyond circularity”, launched in 2021 and coordinated by Cerdanyola City Council. This project promotes the creation of a network of laboratories so that universities, research centres, administrations, companies and citizens can work together on sustainability. At the event, CircuLab was launched, which involves the repurposing of the campus’ waste collection centre as a new innovation space for the circular economy and eco-design.

Open Innovation Labs

The **UAB Open Labs** network is the UAB ecosystem for the development of ideas and projects that promote collaboration, innovation and knowledge transfer.

With the launch of CircuLab, the UAB campus is consolidated as space for innovation, open to the region, for the promotion of digital social innovation, eco-innovation and business innovation based on social challenges. The creation of CircuLab is the result of a co-creation process to repurpose the public waste collection centre on campus as a real laboratory for innovation in the circular economy.

Within the framework of the “Urban Transformation Collaboratory” (ULALABS) project, led by the CORE in Smart and Sustainable Cities of the UAB, four universities of the ECIU University will create a network of open innovation laboratories to collaboratively face social challenges. Specifically, the ULALABS project aims to define a theoretical and practical framework for the implementation and operation of a living laboratory distributed between the UAB and the universities of Linköping (Sweden), Stavanger (Norway) and Twente (Netherlands) to collaboratively address urban challenges in the fight against climate change. The UAB will participate in the pilot test through the UAB Open Labs and with the involvement of research staff specialising in circular economy and sustainability and other agents in the region, such as the Vallès Labs Network, coordinated by the B30 Hub.

UAB Citizen Science Hub

This academic year, the UAB approved the **Citizen Science Hub Action Plan** for the years 2024 and 2025, as a tool to connect people and institutions that want to participate in citizen science projects, and to provide resources and facilitate the development of new initiatives with this approach.

The Plan provides for the deployment of several key actions that will frame the strategy for the application of citizen science at the UAB, and the development of a guide to provide research staff, students, the technical, management, administrative and services staff (PTGAS), public administrations and society in general with a clear vision of the resources and services that are essential to successfully implement citizen science projects. On the other hand, the plan also provides for work sessions to strengthen the collaborative spirit between research staff and participating citizens, and training sessions.

During this academic year, the plan has been disseminated on the open science portal and training sessions have been held aimed at trainee research staff (PIF), academic teaching and research staff (PDI) and PTGAS. The Citizen Science Hub has worked on the implementation of projects with citizen science components, such as “Citizen science and sustainability in the B30 region”, funded by the Spanish Foundation for Science and technology (FECYT).

The INCENTIVE project, funded by the European Union through the Horizon 2020 programme, has been the starting point to promote the creation of the UAB Citizen Science Hub.

Highlight

15 innovative UAB projects recognised by the Knowledge Industry Programme

The UAB has received €1.2 million from the Knowledge Industry Programme of the Government of Catalonia to develop 15 projects by the university’s research staff, and to promote their valorisation and transfer. Specifically, five projects coordinated by the UAB and two in which the UAB participates have been selected in the “Seed” category, which supports innovative projects that have the potential to join the productive sector; five projects will receive grants in the “Product” category, aimed at obtaining prototypes and capitalising on the results, and three projects will be funded through the “Innovative” category, aimed at valorisation and transfer projects.

Four UAB projects selected for the Innovative Grants programme

The Department of Research and Universities of the Catalan Government has selected four projects led by the UAB in the 2022 call for the Innovative Grants programme. These grants are intended for research groups with the aim of developing knowledge transfer projects that culminate in the creation of a spin-off company or in the exploitation of licenses or any other form of intellectual and industrial property protection.

The UAB participates in two European partnerships in the field of health

Research staff from four UAB health sciences departments are part of two partnership projects promoted by the European Union through the Horizon Europe Programme and the European Defence Fund. Specifically, the UAB is participating in the EUPAHW (European Partnership on Animal Health and Welfare) partnership, from the perspective of the concepts of ‘One Health’ and ‘One Welfare’, and in the RESILIENCE strategic alliance, for the search for solutions in the medical and health field in the face of CBRN (chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear) crises.



Science Carriage

This year, the UAB, with the collaboration of Ferrocarrils de la Generalitat de Catalunya (FGC), has launched the Science Carriage, a space for the dissemination of science and innovation that, in its first year, has been dedicated to mental health, coinciding with the theme for the 2023-2024 academic year. This carriage, which is part of a train on the Barcelona-Vallès line, gives users the chance to learn about research results with the aim of improving scientific and technical education in society through various formats and topics. The first year involved 56 researchers from 11 departments of the university, the Institute of Neurosciences (INc-UAB) and the Computer Vision Centre (CVC), as well as the Vall d'Hebron and Parc Taulí hospital centres.

Research dissemination

During the 2023-2024 academic year, a hundred research dissemination campaigns were carried out. These campaigns resulted in 1,091 impacts in state media, of which 1,048 have been in print media (paper edition) and 43 on television.

In terms of international dissemination, 50 press releases were sent to international agencies throughout the academic year, which received a total of 54,839 visits from international science journalists.

In the same period, 81 popular science articles were published in the electronic journal *Divulga UAB*, which has 2,881 subscribers. During the 2023-2024 academic year, the publication obtained 197,373 visits (Google Analytics).

In the field of biosciences and health sciences, the UAB disseminated research on the identification of neurons that cause dizziness; on nanorobots that make it possible to reduce bladder tumours by 90%; on a micromaterial that releases nanoparticles that selectively destroy cancer cells; on a new animal model to study Parkinson's disease before neurodegeneration appears; on an antimicrobial coating inspired by mussels that protects health fabrics to prevent infections, and on a new project to develop a gene therapy for an ultrarare disease generated by the mutation of the ADSL gene.

In the fields of animal science, the environment and ecology, worth mentioning are the dissemination of microplastic pollution of all aquatic

species at the mouths of rivers; a new atlas showing the potential of walking or cycling in four Spanish cities; the greater sensitivity to pesticides that bees have due to climate change; the adaptation of bison to the Mediterranean climate of the southern Spain; and on one of the longest dispersal movements ever made by a wolf.

In technology and experimental sciences, dissemination included the first device without electrical wiring to make magnetism appear in non-magnetic materials; the participation of a postdoctoral researcher from the Department of Geology in the analysis of lunar samples from the Artemis III mission; a new project to protect networks from fake content and reduce cyberattacks, and a key electronic device for the massive arrival of 6G networks. The agreement signed by the UAB and Aeroports de Catalunya to collaborate in aeronautical research, teaching and technology was also disseminated.

In the social sciences, highlights include the dissemination of the positive effects of the pacification of school environments; actions to improve the socio-educational integration and health of refugee children and young people and unaccompanied minors; a report on the Catalonia of 8 million; a study showing that women retire later because they have not made sufficient tax contributions their youth; a new, more inclusive European social contract; democratic and sustainable;

a conference on addictions, well-being and mental health of young people and adolescents, and the identification of forty peace processes and negotiations in the world during 2023.

In the humanities, numerous archaeological research studies have been disseminated. The identification of the oldest basketry in southern Europe, the study of the remains of a stable burned down at the time of the Punic War that show life in the Pyrenees during the Iron Age, and an ancient DNA search that has identified cases of Iron Age Down Syndrome in the Iberian Peninsula have had particular resonance. Also worth mentioning is the first conference dedicated to the figure and work of the writer Sebastià Juan Arbó and on the assignment to the medieval grammarian Guibert of writings hitherto attributed to the abbot Oliba.

Finally, information related to **innovation and research transfer was communicated**. Highlights include the first edition of the Science Carriage; the B30 Circular project and the implementation of a network of laboratories so that universities, administrations and citizens of the Cerdanyola - Mollet del Vallès corridor can work together on topics of sustainability; the creation of the Chair for Research in Heritage, Technology and Society with the MNACTEC; the promotion of a citizen laboratory for experimentation on fanzines, and the first Innovation Week.

