

Universitat Autònoma
de Barcelona

Annual report for the 2016-2017 academic year



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Information in this report for the 2016-2017 academic year
is accurate at 31 May 2017.

This report is also available in Catalan
(www.uab.es/memoria/2016-2017/)
and in Spanish (www.uab.es/memoria/2016-2017/castellano).

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Presentation



This year there has been a collective effort to discuss and reach a consensus on key questions for the future of this university.

In the 2016-2017 academic year the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (UAB) successfully carried out its missions in teaching, research and knowledge transfer, demonstrating its firm commitment to society and the region.

The Annual Report of the UAB is an essential exercise in transparency bringing us an ordered account of the most important results of academic activity and the large-scale consequences derived from it. I am therefore pleased to present this *Annual Report for the 2016-2017 academic year*, corresponding to the first year of the Governing Team that I am head of.

I would like to highlight the fact that this year there has been a collective effort to discuss and reach a consensus on key questions for the future of this university. The participation of the university community has therefore been decisive for the identification and approval at an extraordinary meeting of the Senate, the framework document *The Architecture of Qualifications at the UAB* and the criteria for planning proposals for new courses in the coming years. This year has also seen the presentation to the Senate of a strategy to support the quality of the centres and general lines of the UAB Strategic Plan for the period 2018-2030.

In terms of processes for high-quality teaching, it is also important to mention that all the qualifications subjected to accreditation processes obtained a favourable result, and a high percentage of courses, especially Master's degrees, obtained accreditation with distinction.

The university has continued to make progress in the internationalisation of its teaching and research and in attracting talent. The innovative offer of courses includes a good number of postgraduate courses in English and this has driven the sustained growth in the number of international students. This year also saw introduction of a new grant programme to encourage the capture and retention of research talent and a second call for post-doctoral researcher positions as part of the European P-Sphere project.

Excellent research and transfer results have placed the UAB second in Spain for the returns obtained in the Horizon 2020 programme and the top Spanish university in patent requests from the European Patents Office. It should also be pointed out that the UAB Research Park celebrated its 10th anniversary this year, strengthening its commitment to the promotion of innovation and entrepreneurship.

In the area of students, the approval this year of the UAB Tutorial Action Plan has allowed us to offer a framework of reference for orientation, evaluation and student support activities carried out in the different centres during the processes of learning and initial professional development undertaken by students. At the same time, it makes monitoring and evaluation of the impact easier.

Despite the problems imposed by the economic situation and restrictions on the number of permanent places, the UAB has given priority to the stabilisation and promotion of academic staff and administration and services staff. In 2016, 31 permanent lecturer positions and 23 pre-tenure track lecturer positions and, in accordance with the replacement rate policy, an offer of 21 position for administration and services staff was made.

The annual report also highlights the illustrious academics that have been welcomed to the UAB this year in recognition of their academic, scientific and professional activity, and who have participated in important institutional events: Rosa Maria Calaf gave a lecture at the opening ceremony for the academic year, Josep Maria Flotats was awarded an honorary doctorate of the UAB, proposed by the Faculty of Philosophy and Arts, and Jagat Narula received an honorary doctorate on the proposal of the Faculty of Medicine.

On the eve of its 50th anniversary, the UAB strengthened its position as one of the best young universities in the world and is preparing to create the strategic framework which, with the participation of the whole university community, will allow us to continue making advances and facing future challenges with the aim of offering the best service to society and the progress of the country.

Margarita Arboix Arzo
Rector

Figures for 2016-2017

Courses

Bachelor's degrees	87
Master's degrees	133
PhD programmes	68
Lifelong learning programmes (2015-2016)	783
UAB faculties and schools	13
Attached university schools	11

Teaching

New undergraduate students	6,575
Total undergraduate students	26,155
Bachelor's degree graduates (2015-2016)	4,861
Master's degree students	3,078
Master's degree graduates (2015-2016)	2,050
New undergraduate students in attached centres	1,343
Total undergraduate students in attached centres	5,508
Bachelor's degree graduates in attached centres (2015-2016)	1,239
Master's degree students in attached centres	740
Master's degree graduates in attached centres (2015-2016)	416
Lifelong learning centres (2015-2016)	6,410

Research (2016)

Research groups recognised by the Government of Catalonia	264
Departments	57
Research and study centres	23
UAB research institutes	7
Attached research institutes	35
PhD students	4,847
Doctoral theses presented (2015-2016)	1,072
Articles published in indexed journals (WOK-ISI)	4,047
Total patents applied for	47
New companies in the UAB Research Park	8
Resources allocated for research (in millions of Euros)	76.86

Internationalisation

International Bachelor's degree students	1,407
International official Master's degree students	1,148
International UAB Master's degree students	1,174
International PhD students	1,679
UAB students on exchange programmes	1,209
Students on exchange programmes at the UAB	1,376
International students on the Study Abroad programme	3,038

Human resources (2016)

Teaching and research staff	3,759
Trainee research staff	616
Administration and services staff	2,375

Budget (2016)

Expenditure settlement statement (in millions of Euros)	313.64
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Notes:

- Information for the 2016-2017 academic year was correct at 31 May 2017.
- The number of full-time equivalent undergraduate students is 24,300.
- The number of students does not include students on interuniversity programmes who are not registered directly at the UAB.
- Teaching and research staff includes postdoctoral researchers (Ramon y Cajal, Juan de la Cierva, Beatriu de Pinós, etc.), of whom there are 178.
- The number of full-time equivalent teaching and research staff is 2,691.

Governance and institutional activities



On 3 October the UAB held the opening ceremony for the 2016-2017 academic year with an inaugural lecture by journalist Rosa Maria Calaf entitled "Coming out of the shadows. Against ignorance and inequality". Also, staff who had retired during the previous academic year were thanked. The ceremony, which was presided over by the rector, Margarita Arboix, included speeches by the Director General of Universities of the Government of Catalonia, Josep Pallarès, the Mayor of Cerdanyola del Vallès, Carles Escolà, and the President of the Board of Governors of the UAB, Gabriel Masfurroll. The General Secretary of the UAB, Cristina Riba, presented the video of the annual report for the 2015-2016 academic year.