175th

in the world in the QS World University Rankings

The UAB in the university rankings

In this year's **QS World University Rankings**, the UAB reached 175th position in the world, and is in the top 12% of the best universities. In terms of indicators, the UAB stands out as 114th in the world in sustainability, 105th for academic reputation and 116th in the international research network. Also, in the first ever QS World University Rankings: Europe, the UAB achieved 66th place and is 3rd in terms of welcoming foreign students.

In the 2024 edition of the **Times Higher Education international ranking of universities**, the UAB was positioned in the 201-250 range worldwide and maintained 2nd place in Spain. In the field of teaching, the UAB went up 129 positions from 330 to 201 in the world.

The UAB also jumped 10 places to become the 133rd best university in the world according to the **Best Global Universities ranking**, published by the American newspaper U.S. News, and is positioned in the 301-400 range in the **Academic Ranking of World Universities**.

The eleventh year of the **CYD Foundation** Spanish university ranking once again placed the UAB in first place and gave it the highest number of high-performance indicators among the 81 universities analysed.

With regard to rankings by scientific fields and disciplines, in the 2024 **QS World University Rankings by Subject**, the UAB is among the top 100 universities in the world in the field of social sciences and in 10 scientific disciplines: anthropology (51-100), archaeology (51-100), economics and econometrics (77), education (89), geography (51-100), modern languages (72), mathematics (97), sociology (66), veterinary medicine (27) and linguistics (62).

Meanwhile, the UAB reached the 9th position in the world in the field of veterinary medicine and is among the top 100 in geography and ecology in the **Global Rankings of Academic Subjects**. It should be noted that in these rankings the UAB is positioned among the 200 best universities in the world in 22 disciplines.

Finally, the UAB is ranked 71st in education, 72nd in arts and humanities and 85th in social sciences (85) in this year's **Times Higher Education Rankings by Subject**.

Highlight



First session of Veus informative talks

On 16 November, as part of Science Week at the UAB, the first session of Veus took place – a day of talks with the aim of disseminating knowledge to promote scientific culture and the critical spirit of society, and to publicise inspiring and transformative ideas arising from the university community.

This first session was attended by the following members of the community: Antoni Palomo, Associate Lecturer in the Department of Prehistory and science communicator in the fields of prehistory and archaeology; Raquel Córdoba, graduate in Psychology from the UAB and disseminator through social networks; José Antonio Bueno, PhD student in Environmental Science and Technology and member of the GICOM group; Marina Campos, graduate in Food Science and Technology from the UAB and populariser on food; José Ávila, Master's degree in History of Science from the UAB and pre-doctoral researcher at the Mediterranean Social Archaeoecology Group (ASOME); Irene Subiza, PhD in Clinical and Health Psychology and Master's Degree in General Health Psychology from the UAB, and the environmental biologists Martina Arasa, Gina Libai and Sara Bordas, UAB alumni and members of Bionàrias, a nature dissemination project.

Talk by the President of the CSIC

On 11 March, the president of the CSIC, Eloísa del Pino, analysed the complex relationship between science and politics in a talk organised by the School for Doctoral Studies. The event, chaired by the rector of the UAB, Javier Lafuente, took place within the framework of the activities to commemorate International Women's Day organised at the UAB.

International projection



International institutional activity

The Office of the Vice-Principal for International Relations and the International Relations Area have received some 30 face-to-face visits by diplomatic and academic representatives from countries around the world, and several online meetings have also been held.

Noteworthy was the visit of the Ambassador of Japan and the visits of the Consuls General of Italy, Ukraine, the Philippines, Japan, the Republic of Korea and Argentina. These are countries with which there is a strong relationship, especially Japan and South Korea. Both Asian countries have a headquarters of their national cultural institutions at the UAB, which is especially remarkable in the case of Japan, since it normally opens the offices of the Sakura Network in the capital of the country, but in this case it decided to do so at the UAB thanks to relations with the University and the fact that Catalonia is home to the largest community of Japanese in Spain.

With regard to the visits of representatives of higher education institutions, it is worth mentioning the visit of a delegation from the **University of California Abroad Program (UCEAP)**. The UAB Barcelona Summer School is one of the most popular summer programmes among students at the University of California and the visit served to introduce them to the facilities and services offered to them.

Also from the United States, a delegation from **Reed College** visited, and met the dean and mobility coordinator of the Faculty of Psychology.

Another important visit was that of the

representatives of twenty-two public and private universities in India, the majority of them rectors and vice-rectors. The meeting was co-organised with the Spanish Service for the Internationalisation of Education (SEPIE) and other Catalan universities also participated.

Finally, worth mentioning is the visit of the delegation from the **University of Coimbra**, led by its Vice-Rector for International Relations and Alumni, João Nuno Calvão da Silva, with the aim of getting to know the UAB and its research strategy better.

Online meetings included the meeting with the director of the research office of the **University of Auckland** (New Zealand). New Zealand is one of the countries with which the UAB is opening relations based on the contacts established at the last Asia-Pacific Association for International Education (APAIE) conference in Perth, Australia.

Precisely, in relation to institutional trips, this year the UAB's participation in the main international university fairs is worth highlighting.

From 26 to 29 September 2023, the UAB participated in the **33rd international education conference of the European Association for International Education (EAIE)**, which took place in Rotterdam (Netherlands). The UAB delegation met with a hundred institutions with the aim of forging links and strengthen the UAB's presence around the world.

From 4 to 8 March, the UAB was present at the **2024 APAIE higher education conference**, which took place in Perth, Australia. Previously, taking advantage of the outward journey, the

UAB delegation stopped in Singapore to visit the campuses of two of the best universities in the country, the **National University of Singapore (NUS)** and the **Nanyang University of Technology (NTU)**. At the APAIE conference, the UAB delegation had meetings with 26 universities from countries in Asia and Oceania, to explain the different internationalisation programmes it offers. During their stay, the UAB delegation also met with different Spanish institutions and scientific organisations in Brisbane and Sydney.

Finally, from May 28 to 31, the 76th edition of the **Association of International Educators (NAFSA) International Higher Education Conference 2024** took place, which is organized annually in the United States. The UAB participated by presenting the different internationalisation programmes, as well as the Study Abroad programs managed by the FUAB. During the conference, the UAB delegation held interviews with representatives of numerous universities around the world and participated in a meeting with the university system of California through the Interuniversity Council of Catalonia.

As a result of its activity in the field of international projection, this year the UAB handled more than 50 agreements for general collaboration, specific collaboration, student exchange and grants for mobility for PTGAS and PDI. With regard to the countries with which it has worked, it should be noted that new agreements were reached with institutions in Australia, Canada, the United States, Japan, Chile, Mexico, Malta and South Korea.

The UAB receives representatives of 20 Indian universities

On 8 July, the UAB received representatives of 20 higher education institutions in India that participated in the Networking Seminar Between Indian and Spanish Universities, organised by the Spanish Service for the Internationalisation of Education (SEPIE). Representatives of Indian universities visited the campus and were able to learn about the UAB's internationalisation strategy, as well as familiarise themselves with the Erasmus+ programme and other aspects of the internationalisation of the university and research system in Catalonia. At the same time, Catalan universities had the opportunity to learn about the Indian university system and its intention to expand international relations with Catalan and Spanish universities.

Participation in networks and consortia

With regard to participation in international networks of universities, the UAB continued to play a very active role in the institutions in which it participates. It should be noted that the UAB has chaired the ECIU for the last three years, until in April it passed the baton of to the University of Linköping (Sweden). With regard to the European university project ECIU University, the UAB has not only participated in the teaching and research aspects of the project, but also in the European Status for ECIU University (ESEU) project to analyse the possible legal status of European alliances. With the aim of consolidating the construction of the **ECIU University**, it also organised activities to generate community among the different groups of the member universities, such as the online Lunch & Learn sessions, and participated in the first ECIU University Forum, which took place in Kaunas (Lithuania).

With regard to the activity of the **4 Universities Alliance (A4U)** at the international level, it should be noted that in October 2023 the UAB participated in the Alliance's institutional mission to Kenya, during which six universities were visited and relations with the country's main agents in the higher education sector were strengthened.

With regard to cooperation with African universities, mention should be made of the first calls for applicationis to the ACE South Africa - Visiting Lecturers Grants programme for researchers from A4U universities to visit South African universities. The A4U has also made a call for Erasmus+ KA171 grants for study, research, teaching and training stays in countries in sub-Saharan Africa, Russia and Iran.

In addition, 2024 marks the 15th anniversary of the Alliance's European research office, **OPERA**, in Brussels.

Highlight



The new Consul General of Japan in Barcelona visits the UAB

On 8 May, the UAB received the visit of Akiko Shikata, the new Consul General of Japan in Barcelona, who took office in March. Shikata met with the Rector, Javier Lafuente, and the Vice-Rector for International Relations, Laura Santamaria, and then visited the Faculty of Translation and Interpreting, accompanied by the Dean of the Faculty, Olga Torres, and Professor Blai Guarné, who have first-hand knowledge of the dynamics of Japanese studies carried out at the UAB.



The 4 Universities Alliance strengthens its collaboration with the Cervantes Institute

On 30 January, the A4U signed a new framework agreement with the Cervantes Institute to collaborate to strengthen the learning of Spanish as a foreign language and internationalise Spanish higher education. The collaboration will focus not only on teaching and research, but also on areas other than the teaching of Spanish as a foreign language, such as libraries, management or the legal field.



In addition to academic activities in English, the UAB Barcelona Summer School includes social and cultural activities and other training, such as introductory sessions to Catalan

Reception and support for the international community

During the 2023-2024 academic year, the **International Support Service (ISS)** maintained the service hybrid format: online and in person. For example, large-scale activities such as the reception of students in September were carried out through online sessions. A total of 41 welcome sessions were held for a total of 2,786 international students. New training activities were also consolidated, such as the course on work permits for non-EU students, which took place in a session that attracted 216 attendees.

Support was given to non-EU students to renew their residence permits for studies, either by informing them on how to obtain a digital signature or by supporting them in the online submission of immigration files. It should be noted that the ISS supported 143 students from eight Erasmus Mundus programmes and 25 international post-graduate fellowships.

Similarly, with the **International Welcome Days (IWD)**, the UAB welcomes international students at the beginning of each semester. For two days they were able to participate in various recreational activities to get to know the campuses and their services and the network of university associations.

Mobility programmes

The UAB encourages the mobility of the university community and especially of students, as shown by the fact that 21% of people who graduated from the UAB in 2022-2023 had undertaken a mobility stay during their studies.

The participation figures in mobility programmes during the 2023-2024 academic year have maintained very remarkable values. The **Erasmus+ programme** has enabled 902 UAB students to study at universities in Europe and abroad, and the UAB has welcomed a total of 1,010 students. Within the same programme, 42 members of the teaching and research staff and 23 members of the administrative and service staff of the UAB have done stays at other universities, mainly in Europe, and 120 students have done internships in companies.

As for the state **SICUE** programme, it has facilitated the mobility of 203 students, of which 94 have been hosted by the UAB and 109 are from the UAB and have spent time at other universities in Spain.

The **UAB Exchange Programme**, the UAB's own student mobility programme in non-European countries, saw the departure of 326 students, while the UAB has received 443. As for the work placement modality, 89 UAB students did internships outside Europe.

Study Abroad's specific programmes for international students continued to grow and went from 2,378 students enrolled to 2,446. Of these, 35 participated in the Selected programmes and were able to study in the faculties of the UAB. With regard to the Pre-Established programmes, it should be noted that 76% of students came from the United States.

UAB Barcelona Summer School and International Tracks

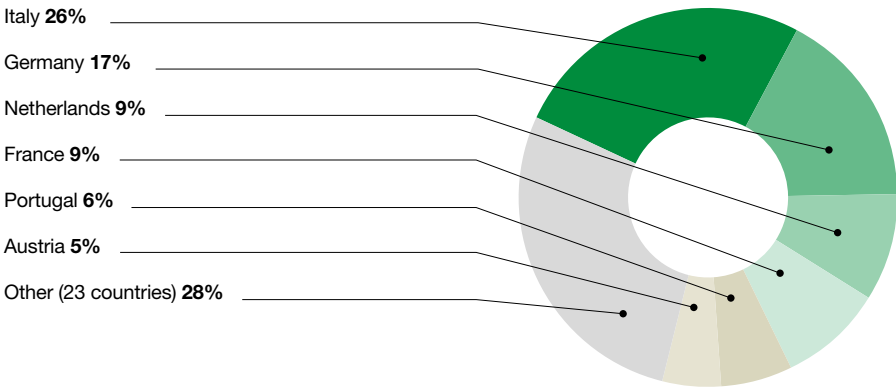
The 9th **UAB Barcelona Summer School** saw a new record of students and registrations. Twenty-nine subjects were offered, five of which are new, and the UAB's own faculties and the Language Service collaborated in the programme, which was taught in two six-week periods in June and July. More than 670 registrations were received and 550 students participated. Of these, 68% were international students from a wide range of backgrounds, with 44 nationalities represented. The new Social Programme, formerly the Buddy Programme, to facilitate interaction and networking among participants, carried out activities to promote Catalan culture and language, as well as cultural and sports visits and a series of challenges to get to know the campus.

With regard to the **UAB International Tracks**, we should mention the incorporation of the new Global Law track. The UAB International Tracks are packages of subjects in English, mainly Bachelor's-degree level but also Master's-degree level, related to a specific topic or an interdisciplinary area and aimed especially at international students who want to study for a full semester at the UAB.

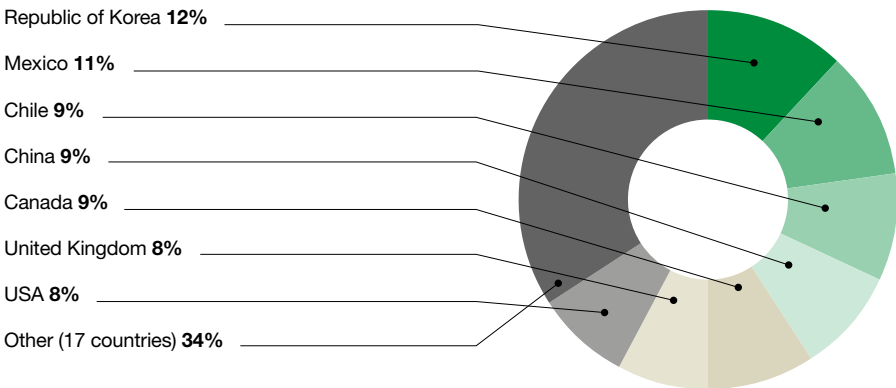
Participants in Mobility Programmes, 2023-2024

	In	Out
Erasmus Studies	1,010	902
Erasmus Internship		120
UAB Exchange Programme	443	326
UAB Exchange Programme Traineeships		89
SICUE	94	109
Study Abroad	2,446	
TOTAL	3,993	1,546

Countries of origin of Erasmus+ students at the UAB, 2023-2024



Countries of origin of UAB Exchange Programme students at UAB, 2023-2024



Highlight



First UAB BIP-International Staff Week

From 16 to 20 October, the first UAB BIP-International Staff Week took place, with 28 participants from 13 countries sharing a programme on campus with virtual and face-to-face workshops organised by the International Relations Area and the Library Service. The activities of the international programme emphasised the management of international relations, international credit mobility and online services for students and staff, while the library programme focused on organisational or technical issues and strategic topics such as open science, digital services, digital literacy training or co-creation models.