Agreements of the governing bodies

This academic year the governing and representative bodies have continued with their activities.

Elections of members of the Senate were held by e-vote on 3 and 4 November 2016. On 15 December 2016 the constituent meeting of the Senate was held. During that meeting members of the Board of the Senate and representatives of the Board on the Governing Council were chosen and the rector's annual report on the general policy lines of the university was approved.

The Senate met twice during the year: 15 March and 25 May 2017. During those sessions the framework document for the architecture of UAB qualifications was approved, Manuel Gerpe Landín was chosen as UAB Ombuds Officer and the working lines of the UAB Strategic Plan for 2018-2030, the strategy for teaching quality at the UAB and the 50th anniversary programme were presented.

The Governing Council met eight times: on 27 September, 8 November and 1 December in 2016; 26 February, 23 March, 1 May and 12 July 2017. 117 agreements were adopted and the meetings included points of information and discussion.

UAB Strategic Plan

With the presentation of the working lines of the **UAB Strategic Plan for the period 2018-2030** at the meeting of the Senate on 25 May, with the broad participation of the groups in the university community, the UAB set in motion a process of strategic reflection which will define the institutional vision of the UAB towards the horizon of 2030 and signal the way to achieve it. Specifically, during the year the processes of internal and external diagnoses began.

50th anniversary of the UAB

At the same meeting of the Senate, the **UAB 50th anniversary commemoration programme** was also presented. This programme will be carried out in the 2017-2018 and 2018-2019 academic years. The celebrations will include both fun and cultural events and will allow a look back over the years of the institutions and its role in the transformation of the country, as well as recognition of the contributions made by people to consolidate it as a university of excellence and one that is both scientifically and socially committed.

Board of Trustees

The function and structure of the UAB Board of Trustees in 2016-2017 remained along the same lines as the previous year but with the incorporation of Jaume Tintoré Balasch as UAB executive manager, Tania Nadal Vicens as president of the University-Society Committee, and the vice rector for Students and Employability as an ordinary member of that committee. There was also a renewal of the membership of the Board of Trustees nominated by the Governing Council of the university.

In parallel to the commitment to promote actions in the area of university-society (see chapter 06 "Social and environmental commitment"), the Board of Trustees undertook the competences granted it by the Law on Universities in the areas of university community, programming and finance. Specifically, this year there were 26 committee meetings and 8 board meetings and 253 agreements were reached.

This year one of the highlights was the work carried out together with the Governing Team to strategically promote the UAB Alumni project and seek formulas for improving transfer at the university. This has resulted in new collaboration initiatives in the case of UAB Alumni and the setting up of the Smart money programme to accelerate the process of knowledge transfer by research groups to business.

A 50

117

agreements made by the Governing Council



At its meeting on 25 May, the UAB Senate appointed Manuel Gerpe, retired professor of Constitutional Law, as the new Ombuds Officer of the university. Manuel Gerpe takes over from Josep Font, retired professor of organic chemistry, who had held the post since 2009.

Recognition for teaching staff at the UAB

This year two UAB lecturers were awarded honorary doctorates, the highest distinction that universities can confer. Specifically, **Carme Riera**, professor in the Department of Spanish Philology at the UAB was awarded an honorary doctorate by the University of the Balearic Islands on 11 April, and **María Josefa Yzuel**, honorary lecturer of the Department of Physics of the UAB, received the same recognition from the University of Granada on 17 May.

Among other distinctions awarded to teaching staff at the UAB, this year the Government of Catalonia awarded the Cross of Saint George to **Borja de Riquer**, emeritus lecturer from the Department of Modern and Contemporary History. Also, **Joan Ramon Laporte**, **Rosa Suñol**, **Josep Maria Taberner** and **Miquel Vilardell** received Josep Trueta medals for their work in the field of health.

The Government of Catalonia and Barcelona City Council awarded posthumously the gold medal of the city and of the Generalitat to **Muriel Casals**, who was a lecturer in the Department of Economics and Economic History of the UAB.

Finally, we should highlight an act of homage to **Ramon Pascual**, lecturer in physics and former rector of the UAB, and the leading force behind the Alba Synchrotron project, which took place at the Palace of the Government of Catalonia.



On 6 October at the auditorium of the Faculty of Philosophy and Arts the *Ad studia humanitatis fovenda* award was presented. This annual award was created in recognition of an outstanding person and institution for defending and including the values of the humanities in their practice or for collaborating to develop the studies and research carried out by the faculty. In this first year, the honour was awarded to **Miquel Vilardell**, emeritus professor of internal medicine at the UAB and the **Society of the Gran Teatre del Liceu**.

Miquel Vilardell received the award “for the personal and public work carried out over almost fifty years in active medical practice in the areas of healthcare, teaching, management, corporate and socio-political, always based on a humanistic view of the world and its people and in the scrupulous exercising of his profession”. The award to the Society of the Gran Teatre del Liceu was made for “its spirit of collaboration with the Faculty of Philosophy and Arts and the Humanities Library through the digitization of its historical archive, the offer of work placements to students at the centre and the constant interrelations with research groups of the Department of Art and musicology”.

Highlight



Josep Maria Flotats, honorary doctorate from the UAB

On 27 June, the dramatist Josep Maria Flotats was awarded an honorary doctorate by the UAB on the proposal of the Faculty of Philosophy and Arts in recognition of his contribution to the areas of acting, direction, translation and creation in the theatre. Roser Gauchola, lecturer in the Department of French and Romance Studies was the sponsor



Jagat Narula, honorary doctorate from the UAB

Jagat Narula, world expert in cardiovascular diseases and in the use of imaging technology in cardiology was awarded an honorary doctorate by the UAB on 1 September in a ceremony at the Casa de la Convalescència, on the proposal of the Faculty of Medicine. Ignasi Carrió, professor of radiology and nuclear medicine at the UAB and director of the Nuclear Medicine Serve at the Hospital de la Santa Creu i de Sant Pau, was the sponsor.