The UAB participates in the ECIU University forum in Kaunas

On 6 and 7 June, the ECIU University Forum took place at the Kaunas University of Technology (Lithuania), offering workshops, discussions and sessions with the aim of providing opportunities, generating ideas, establishing connections and, above all, empowering the ECIU University community. More than 200 people participated. A total of 15 people from the UAB attended, including students, faculty and PTGAS, five of whom offered different sessions to the attendees.

Social and environmental commitment



The UAB commemorates the twenty years of the fight against school dropout at the Ithaca Campus

On 22 November, the event to celebrate the 20th anniversary of Ithaca Campus took place. Entitled “20 years of commitment to educational success”, the event took a look at the origins and impact of this socio-educational programme, and the results of the evaluation report prepared by the ATLAS research group were presented. It also included a round table with people who have been linked to the programme during its career.

University, Society and Business Programme of the Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees, as the body for the participation of society in the university, promotes the University, Society and Business programme, which, through strategic actions, contributes to strengthening the University's links with society and the territory.

This year, the programme has included a number of actions aimed at students, such as funding for the Impuls grants for people with special needs, a study on the map of students' experiences, and support for the UAB Alumni network (with the launch of the Accompaniment and Training Programme for Management and the UAB Mentoring project) and the labour market outcomes surveys carried out by AQU Catalunya. It has also promoted innovation and teaching quality, with the collaboration in the Teaching Excellence Award, which is awarded annually by the UAB and the Board of Trustees.

The Board of Trustees has also collaborated in the deployment of different actions in strategic areas of the University, such as entrepreneurship (with the awards for the best bachelor's degree final projects on social entrepreneurship), innovation, knowledge transfer and connection with the territory, within the framework of the initiatives of the B30 Hub.

The UAB has also opted for equality and inclusion initiatives (dissemination of the UAB action protocol in situations of gender and LGBTI-phobic violence) and health and emotional well-being (provision of sports equipment for the championships in which UAB students participate and relaunch of the UAB Sports Games).

University Social Responsibility

In the 2023-2024 academic year, the maturity of the social responsibility project at the UAB has been consolidated. As a continuation of the lines undertaken in recent years, several significant events and initiatives have been carried out for the University. First of all, it is worth mentioning the approval of the **1st University Social Responsibility Plan**. This plan, focused on implementing a human rights due diligence system, represents a firm and public commitment to the United Nations Guiding Principles and consolidates the path towards a more responsible university that is aware of its social impact. The plan consists of 10 strategic lines and 28 actions that will allow the principles of social responsibility to be integrated into the different areas of management of the UAB.

Secondly, the **1st Conference on University Social Responsibility** was held and it served to share experiences, good practices and challenges in the field of social responsibility at the university with other Catalan universities. The presentations and talks provided a broad, in-depth view of the various dimensions of social responsibility and highlighted the importance of collaboration and innovation in this field.

Finally, it is worth mentioning the celebration of the **3rd Inclusive Art Week**, an initiative to promote inclusion and diversity through art that has established itself as a key event in the UAB's annual commemoration of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities.

Equality and support for students

The UAB has grants aimed at providing financial support to students with the aim of promoting equity and equal opportunities in access to and continuation of university studies. One of the UAB's commitments to promote equity is the call for study grants for emergency situations, which has been specified in the 2023-2024 academic year in the awarding of 25 grants. Grants for compulsory internships have increased to 86.

A total of 80 students benefit from the Ithaca - Banco Santander salary scholarships to study at the UAB, aimed at secondary school students with high academic performance who come from difficult socioeconomic backgrounds. In addition, the Fundació Autònoma Solidària, with the support of the UAB Board of Trustees, awarded 7 Impulse scholarships to students with disabilities to make it easier for them to attend university classes.

17 grants were awarded from the Santander Ayuda Económica gender supplement for students who register for Bachelor's degrees in which their gender is the minority and who also have the general scheme scholarship.

In the call for applications for study grants for victims of gender-based violence, 6 grants were awarded to help compensate for the difficult situations of these people and prevent them from dropping out of university studies.

The UAB also has a line of grants to collaborate in different areas of the university while the studies are being carried out. In 2023-2024 67 grants were offered.



Socio-educational programmes

The UAB has a wide variety of socio-educational programmes that aim to strengthen relations between the university and the social and territorial environment. These programmes are carried out both on the UAB campus and in educational centres in surrounding municipalities.

The Ithaca Campus, the Argó Programme and the Brúixola project promote the relationship between the University and secondary school students. Specifically, the **Ithaca Campus** welcomes secondary school students to encourage them to continue their studies after the compulsory stage through activities on campus, and in this year's edition 330 students from 71 institutes from 19 municipalities have participated; the **Brúixola** project puts upper secondary school students in contact with UAB students so that they can guide and advise them when choosing university studies; and, finally, the **Argó Programme** offers support to students of baccalaureate and higher level vocational training cycles (CFGs) in the transition to university through advice on baccalaureate projects, training stays, stays in companies (FCT) and the call for applications for the Argó Award for baccalaureate final projects and CFGs projects.

The Prometheus programme, funded by Barcelona City Council, promotes the educational success of young people who have a good academic record

The study carried out by the ATLAS research group highlights that between the start of the Ithaca Campus, in 2004, and 2022, a total of 6,784 young people from 88 public institutes in 33 Catalan municipalities have participated, with the collaboration of 1,345 teachers and 285 tutors. The study concludes that the programme has served to improve students' results and to open up their prospects beyond compulsory education.

at university and who are in complex socio-economic situations. This year it has reached its third edition and 33 UAB students participated.

The responsibility of bringing the university closer to future students is also reflected in a wide variety of programmes and projects organised or participated in by the UAB's teaching and research centres, such as the different scientific Olympiads, discipline-specific conferences and debate leagues, among other proposals.

Another group of socio-educational programmes, which include the **CROMA 2.0 Programme** or the **Let's Talk** programme, are aimed at accompanying and supporting students from primary and secondary schools in the area who, due to their socio-cultural or personal circumstances, have difficulties in achieving their academic objectives.

The **Universitat a l'Abast** programme is committed to continuing training linked to active ageing, offering training opportunities and social involvement through three lines: the Learning on Campus training plan, its own training aimed at people over 50 years of age and the link with the University Extension Classrooms for the Elderly. A total of 515 people participated this year in one of the lines of the programme.

Highlight



Presentation of the Ithaca Salary Scholarships - Banco Santander

On 22 November, the UAB awarded the diplomas to the last four classes of students who have benefited from the Ithaca Salary - Banco Santander scholarships, which allow them to study their bachelor's degree studies with a monthly grant of 500 euros. Since its creation in 2009, 281 students have already benefited from this grant.



Argó Awards for to high school research projects and CFGS

On 27 June and 11 July, the awards ceremonies of the 21st edition of the Argó Awards took place. The jury awarded 18 awards and 23 honourable mentions in the category of high school research projects. On the other hand, on 11 July, the six awards and six honourable mentions were presented in the modality of training cycle projects.

New European project against female genital mutilation

The European project CHAT Plus – Changing Attitude Plus – co-organised by the Fundació Autònoma Solidària and the Wassu Foundation, aims to create training and training spaces so that students and victims can carry out awareness-raising and communication actions and become activists who promote the abandonment of female genital mutilation.



The UAB commemorates the International Day of Persons with Disabilities

On 28 November, the sixth institutional conference was held at the UAB in commemoration of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, with a talk on infoaccessibility by Professor Anna Matamala Ripoll, from the Department of Translation and Interpreting and East Asian Studies. During the event, the Impulse scholarships were awarded by the UAB Board of Trustees.

Social action and volunteering

The UAB university community's solidarity action towards society is mainly channelled through volunteering programmes in the social and health fields managed by the Fundació Autònoma Solidària.

This year, 335 people, including students, PTGAS and PDI of the UAB, participated in volunteering programmes in the social field, such as the Justice Programme, the socio-educational programmes and the Social and Health Programme, and attended more than 3,000 people. Also, 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.

Within the framework of the global justice education project, 34 student works have been awarded prizes in the 7th Arcadi Oliveres Awards for the best final degree projects in sustainable development and global justice.

In addition to the 40 #UABRefugi grants for university students who are refugees, a specific call has opened for those affected by the Ukraine conflict, financed by the University-Refugee Action Plan of the Conference of Spanish University Rectors (CRUE).

Cooperation for development

During the 2023-2024 academic year, the 41st call for projects aimed at PDI and PTGAS was decided. Specifically, five international cooperation projects and five education for global justice projects were approved, with a total budget allocated of 66,861 euros. The projects are led by PTGAS and PDI of the UAB in alliance with universities and educational and organised civil society organisations from Brazil, Nigeria, the Dominican Republic and Mozambique. The proposals are related to sexual and reproductive health, news coverage of immigration, education for global justice and feminisms.

The E2023-2024 call, aimed at promoting the participation of Master's and doctoral students in cooperation actions, was resolved with the approval of six projects, which focus on the rights of the LGBTI+ community, environmental justice and social exclusion in Uganda, Ghana, Colombia, Chile and Ecuador.

Care for people with disabilities

The UAB Inclusion Service (PIUNE) has attended 1,023 students this academic year. The aim of this service is to guarantee equal opportunities by advising future students and promoting support measures for students with disabilities or specific educational needs during the time they are studying. In addition, PIUNE manages the adapted transport service of the Bellaterra campus and the walking escort service for people with orientation difficulties.

This year, two long-awaited regulatory development milestones were achieved. First, the UAB Governing Council approved the **Regulation on equal opportunities for students with specific educational support needs (NESE)**, with the aim of promoting equal opportunities for people with some type of physical, sensory or mental disability, chronic disease, neurodevelopmental disorder or high intellectual ability.

Second, from this academic year onwards, PIUNE users have a charter of rights and responsibilities. The charter, approved by the Student and Employability Committee, has been prepared so that students can know and understand all the implications of using this service.

New Justice-Youth Programme

This year the new Justice-Youth programme was launched, which aims to contribute to breaking the social isolation and stigmas suffered by the inmates of the Quatre Camins Youth Penitentiary Centre. The aim is to promote the integration and social reintegration of

young people aged 18 to 25 by offering them support adapted to their needs and interests during exit permits and when returning to the community, and by making them aware of healthy leisure alternatives and the network of services available to them.



Environmental management

During the 2023-2024 academic year, the Sustainability Office continued to promote the excellence of the UAB campus in all aspects that involve improving the efficiency of resource management (energy, water and waste), protecting natural heritage and monitoring biodiversity on campus.

With regard to the most significant milestones this year, worth highlighting is the approval of the **UAB climate policy programme**, which establishes the principles and actions to achieve climate neutrality in the university's own activity by 2030.

Different projects were also launched to promote mobility committed

14th the Healthy and Sustainable Week

La XIV edició de la Setmana Saludable i Sostenible va tenir lloc del 22 al 26 d'abril. La comunitat universitària va poder assistir a conferències i exposicions i participar en activitats físiques i tallers. A més, es va promocionar l'ús de la bicicleta i es va donar a conèixer la iniciativa del cotxe compartit per venir al campus.

to collective transport and the rationalisation of private vehicles. It should be noted that, within the framework of the **European Mobility Week**, which took place from 18 to 22 September, the UAB presented the car-sharing campaign and a new website to put people from the university community in contact who are able to share a car to and/or from the UAB.

This year, the space for the reuse and waste prevention of Espai R, the campus waste centre, has been refurbished. CircuLab was officially launched in this space, (see the chapter "Research and transfer of knowledge and technology").

Highlight



The UAB is the 78th university in the world in sustainability according to the 2023 UI GreenMetric ranking

According to the 2023 UI GreenMetric ranking, the UAB ranks 78th in the world out of a total of 1,183 centres assessed and obtained a score of 8,500 points out of 10,000. Since 2014, the UAB has participated in this ranking, which assesses the environmental sustainability of university campuses at an international level through 39 quantitative indicators distributed in six areas: spaces and infrastructures, energy and climate change, waste, water, transport, and education and research.



UAB climate policy programme approved

On 24 April, the UAB Governing Council approved the University's Climate Policy document. This programme to tackle the climate emergency and its effects includes many initiatives that have been working on at the UAB for some time, and proposes a strategy for mitigating and adapting to climate change with specific objectives and commitments.

The measures approved include reducing water and energy consumption; gradually reduce the university's direct GHG emissions to achieve carbon neutrality by 2030; phasing out the use of fossil fuels with total replacement by renewable energies by 2030; incorporating the calculation of the carbon footprint

in new construction; adhere to internationally recognised sustainability platforms and networks; adding the low-carbon public procurement criterion to procurement processes, and incorporating content on ecological transition, sustainability and climate change into the offer of courses.

The UAB will also transfer these commitments to the entities in which it participates. That way, the objectives and commitments of the UAB Climate Policy will contribute to the regional, national and global objectives, and will serve as a guide for new professionals, as well as for the organisations, companies, entities and administrations involved in the university's research and innovation.

New organisation of the UAB's internal bus service

On 8 January 2024, the new organisation of the lines of the UAB's internal bus service came into operation, which will optimise the available resources, maintaining frequencies and increasing the service hours early in the morning to meet the needs of people who arrive earlier on campus. On the other hand, with the progressive incorporation of less polluting vehicles, it will be possible to contribute to the reduction of the UAB's carbon footprint.



The UAB, committed to mental health

On 28 September, the Minister of Health, Manel Balcells, and the rector of the UAB, Javier Lafuente, visited the Mental Health Associations Fair that took place at the UAB and inaugurated the #TrioLaVida conference, organised by the Department of Health, within the framework of the I Week of Suicide Prevention and Promotion of Mental Health of the UAB. These activities are included in this year's institutional campaign, which has the slogan "Mental health is in play: let's win the game".

At the opening ceremony of the 2023-2024 academic year the institutional campaign **"Mental health is in play: let's win the game"** was launched. The aim of this campaign has been to destigmatise mental health problems and offer tools to improve the quality of life of people who are part of the UAB university community. In this sense, the number of hours of psychological assistance offered by the Health Care Service (SAS) has doubled from 40 hours a week last year to 80 this year.

As a result of the participatory process open to the entire university community that allowed the approval of the UAB Code of Conduct Rules last year, this year the **UAB Conduct Commission has been constituted and launched**. This committee is made up of three representatives of the teaching and research staff, three representatives of the technical, management and administrative and service staff and three representatives of the students, and must ensure that any conflicts that may exist between the members of the university community are resolved through alternative means of conflict resolution.

This year, the **Map of Student Experiences** was presented. It is a project funded by the Board of Trustees and included in the UAB strategic plan, to analyse and map the extracurricular learning experiences of UAB students throughout their educational journey. These experiences provide transferrable skills applicable to their personal and professional lives and, at the same time, generate a sense of belonging that has a decisive influence on the link with the university and with knowledge. This map should allow us to understand experiences in extracurricular activities, identify their strengths and improve their offer and visibility, and propose strategies to improve these experiences.