Teaching

The UAB has made quality the central consideration in teaching.



Academic policy

The UAB has made quality the central consideration in teaching, as seen in the activity carried out in this area over the year. Bachelor's degrees and Master's Degree have continued, without exception, to satisfy the accreditation process. The collaboration and participation of teaching centres and the different sectors of the university community have enabled the agreement and approval of the conditions for the architecture of qualifications and criteria for course planning at the UAB for the next few years, the definition of a strategy for quality in teaching centres and the review of the Assessment Guide for teaching activity. The capacity to attract students and the results obtained in the international rankings by subject are further evidence of the quality of courses at the UAB.

The collaboration and participation of teaching centres and the different sectors of the university community have enabled the agreement and approval of the conditions for the architecture of qualifications and criteria for course planning at the UAB for the next few years

In terms of internationalisation of teaching and learning, the growing offer for teaching in English has been supported by a new grants programme, allowing centres to train their teaching staff and increase their teaching in English in an organised manner.

Also, there has been a new drive by the Graduate School to highlight the value of its offer of postgraduate and CPD courses at the UAB and strengthen the social projection of the university.

The architecture of qualifications at the UAB

Throughout the academic year the UAB has carried out a review of the qualifications it offers and its criteria for course planning, motivated, among other things, by the change in the legislation (RD 43/2015), the dynamics of the Catalan and Spanish higher education systems, and areas for improvement detected during the process of verifying the studies. The process of drawing up the proposal was carried out with consideration of the individual nature of each centre and the need to include the view of all the groups involved (teaching and research staff, administration and services staff and students). The framework document approved by the Senate on 15 March is therefore based on the three documents of conclusions from the discussion that took place in the centres.

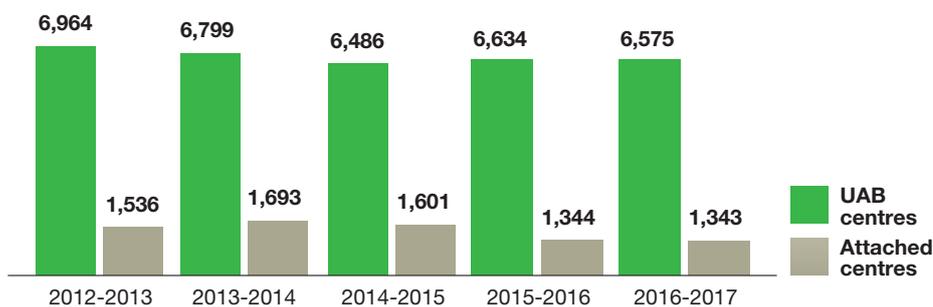
The approved document highlights the fact that the basic architecture for most courses at the UAB will be 4 years undergraduate degree; however, a more flexible architecture is proposed with the introduction of undergraduate degrees of 180 ECTS credits and Master's degrees of 120 ECTS credits. As a whole, it is considered that the undergraduate-Master's degree pathway, and therefore the period of university training for students, should be 5 years and 300 ECTS credits, either 4+1 or 3+2. There is warning, however, that as long as the issue of the difference in the cost of fees between

undergraduate and Master's degrees is not resolved, cost may be the deciding factor between one option and the other.

As for the criteria for the planning of courses, the framework document warns of conditioning elements such as insufficient funding and problems to ensure the growth of the teaching staff, and it also emphasises the importance of differential features which enable the offer of a distinctive, quality education, and especially the fact that the UAB is a campus university and therefore the facility to offer interdisciplinary programmes of study. Consequently, proposals of this kind are considered strategic and they also favour degree options such as double and open degrees. It is also planned to make the programming and deprogramming of courses easier in order to better meet the needs of society at any given time. For example, there are some very dynamic fields such as technologies where valid proposals may emerge in very short windows of opportunity (5 - 10 years).

The new criteria for planning courses emphasises the importance of the differential features which enable the offer of a distinctive, quality education

Evolution of new Bachelor's degree students



Bachelor's degree students, 2016-2017. UAB centres

Centre	Students registered		
	Women	Men	Total
School of Engineering	339	1,821	2,160
Faculty of Economics and Business	1,280	1,638	2,918
Faculty of Biosciences	1,224	640	1,864
Faculty of Science	906	1,469	2,375
Faculty of Education	2,008	310	2,318
Faculty of Communication	1,232	604	1,836
Faculty of Political Science and Sociology	490	567	1,057
Faculty of Law	1,238	685	1,923
Faculty of Philosophy and Arts	1,895	1,290	3,185
Faculty of Medicine	1,856	805	2,661
Faculty of Psychology	1,422	314	1,736
Faculty of Translation and Interpreting	943	283	1,226
Faculty of Veterinary Medicine	655	241	896
Total	15,488	10,667	26,155

Bachelor's degree students, 2016-2017. Attached centres

Centre	Students registered		
	Women	Men	Total
Eina, University Centre of Art and Design of Barcelona	279	116	395
Massana School. Municipal Art and Design Centre	220	86	306
School for Prevention and Integrated Security	46	195	241
US for Health Science*	333	233	566
US for Social Science*	99	28	127
Gimbernat US for Nursing and Physiotherapy	814	583	1,397
Sant Pau US for Nursing	293	52	345
US for Nursing and Occupational Therapy of Terrassa (EUIT)	600	139	739
Tomas Cerdà US for Computer Science	2	45	47
Salesian US of Sarrià	78	541	619
US for Tourism and Hotel Management	493	233	726
Total	3,257	2,251	5,508

* In process of de-attachment.