Also, the **Guide for UAB student participation was approved**, based on the premise of the Organic law on the University System (LOSU) that places students at the centre of university life. The guide is based on the analysis of transferrable competences and the Map of Student Experiences, and is organised into four strategic lines: cross-cutting measures for receiving and disseminating actions, dialogue with students, support for those who carry out student representation tasks, and the programming of the institution's activities.

Student participation

Through the Community Promotion Unit the UAB supports student participation by making a whole range of resources and equipment available to the different university groups. There are currently 79 groups registered in the Directory of Associations, 13 of which are newly created, with the involvement of 3,125 community members.

With the 2024 calls, financial support for a total of 17,500 euros has been given to 56 activities of 26 groups, as associations and student councils. These groups also have the Groups Resource Centre, with rooms for meetings and activities. It should be noted that this year the new Regulations of the Register of the Associations Network of the UAB was approved.

In relation to the Census of Delegates, there is currently a total of 761 students. In addition, 21 people were selected as equality delegates in the centres, a figure that is part of the 4th Action Plan for Gender Equality of the UAB.

With regard to the institutional representative bodies, in the session of 24 April 2024 the Governing Council approved the modification of the Regulations of the UAB Student Council (CEUAB) to streamline its operation.

After the success of the new Cultural and Recreational Day launched last year, the university held two days of **La Comunitària UAB** this academic year, one in the autumn and the other in the spring. The main objective is to publicise a sample of all the activities offered by the university's groups and associations.



19th institutional day in commemoration of International Working Women's Day

On March 6, the institutional act in commemoration of International Working Women's Day took place. This year the event paid tribute to **Margot Pujal**, a lecturer in the Department of Social Psychology of the UAB. Pujal has focused her research on social psychology and gender studies, and currently coordinates the DES-Subjectant group (GESPGI), focused on the social study of subjectivity and subjection from an intersectional gender perspective. She has also been the coordinator of the Joan Rivièrre Centre for Psychology and Gender.

Equality and diversity

In the 2023-2024 academic year, the Observatory for Equality carried out the diagnostic process to draw up the 5th Action Plan for Gender Equality of the UAB. As part of this plan, the **1st Plan for Gender Equality in Labour Matters of the UAB (I PIGML)** was approved, and is the result of the negotiation process between representatives of the institution and the working staff of the UAB to adapt to current legislation, which establishes that public administrations must approve in each legislature a plan for equality between women and men.

Within the framework of the State Pact against Gender Violence, a day was held to collectively repaint the mural against gender aggression located in the Civic Square, on the occasion of the International Day against Gender Violence. Also within the framework of this funding, the Observatory has produced a diagnostic report on the impact of situations of gender-based violence on the community, has participated in the two editions of La Comunitària and launched the UAB Masculinity Workspace, a service aimed at men in the university community who want to review their way of relating to each other from a non-sexist perspective.

With regard to awareness-raising and prevention activities and campaigns, the creation of the infographic "At the UAB we respond to gender violence", and the workshop on "Masculinities and young people: what boys can do in the face of gender violence" are worth mentioning. These activities include

the 19th institutional day in commemoration of the International Women's Day, the 6th institutional day in commemoration of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, and the International Day against Gender Violence, among others.

Creation of the Equality and Diversity Service

This academic year, the **UAB Equality and Diversity Service was created**, which integrates the University's equality and diversity support services (the Observatory for Equality, the PIUNE and the Educational Psychology Counselling Unit) for the implementation of inclusive and non-discrimination policies in all university areas. The service will provide expert guidance and resources to build a feminist, diverse and inclusive university. It is therefore aimed at all people in the UAB community: teaching and research staff, PTGAS and students.

The functions of the Service for the Promotion of Equality, Inclusion and Diversity are: to develop action plans, to provide advice, support and specific accompaniment to the university community and to carry out diagnostic studies and awareness and training campaigns on equality, inclusion and diversity.

Highlight



Awards for the best final degree project with a gender perspective

On 9 April, the awards ceremony for the best Bachelor's degree final projects (TFG) with a gender perspective for the 2022-2023 academic year took place. These awards, funded by the Catalan Women's Institute, have now been taking place for eight years, during which 33 works have been awarded, from 12 of the 13 faculties of the UAB.



The mural against gender violence is restored

On 24 November, to commemorate the International Day for the Elimination of Gender-Based Violence, an event was organised in the Plaça Cívica focusing on the restoration of one of the UAB's emblems in this area, the feminist mural in the Plaça Cívica that commemorates the date. The event also included a minute of silence in memory of the victims of gender violence.



21st Friends of the UAB Celebration

On 16 November, the annual celebration of the Friends of the UAB Association took place, now in its 21st year. The event featured speeches by the rector of the UAB, Javier Lafuente, the chair of the Board of Trustees, Tania Nadal, and the chair of the Association, Susanna Baqué. The journalist Carles Prats led the event, which took place at Casa Convalescència and featured a performance by the University Chamber Choir.

Ombud's Office

During 2023, the UAB Ombud's Office dealt with a total of 176 complaints. The complainants were undergraduate students (73), students of official Master's degrees (15), students of UB-specific Master's degrees (5), doctoral students (4), teaching staff (24), technical, management and administrative staff and services (22) and others (33). By area, the complaints were divided between the academic field (76), the labor field (31), the economic field (26), the administrative management area (11) and the institutional area (4). It should also be noted that the two specific issues that have caused the most complaints were teaching and assessments (20) and registration, group changes and financial exemptions (18).

The commitment of the Catalan Ombuds Officer to ensure respect for the rights and freedoms of the university community has always had the collaboration of the different bodies and services of the UAB, which has allowed it to give a quick and effective response to the applications received.

The Ombud's Office of the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona updated its website in 2023. This has made it possible to incorporate the actions of previous ombuds officers: Enric Casassas (1996-2000), Jordi Porta (2000-2009), Josep Font (2009-2017) and Manuel Gerpe (2017- 2022).

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 this year and has renewed the board of directors.

The 21st Friends of the UAB Association annual celebration took place. This award ceremony pays tribute to the people who help make the UAB great and who make the social impact of the activity carried out at the university more visible.

The winners of the Friend of Friends Awards were Xavier Montalbán, professor of neurology at the UAB Department of Medicine; Jesús Alturo, professor at the Department of Sciences of Antiquity and the Middle Ages, and Tània Alaix, researcher at the Seminar of Palaeography, Codicology and Diplomacy of the UAB, and the former rector of the UAB Margarita Arboix (2016-2020), professor of Veterinary Pharmacology, who headed the institution during a period marked by the commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the university.

The UAB Collective Award went to Eurecat, the main technology centre in Catalonia and one of the institutions behind B30 Hub, committed to the development of the knowledge society in the region of the UAB. The Friends of the Libraries Award went to the Lynx publishing house, dedicated to the publication of ornithology and nature books.

UAB Alumni

UAB Alumni is the network of UAB graduates, a community of professionals with an international presence in more than one hundred countries, based on the promotion of continuing development, professional training and the creation of spaces for interaction.

The professional and personal interactions of former students have been encouraged through the Alumni networks, spaces for exchange and networking between professionals. As a novelty, this year the Alumni Network of Law was created.

It is worth mentioning the offer of career guidance services and professional improvement webinars aimed at all former students who have recently completed their studies, prepared in coordination with the Employability Service.

The second Mentoria UAB programme also took place to help students and alumni discover their abilities and boost their professional careers.

With the aim of promoting the professional improvement of alumni, the Support and Training Towards Management Programme has been launched, with the support of the UAB Board of Trustees. The programme is aimed at alumni with professional concerns who want to grow, learn and develop in order to be able to opt for positions with more responsibility.