Highlight



Maria Jesús Espuny received the Jaume Vicens Vives Award for Teaching Quality

María Jesús Espuny, lecturer in History of Law and Institutions at the UAB received the Jaume Vicens Vives Award for Teaching Quality awarded by the Government of Catalonia during the joint inaugural ceremony for the 2016-2017 academic year for the entire Catalan university system, held at the University of Barcelona on 7 September in the presence of the President of the Government of Catalonia, Carles Puigdemont. Maria Jesús Espuny was previously vice-dean at the Faculty of Law and coordinator of the Bachelor's Degree in Public Relations and the double Bachelor's Degree in Labour Relations and Law.

The Faculty of Communication and the Faculty of Law celebrate more than 40 years of offering courses

LaFaculty of Communication Advertising, 'activities (round tables...) May lecturers.

The Faculty of Law of the UAB and UAB Alumni organised the 45th anniversary of the Degree in Law with a reunion of the law graduates who have qualified over the years. The celebration took place on 9 June and was attended by over 200 alumni and many the deans and lecturers from the faculty over the years. al llarg dels anys.



Bachelor's Degrees

Among the criteria to prioritise new course proposals it needs to be borne in mind that there are also external references in university systems in countries with which the UAB carries out mobility exchanges; the application of new methodologies, new technologies and the use of English, and that these are unique or minority proposals in the Catalan university system.

In that sense the new **Degree in Smart and Sustainable Cities**, which will be introduced in 2017-2018 as a UAB Bachelor's degree while the verification process is being carried out, should be highlighted. The course will be delivered by the School of Engineering and the Faculty of Philosophy and Arts and will train professionals capable of understanding, managing and contributing to the governance of new urban situations that are emerging from the profound economic, social and technological changes associated with globalisation. Student will receive a mixed training based on engineering, urban geography and geographical information.

The capacity of the Bachelor's degrees at the UAB to attract students as a first choice has proved outstanding one year more, and at 10,260 applications is a small rise on last years' figure, which was already very high (10,244).

The double degree in Physics and Mathematics once again has the highest cut-off point in Catalonia at 13.24. In fact, 20 of the 87 single and double Bachelor's degrees at the UAB have a cut-off point higher than 10, specifically in the areas of biosciences (7) and medicine (4) plus the degrees in Physics, Nanoscience and Nanotechnology, Audiovisual Communication and Advertising, Advertising and Public Relations and Veterinary Medicine, and the double degrees in Physics and Mathematics, Physics and Chemistry, Political Science and Public Management & Law, and Criminology and Law.

In the assignment of places, it should be highlighted that 87% of places in UAB centres were assigned to students who had applied as their first choice. The number of newly registered students in UAB centres was very similar to the previous year at 6,575.

The number of graduating students in 2015-2016 was 4,861 - 9.6% fewer than the previous year. The drop places the figures at a similar level to those in 2010-2011. In other words, before the crossover between the pre EHEA graduates, the new Bachelor's degree graduates and those who changed from one type of course to another, meaning an increase in the number of graduates of up to 10% a year.

The double degree in Physics and Mathematics once again has the highest cut-off point in Catalonia at 13.24

In terms of affiliated centres, student numbers have been maintained after the previous year when the disaffiliation of the university schools in Manresa means that they were not included in the student numbers for the UAB. The total fees have continued to fall, however, as a result of this change (from 5,884 to 5,508). There has been a slight increase in the number of graduates in 2015-2016 from 1,154 a 1,239.



Finally, it is worth highlighting that the UAB has introduced a new double degree in Chemistry with the Thompson Rivers University (TRU) in Canada and will also introduce a double degree in Biology and Microbiology in the 2017-2018 academic year. From the next academic year, the UAB will offer five international double degrees: the three with Thompson Rivers University plus the double degrees in Law with the University of Paris II and the University of Toulouse 1.

Additionally, this year the UAB has agreed to participate in the teaching of the joint degree in Philosophy, Political Science and Economics offered by the 4 Universities Alliance 2018-2019.

5

international double degrees

Support for teaching in English at the UAB

The growing offer of courses taught in English, which has contributed to the internationalisation of the teaching staff and students at the UAB, a new programme of grants for centres has been introduced so that their teaching staff can be trained and they can increase their teaching in English in an organised manner. Faculties need to present a proposal for the inclusion of teaching in specific subjects in English in their courses. The lecturers of these subjects will receive training in English focussed specifically on teaching activity and assessment in line with the specific needs of the subject they are teaching. It is anticipated that each year three or four centres will join the programme. In 2017-2018 it will be offered in four faculties: Philosophy and Arts, Psychology, Translation and Interpreting and Veterinary Medicine.

Teaching offer in English

- 5 Bachelor's degrees
- 4 Master's degrees
- 9 Erasmus Mundus programmes
- 22 postgraduate courses
- 6 MOOC
- more than 200 Bachelor's degree subjects

Highlight



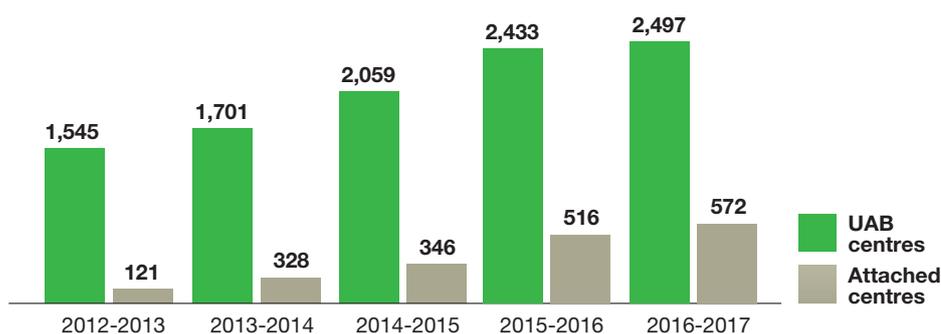
The UAB improves the teaching premises for courses in the area of healthcare

The UAB has increased and improved its teaching premises for medical and healthcare practicals. At the Faculty of Medicine on the Bellaterra campus two new classrooms for clinical simulation, a new dissection room and a bone room were opened.