The UAB also offers alumni a set of benefits focused on lifelong learning, with discounts on UAB-specific post-graduate and master's degrees and official Master's degrees taught by the UAB Foundation, and access to library services.



Meeting of Catalan university ombuds officers

On 28 February, the UAB hosted a meeting of ombuds officers from the different institutions of the Catalan university system, in which they shared their tasks. This year it focused especially on issues related to the mental health of the university community.

Human resources

Within the framework of the Shock Plan for Generational Change and against the precariousness of public universities agreed with the Department of Universities, and also thanks to the use of its own resources, the UAB has made progress in increasing and stabilising the teaching and research staff. Specifically, as a result of these actions, a total of 173 teaching positions were created for the period 2023-2024.

In 2023, the public employment offer for teaching and research staff at the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona rose to 97 permanent teaching positions, of which 12 are reserved for the recruitment of research staff from the Ramón y Cajal programme, or other national or international programmes of excellence, who have obtained the I3 certificate. In 2023, 17 positions for tenure-track lecturers were also announced within the framework of the Serra Hùnter programme.

In the same line to ensure satisfactory good generational change, the Governing Council in June 2024 approved the programme for the incorporation and retention of research talent at the UAB, aimed at strengthening the recruitment and training of talented research staff and promoting the incorporation of profiles that provide heterogeneity and can contribute significantly to research at the UAB.

In relation to PTGAS, work is being carried out on a process of technification and reinforcement of this group in order to be able to provide an optimal response to the emerging needs of the UAB.

As for the public employment offer for PTGAS in 2023, 67 positions were advertised, 42 for civil servants and 25 non-civil servants.

This academic year, the training portal has continued to be implemented as the main tool for managing the training offer aimed at PDI and PTGAS of the UAB. This training offer involves people from different areas, services and teaching of the UAB.

In total, 330 training activities aimed at teaching and research staff were carried out, with a total of 47,164 hours of training and 12,119 participants. For PTGAS specifically, 818 training activities were carried out, representing more than 80,000 hours of training and in which 9,018 people participated.

Highlight



Recognition ceremony for retirees

On 19 October, a tribute to retired UAB staff took place in the auditorium of the Rectorat building. The event was attended by the rector, Javier Lafuente, the secretary general, Esther Zapater, and the executive manager, Jaume Tintoré, with the intervention of Ricard Marcos and Tere Asenjo on behalf of the retired members of the PDI and PTGAS, respectively.



The UAB's Health and Safety Area receives recognition at the 2023 Atlante Awards

On 9 November, the UAB's Health and Safety Area received the distinctive diploma in the category "Elements of integration of occupational risk prevention" of the 2023 Atlante Awards, organised by the Catalan Enterprise Board. These awards, which are biennial, aim to reward and encourage a good culture of prevention through public recognition of preventive actions and good labour practices in companies and institutions in Catalonia.



The Permanent Theatre Group of the UAB recognised at the 10th Barcelona University Theatre Festival

The UAB was awarded three prizes at the 10th Barcelona University Theatre Festival for the play *La sala d'espera* (The Waiting Room), by Àngel Guimerà, after having participated on 22 May in the 3rd University Theatre Biennial, organised by the Vives Network of Universities.

Cultural activity

This academic year, 2023-2024, Cultura en Viu programmed 133 activities in different cultural spaces on and off campus. It is worth mentioning the programme of 7 exhibitions, 40 screenings, 35 theatre and dance shows, and also 37 musical performances and concerts. In total, 42 activities have been carried out in the Sala Teatre, 44 in the Sala Cinema and 5 exhibitions in the UAB Exhibition Hall.

Some of the most outstanding exhibition activities have been: "Between Picassian pro/spectives. Choral Suite of the Picasso Doctorate" and "Vicenç Altaió. From anarcho-academia to the trafficking of ideas". As for the UAB's own production, 26 activities were scheduled, of which one of the highlights was the *Handel* concert, organised jointly by the UAB Choir, the UB Pharmacy Choir and the Salvat Ensemble Orchestra, in which they performed works by the German composer. New shows by the Theatre Group also been premiered: *La sala d'espera* (The Waiting Room) by Àngel Guimerà, which was performed in the 3rd Biennial of University Theatre of the Vives Network, and the new choreography by the Dance Studio *Jo no busco, ho trobo*, (I'm not looking but finding) which was premiered to celebrate International Dance Day.



Also, 17 training activities with academic credit recognition were programmed, with 275 inscriptions, among which were the Permanent Choir, the Chamber Choir, the Orchestra and the Permanent Theatre Group and various workshops.



As for the professional theatre, dance and music shows, the play *Our Daily Bread* by Bertolt Brecht was programmed, performed by the Teatre del Repartidor company; the choreography *Cossoc*, performed by the duo formed by Anamaria Klajnšček and Magí Serra, and the concert by the flute quartet Neuma. In addition, within the Inclusive Artistic Week, the puppet show *Bostikianes* and the choreography *Parlem-ne* by the company of Vero Cendonya were shown.



Finally, a total of 80 academic activities and nearly 30 community activities were offered. The film cycles "Tinseltown: dreams and nightmares in Hollywood" and "Rewritings: practices of narrative appropriation", organised with the Department of Audiovisual Communication, and the screening of the documentaries *Sensibles* by Luca Butturini (proposed by the Wearedavinci collective), *Monday* by Anna Truyló (programmed by the Employability Service) and *Now you are a woman* by Alba Muñoz (at the initiative of the Autonomous Solidarity Foundation), were some of the highlights, among others.



UAB Charity Race in support of La Marató

On 17 December, the Solidarity Race and Walk in support of La Marató de TV3 took place, organised by the UAB and the Cerdanyola del Vallès City Council, and in which a thousand people participated. The 26,583 euros raised will go to the Fundació La Marató de TV3 to finance research projects related to sexual and reproductive health.

Promotion of sport

The UAB promotes the practice of physical activity among the university community and its environment by offering a quality service aimed at the comprehensive training of people and the improvement of their quality of life. The services and activities offered by the Physical Activity Service (SAF) and its sports facilities are primarily aimed at people who make up the university community and their families.



The UAB offers the UAB Tutoresport programme, an academic support and tutoring programme aimed at athletes who are UAB students, which offers them the possibility of combining academic and sporting activity, with the active collaboration of a tutor from the faculty or university school in which they study, and allows them to recognise 6 elective credits during their academic career to encourage them to train on campus and actively participate in competitions representing the UAB in the Catalan and Spanish championships.

From 16 to 26 October, the SAF organised the 4th UAB Games. These games are an activity of welcome and participation of the entire university community through the values of sport, active, healthy and sustainable habits, and solidarity. In this edition, the Games have supported the institutional campaign “Mental health is in play: let’s win the game”.

From 1 to 5 July, students from the UAB and other universities of the ECIU University met at the UAB to present the solutions to the challenge “TechFit Challenge: Empowering Healthy and Sporty Lifestyles through Technology”, offered by the FAS of the UAB and the Sports Service of the University of Trento.



The students worked in five groups and proposed various solutions, such as a marketing campaign with advice on physical and mental health, applications to promote physical activity during breaks or personalised workouts and the use of artificial intelligence to develop diet menus or training routines.

Highlight

The UAB wins 79 medals at the university championships of Catalonia and Spain

The 399 UAB students who participated this year in the university championships of Catalonia and Spain won 79 medals. Swimming and taekwondo are the sports in which the most UAB students participated and the ones that placed UAB athletes on the podium the most times.

Seven Olympic medallists from the UAB

Seven UAB students enrolled in the Tutoresport UAB programme won a medal at the Paris Olympic Games: five women from the women’s water polo team, which won the gold medal for the first time in its history, and two men from the men’s handball team, which won the bronze medal.