On 11 October new spaces were opened at the Sant Pau Teaching Unit of the Faculty of Medicine and the Sant Pau University School of Nursing. For two years works have been carried out at the Ancient Pharmacy Pavilion and the underground part of the Convent Pavilion to reinforce the buildings, adapt and redesign the interiors, completely refurbish the facilities and install a new geothermal energy grid. Thanks to these works the Faculty of Medicine and the School of Nursing have brand new classrooms, a simulation area and skills laboratories equipped with the latest technology, as well as new spaces for support and administration.

Finally, on 28 November the new spaces at the Parc Taulí Teaching Unit were opened, duplicating the useful premises to approximately 2,000m². Students now have four lecture rooms, two seminar rooms, a conference room, a basic simulation room and two laboratories.

Evolution of new UAB Master's degree students



25%

of UAB Master's degrees taught in English

Postgraduate Courses

The number of students registered on UAB Master's degree programmes rose by 8.2% in 2016-2017 after two academic years with increases of over 20%. This sustained rise consolidates Master's degrees as an increasingly necessary level of study in the context of the European Higher Education Area.

The large number of Master's degrees offered at the UAB is a clear sign of success in the accreditation processes, with all Master's degrees receiving positive accreditation from the Catalan Accreditation Agency, with more than a third (38%) receiving pathway to excellence accreditation.

This sustained rise consolidates Master's degrees as an increasingly necessary level of study

The capacity for attraction to Master's degree courses reflects their high degree of internationalisation. The UAB teaches 25% of its Master's degrees in English and the number of international students continues to grow, accounting for 38.5% in UAB centres this year.

The offer of Master's degrees is outstanding in terms of quality, number and diversity. This year 16 new UAB Master's degrees were approved, covering areas such as paleobiology, teaching Chinese, paediatric physiotherapy and conference interpreting, and a new Erasmus Mundus Master's degree has also been introduced in International Master of Science in Infectious Diseases and One Health (IDOH), taught jointly by the UAB, the University of Edinburgh and the François Rabelais

University at Tours. In addition to the three universities the master's degree has the collaboration of 34 partners from Europe and the rest of the world, including research centres, industry, public health organisations, etc. Emphasis is on the practical side of the Master's degree which includes a six month stay at a research institute or company in the sector.

Continuing Professional Development (CPD)

In the area of CPD the **Graduate School** carried out several activities to highlight and reinforce the relationship between civil society and the business fabric. One of the measure was to create the **Professional Advisory Committee**. This new committee was approved by the

Governing Council on 8 November and it made up of a maximum of 40 members with different professional profiles charged with providing advisory services to the school's directors and to offer support for the relationship of the centre with other bodies and institutions.

The Graduate School managed 800 UAB Master's degrees and CPD programmes this year, offering quality training to more than 6,400 graduates and professionals who took part in them.

Postgraduate programmes and students

	Programmes	Students		
		Women	Men	Total
Official postgraduate courses (2016-2017)				
Master's degree in UAB centres*	90	1,855	1,223	3,078
Master's degrees in attached centres	20	409	331	740
PhDs	68	2,662	2,185	4,847
TOTAL	175	4,926	3,739	8,665
UAB postgraduate courses (2015-2016)				
UAB Master's degrees	181	1,883	872	2,755
Postgraduate diplomas	144	974	435	1,409
Specialisation courses	458	1,456	790	2,246
TOTAL	783	4,313	2,097	6,410

(* Figures for Master's degrees include the programmes for which the UAB is responsible for coordination and registrations. The total number of Master's degrees in which the UAB participates is 133.



Highlight



The Graduate School organised the «Dialogues for knowledge: UAB and society»

This year the Graduate School organised the first of a series of lectures in the form of dialogues between prestigious speakers about topics of interest which help to bring the university and society closer together. Three lectures took place during the year: on 16 December Ángel Gabilondo and Manuel Pimentel reflected on the importance of the word and its value as a tool in social transformation; on 6 April Guillem López-Casanovas and Josep Borrell discussed the difficulties of economic science in describing the present and on future uncertainty, and on 22 June José Manuel Blecuá and Luis Alberto de Cuenca spoke about contemporary language and literature.

The UAB figures among the best in the main international rankings by subject

Courses and research at the UAB occupied high positions in the main international university rankings by subject in 2016-2017. The UAB was placed among the top 100 universities for 12 subjects, according to the QS WUR; it was in ninth place for veterinary medicine according to the Shanghai ranking; the 86th university for health studies and for economics and the 100th for humanities according to the *Times Higher Education* ranking. The CWUR placed it eighth for environmental studies and for economics.

During 2016-2017 the UAB programmed four new MOOCs to add to the existing 18 on offer. Altogether 22 courses were offered with 370,000 registered students. The model of validated certificates and the model for demand have also been consolidated to allow registration and the start date of the course at any time.

22

courses, with more than 370,000 registered students

Teaching quality and innovation

Internal Quality Guarantee System

In 2016 the adaptation, approval and publication of the Internal Quality Guarantee System was concluded in all the UAB and attached centres in compliance with the requirements established in the European Standard Guidelines for quality assurance in higher education and in order to fulfil the requirements for accreditation of the qualifications.

A monitoring process was set up for PhD programmes and the Internal Quality Guarantee System of the School for Doctoral Studies was adopted.

Regarding the process of **creation, modification and monitoring of qualifications**, the management and evaluation has been undertaken for the creation of seven Master's degree and one PhD programme, the modification of 89 Bachelor's degrees and 25 PhD programmes, and the monitoring of 22 Bachelor's degrees, 5 official Master's degrees and 38 PhD programmes.

In terms of the **accreditation of qualifications**, in 2016 accreditation was obtained for 34 Bachelor's degrees and 37 official Master's degrees, all favourably, among which five Bachelor's degrees and seven Master's degrees were accredited with excellence. In 2017 it was forecast that 8 more centres with a total of 22 qualifications would undertake this process. Currently the UAB has a rate of 11% excellence in Bachelor's degrees, 38% in Master's degrees and 100% favourable accreditation in its own centres.