2024 Literary Awards Ceremony

On 24 May, the 2024 Literary Awards, organised by the UAB and Cerdanyola del Vallès City Council, took place. This year, Miquel Ribas won the 30th Valldaura Novel Prize – Pere Calders Memorial for the work *Ilha do Farol*; Carla Clúa has been awarded the 15th Caterina Albert Short Narrative Prize for Young People for the text *Pausa, sucre, Sevilla*, and, the 29th Miquel Martí i Pol Poetry Prize, was awarded ex aequo to Josep Domènech for *Eixint de fer* and to Josep A. Aguilar for *Ballar amb els espectres*.

Resource management and organisation

379.8

million euros budget
(2023 finalised expenditure
budget))

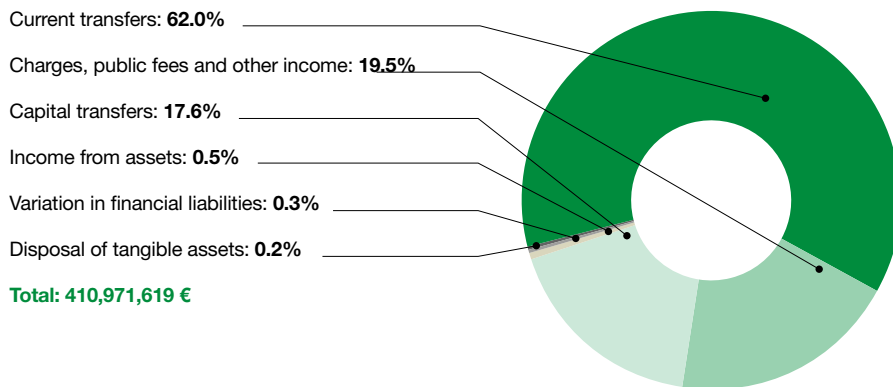
Budget implementation

In 2023, the Organic Law of the University System (LOSU) came into force, and defines the new economic and financial framework for public universities, with the common objective of allocating at least 1% of GDP to basic public university education, progressively and according to budget availability.

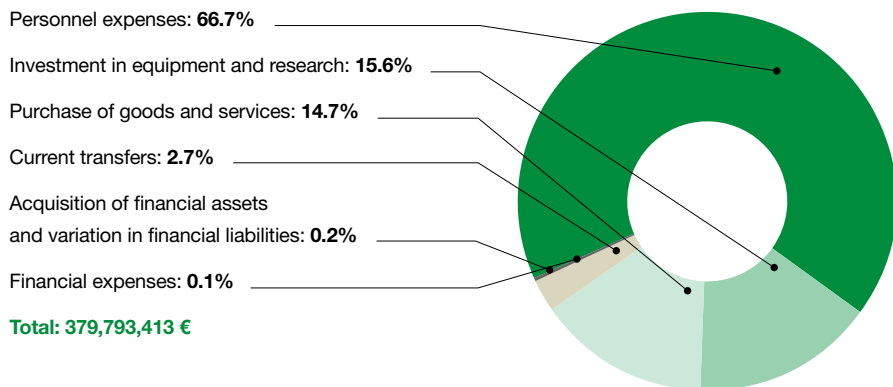
The implementation of the 2023 budget was marked by the increase in the basic funding of the Government of Catalonia compared to the previous year, of more than 13 million euros in current funds and 2.8 million euros from the Investment Plan. It is worth mentioning the additional funding for the measures to promote generational change and against the precariousness of teaching and research staff and for the replacement and specialisation of the PTGAS staff, as well as the additional resources for operation and increase in energy consumption. With regard to registrations for the 2023-2024 academic year, unlike in recent years, the same prices as the previous year were maintained for Bachelor's degrees and university Master's degrees.

The sharp increase in research activity for the second consecutive year and the additional funding from the Government of Catalonia have made it possible to cope with the increase in the university's current expenses, to have credit for investment in sustainability, to close the year with a budget balance of 0.3 million euros and thus to meet the savings of the 2020-2052 Budget Stabilisation Plan.

Finalisation of the 2023 revenue budget. Rights recognised



Settlement of the 2023 expenditure budget. Committed obligations



Note: the difference between the rights recognised (€410,971,619) and the obligations contracted (€379,793,413) constitutes the budgetary result for the year, which is broken down into the profit for the year (€311,312) and the result of the specific activity (€30,866,894).

The treasury for the 2023 financial year did not suffer any setbacks. Only very occasional use was made of credit policies, and for the first time in many years, it has been possible to make monthly deposits in current accounts of the excess money not foreseen in

the budget. The reduction in interest, together with the increase in income from deposits, have led to a surplus of 0.3 million euros.

The UAB managed to save 25.1% of water in 2023 compared to 2022 thanks to the saving and efficiency measures that were implemented throughout the year to deal with the drought. Specifically, the saving actions facilitated a reduction in water consumption of 50,000 m³. The economic savings that the reduction in consumption entailed has made it possible to offset the cost of the investments that have been made during 2023 for the improvement of infrastructures and data monitoring. All these measures not only seek to tackle the current crisis, but also to lay the foundations for a more sustainable future.



Organisation

This year, the first call for the detection and prioritisation of digital transformation needs has been resolved. Within the framework of the process of digital transformation of the university's management, the aim of the call is to have flexible and adaptable management instruments and procedures to change, which make it possible to improve the efficiency, flexibility and agility of internal management, and to facilitate its transformation, to be able to offer a quality and sustainable response to the constant changes in the society to which it is served. In accordance with the degree of alignment with the university's strategy 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, the execution of 16 of the 34 applications for digital transformation needs submitted by the centres, and 100 of the 242 applications submitted by the central areas was approved in 2024. Also, Jira ticketing software has been implemented in 75 processes to improve the processing and traceability of requests and incidents.

It should be noted that this year a new structure of distributed computing services (SID) was agreed with the social agents, which responds to the need to technify the structure of this service to meet the new demands of the centres and the digitalisation of processes.

With regard to digitalisation, it should also be noted that progress has been made in promoting a new data governance model that facilitates an adequate record of the data generated at the University and ensures interoperability. Specifically, this year work was done on the detection, custody and location of existing data.

The UAB achieves certification of compliance with the National ICT Security Scheme

This academic year, the UAB obtained official certification from the National Security Scheme (ENS), which accredits the prevention work carried out by the University in the field of information and communication technologies (ICT).

To achieve this certification, the UAB underwent an external audit and accredited that it has the necessary procedures to guarantee the control and proper functioning of the different ICT systems.

The accreditation is based on the 2022 update of the ENS, which is mandatory for public administrations, which is in line with the international reference directives (ISO 27001 and NIS) and the European Union's data protection policy.

It should be noted that the UAB is the first Catalan university to achieve this recognition.

Management and organisation of the UAB Foundation

One of the UAB Foundation's outstanding lines of action throughout the 2023-2024 academic year has been the reorganisation of operational units for process improvement. This is the case of the analysis of the academic management services of the FUAB, which has led to organisational changes and modifications in staff functions. The implementation of this process will begin in September 2024. There were also changes to UAB Alumni, which has ceased to be a foundation and is currently a project managed by the FUAB as an internal entity of the university.

In the field of human resources management, a flexible remuneration plan was implemented, with the aim of improving staff salaries within the formal and budgetary limitations of the institution, with health insurance as the first product. A health promotion programme was also launched, which aims to improve the healthy lifestyle habits and well-being of staff and is published in the FUAB Staff website.

Among the new academic challenges undertaken this year, it is worth highlighting the preparation of the Strategic Plan for Continuing Education of the FUAB Training School and the incorporation of the CFGS vocational cycle in Administration and Networked Computer Systems – Cybersecurity in the FUAB Vocational Training Centre.



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)

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