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training courses offered to teaching and research staff with a total attendance of 1,074

During the year the teaching quality processes have been reviewed by the centres in accordance with the **centres quality strategy** established by the Governing Team. Within the framework of post-accreditation of qualifications, the review of the Internal Quality Guarantee Systems enables requests for the certification of the introduction of the systems in centres and the subsequent institutional accreditation of the centres. Given that quality assurance is a process of continual improvement, the project established at the UAB provides for giving centres for the staff and organisational resources for support to teaching quality to facilitate the production, updating and monitoring of the policy and objectives for quality at the centres.

All qualifications received favourable accreditation and 11% of Bachelor's degrees and 38% of Master's degrees received positive accreditation with excellence

This year the **Guide for the Evaluation of Lecturer's Teaching Activity** was revised and approved by the Governing Council on 23 March. The evaluation of teaching activity allows teaching staff to obtain recognition of the quality of their teaching through the award of teaching premiums. However, it also promotes reflection of professional teaching practice, consideration of which innovative elements apply, where the problems lie and which solutions should be adopted. At the same time, it offers the institution a vision of the development of teaching which enables it to plan CPD programmes that are

appropriate to real needs and enable the institution to establish measures to guarantee that the teaching team in qualifies and competent in their task. To that effect, the evaluation of teaching activity is an analytical tool to guide the policy for teaching staff at the university.

With regard to the **student satisfaction survey** in the 2015-2016 academic year around 6,700 students took part in the lecturer survey and around 7,000 in the subject surveys for the evaluation of more than 3,000 subjects. Also, 1,181 graduates responded to the graduate satisfaction survey.

In 2016 the UAB collaborated with the Catalan University Accreditation Agency (AQU) to collect information in the sixth **employment survey**.

Teaching innovation and training

Teaching innovation initiatives by the university have continued through twelve teaching innovation groups participated in by 168 lecturers from different faculties, who have achieved the recognition of 42 good teaching practices. Support was offered to teaching staff in the form of 56 training activities with a total of 1,074 registration in 2015-2016 and a level of satisfaction of 8.1 out of 10. The main reasons for lecturers to do attend the training activities was to improve their teaching quality, professional development and innovation in the classroom.

Examples of good practice in teaching innovation

The Association of Catalan Public Universities (ACUP) and the Secretariat of Universities and Research of the Government of Catalonia have put together a series of examples of good practice in teaching innovation from the eight Catalan public universities. They chose 21 experiences from the best presentations at the International Conference for University Teaching and Innovation which took place in July 2016 at the UAB, and the Jaume Vicens Vives awards for the group category in 2016.

The UAB is present in this collection with three projects:

— «Improvement of personal and prosocial competences through learning projects and service. Projects for social commitment among future infant school teachers and schools», by Sílvia Blanch, Mequè Edo and Gemma París (Faculty of Education).

— «Improvement in engineering students' performance through gaming», by Sergi Robles, Jordi Pons, Adrián Sánchez-Carmona (School of Engineering).

— «Quality assurance in the results of training programmes at the UAB» by Núria Marzo and Mari Pau Álvarez (Office for Teaching Quality of the UAB).



Online support for teaching

In 2016-2017 the renewal of the online teaching area was planned as up until then it had been made up of two different technological platforms: The classic Online Campus (Campus Virtual) and the Moodle Online Campus. The aim was to use the Moodle as the only support tool for teaching and learning at the UAB in the forthcoming academic year. The Moodle was introduced to UAB centres in a series of informative talk in the first quarter of 2017.

A self-learning MOOC was also created to train teaching staff in the use of the Moodle. This year formed the basis of a bimodal training model, with both classroom based and online sessions, which could be extended in the future to an integrated system to move towards an ecosystem of e-learning.

In the ninth year of the Moodle-based Online Campus 1,020 Bachelor's degrees and 209 official Master's degrees have been activated, considerably increasing the percentage use of all the tools.

In order to cope with this increase different technical improvements have been made, for example the move towards a new version of Moodle and the adaptation of the design for use on mobile devices. In 2017-2018 the updated version will be available on a larger number of servers. Specifically, the capacity will be tripled to ensure access by users who had previously been using the classic version.

Language Service

In the 2016-2017 academic year, 5,418 students signed up to classroom, blended learning and online courses for the 15 languages offered by UAB Idiomes Campus and UAB Idiomes Barcelona. Apart from the examination sessions for the taught courses there were also opportunities to apply for accreditation of language level, leading to certification for 704 people, of whom 102 formed part of special calls for application from administrative and services staff. Certificates at levels B1, B2 and C1 in English from the language Service continue to carry the CertAcles quality stamp.

In June 2017 the Termcat portal published the interuniversity version of the University Management Nomenclature, produced by the Terminology and nomenclature Working Group of the Vives University Network, of which the UAB is currently the coordinating university. During the year the *Guide for the Use of Non-Sexist Language and the Interuniversity Style Guide for Writing Institutional Texts in English* were updated.

In this academic year the Language Service offered 114 grants to UAB students for the reduction of language course fees by 50%. Also, as part of the current Plan for Languages of the UAB, there have been several calls for grant applications for the improvement of third languages among the university community and the use of English as a working language

Highlight



Orientation and promotion activities

In 2016-2017, almost 90,000 students and more than 650 secondary schools took part in the UAB introductory activities: Open Days, Family Days, Campus visits, visits to town councils and secondary schools, trade fairs in Catalonia, Spain and around the world, especially in Latin America, Europe and south-east Asia. There were also more than 125,000 requests for information and a long list of activities carried out by the centres at the university.

90,000 students took part in the UAB introductory activities

The university launched its re-designed logo and new advertising slogan: "Choose a future. Choose UAB". Merchandise has also been made available such as the UABer t-shirts with great success in the Ensenyament and Futura trade fairs, and the new green folders and diaries with the Columns of Knowledge featured. The useful new PDF guides (Grants, Mobility, Company work placements, 10 reasons to choose the UAB, etc.) had more than 4,000 downloads in the first few months of 2017 alone.

The UAB website has generated more than 85,000 requests for information through the pages for Bachelor's degrees, official Master's degrees, UAB Master's degrees and postgraduate courses and PhD programmes as well as almost 40,000 consultations attended by the Information Point.

Research and transfer of knowledge and technology

The impact of the activity of UAB research groups has been decisive for the improvement in securing research funding from the National Programme and for situating the UAB as the second in Spain for the returns obtained in the Horizon 2020 Programme.



This year the UAB has promoted an active policy to strengthen support for research staff and recognition of the task of the quality researcher. With that objective in mind this year a support programme for the management of projects secured by UAB research staff was set up as part of the grants programme of the European Research Council, and which will extend to the other European projects in Horizon 2020 in its second phase.

The UAB and the centres of the UAB-CIE Sphere have obtained 35 grants from the ERC since their creation 10 years ago

The internationalisation strategy has also benefitted from the second call for applications for 24 researcher positions as part of the P-SPHERE project. The highly positive results of this project, financed by the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions project of the European Commission and the participation of centres from the UAB-CEI Sphere, have been a deciding factor when presenting the new joint proposal of the hospital research centres attached to the UAB to the COFUND call for predoctoral contracts.

In order to promote the attraction and retention of talent, this year saw a new grant for grant applications for the contracting of PhD research staff.

In terms of the transfer of knowledge to society and to the production fabric, this year the UAB, in collaboration with the Board of Trustees, opened the Smart money programme to finance precommercial activities for the valorisation of research results.

The UAB also consolidated its leadership among Spanish universities in terms of patents at the European Patents Office and started the We Patent and Publish Programme to protect the research results before they are disseminated.

This year was the tenth anniversary of the UAB Research Park, created as a strategic alliance of the three pioneering research entities: the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (UAB), Higher Scientific Research Council (CSIC) and the institute for Agrofood Research and Technology (IRTA).

Since its creation the UAB Research Park has supported more than 300 entrepreneurial projects and has promoted the creation of 92 companies with a success rate of 80%. These

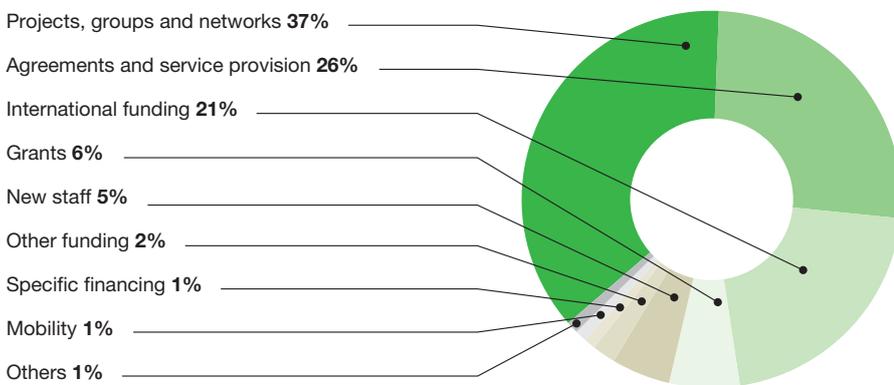
companies have generated 850 new jobs of which 25% are highly qualified positions, and they have an annual turnover of 50 million Euros. Also, thanks to the activity of the research park, over the ten years more than 120 R&D projects have been generated between researchers on the campus and companies, with a value of 6 million Euros.

This year the UAB drew up a strategic plan for transfer with the aim of improving the management and support processes and structures for knowledge transfer, increase the transfer activity at the UAB and increase the social and economic impact of transfer, in accordance with the RIS3CAT strategy

6

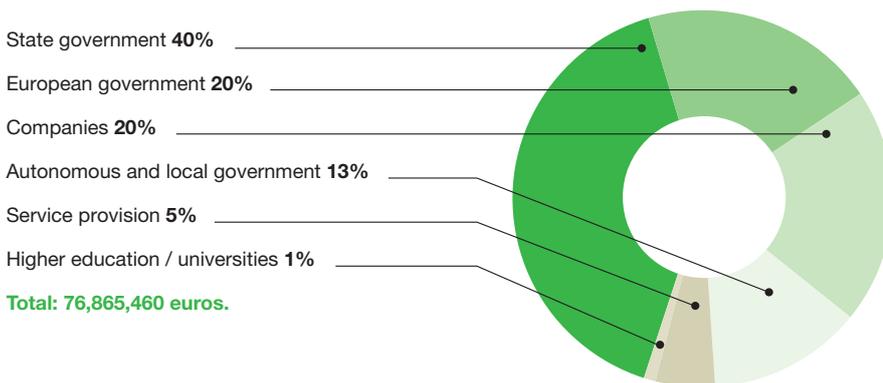
grants from the European Research Council for researchers from the UAB and the UAB-CEI Sphere

Research funding by main sources, 2016



Total: 76,865,460 euros.

Research funding by type of organisation, 2016



Total: 76,865,460 euros.

Highlight



Mario Cáceres obtains a Proof of Concept grant from the ERC

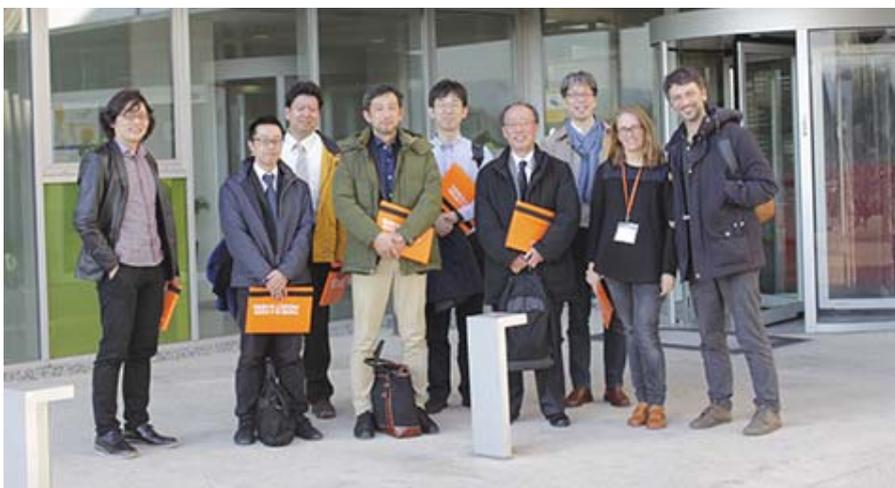
Mario Cáceres, a researcher at ICREA and leader of the Comparative and Functional Genomics group of the Institute of Biotechnology and Biomedicine (IBB) of the UAB obtained a Proof of Concept grant from the European Research Council (ERC). This grant will enable the association between DNA inversion and certain human diseases to be studied, such as haemophilia A, with the aim of developing innovative diagnostic equipment which could have an industry licence for its commercialisation.

Jeroen van den Bergh receives an Advanced Grant from the ERC

Jeroen van den Bergh, a researcher at ICREA of the Institute of Environmental Science and Technology of the UAB (ICTA-UAB) received an Advanced Grant from the ERC per to carry out the research project «Behavioural-evolutionary analysis of climate policy: Bounded rationality, markets and social interactions».

Researchers from the UAB and the ICMAB are recognised with Consolidator Grants from the ERC

Eva Østergaard-Nielsen, researcher at the Department of Political Science and Public Law at the UAB received a Consolidator Grant de from the ERC in the 2016 competition. The grant will be used to finance the project: «Migration and Democratic Diffusion: Comparing the Impact of Migration on Democratic Participation and Processes in Countries of Origin».



On 27 and 28 February the Intelligent and Sustainable Cities CORE of the UAB organised a workshop on cyberphysics in which research groups from the UAB and the University of Kobe (Japan) took part to understand the research that is taking place in this area and explore possible collaboration agreements.

Strategic research communities

Capture and retention of research talent

This year the UAB introduced a new call for grant applications to promote the capture and retention of research talent. Open to all areas of the knowledge of the UAB, the Talent competition allows for temporary contracting of PhD research staff with an accredited academic career, including a postdoctoral period at other universities or research centres for a minimum of two years.

The UAB aims to use this initiative to reduce the effects of the replacement rate in providing research staff with access to stable jobs. Even though the grants have a duration of three years, the idea is that the researchers can gain access to permanent posts in the future wherever possible.

It should also be highlighted that this year there were calls for application for the incorporation of new teaching and research staff in both permanent and temporary categories (see chapter 06 «University community»).

The strategic research communities (CORE) of the UAB are research networks and generators of knowledge, made up of research groups and centres from the UAB and the UAB-CIE Sphere. The CORE networks are established according to strategic challenges identified on an international, national and regional scale. The UAB has three active COREs dealing with three priority social challenges: Smart and Sustainable Cities, Cultural Heritage and Mental Health.

This year the constitution of the Education and Employability CORE was established

In addition, this year the process of constituting the Education and Employability CORE was established. This CORE aims to become an instrument to promote potential in research and transfer in the area of educational policies and teaching methodologies and their close relationship with the employment market.





Meeting of the centres and units of excellence of the UAB-CIE Sphere

On 17 October almost 200 researchers from five Severo Ochoa research centres of excellence and the two María de Maeztu units of excellence of the UAB-CIE Sphere met in the auditorium of the AgroFood Research Centre (CRAG). Representatives from the different centres discussed scientific excellence and strategies to follow to achieve and

maintain it. The event was attended by the director of the Spanish Research Agency of the Ministry of Finance and Competitivity, Marina Villegas, and the president of the Barcelona Institute of Science and Technology (BIST), Andreu Mas-Colell.

This year the ministry renewed the Severo Ochoa seal for the Institute of High Energy Physics (IFAE) – a consortium of the UAB and the Government of Catalonia located on the campus.



The UAB-CIE Sphere celebrates the 10th anniversary of the European Research Council

On 30 March the UAB and the centres of the UAB-CIE Sphere celebrated the 10th anniversary of the creation of the European Research Council (ERC) in an institutional act at the AgroFood Research Centre (CRAG), on the UAB campus. The act was presided over by the rector of the UAB and emphasised the importance of the innovative and ground-breaking research that the ERC has promoted over the years and the usefulness of the programme for attracting international talent to the universities and research centres in Catalonia.

The ERC was created in 2007 by the European Commission with the aim of promoting research of excellence through

the financing of different competitive programmes for researchers of any nationality and area of knowledge who want to carry out cutting edge research in one of the member states of the European Union or associated countries. The UAB and the centres of the UAB-CIE Sphere have been awarded 35 grants in the ten-year period 2007-2017.



Highlight



The European commissioner for research opens the ECR Institute for European Studies

On 16 December the European commissioner for Research, Science and Innovation, Carlos Moedas, opened the ECR Institute for European Studies of the UAB (IEE-UAB) together with councillor Raül Romeva, the secretary for Universities and Research, Arcadi Navarro, and the rector of the UAB, Margarita Arboix. The IEE-UAB is an interdisciplinary centre dedicated to research, education and training in European topics.

The UAB participates in two FET Open projects of the European Commission

Two projects, with the participation of the UAB, on Alzheimer's disease (ArrestAD) and experimentation in quantum physics (MaQSens), were among the 22 proposals selected by the European Commission to receive FET Open grants from the Horizon 2020 project. The FET Open competition offers special support to early-stage projects involving new ideas towards the development of radically new technologies with the potential to change society over the next few decades.

Raquel Piqué receives an ICREA Academia award

Raquel Piqué, lecturer in the Department of Prehistory was awarded one of the 15 ICREA Academia awards in 2016. These awards are made exclusively to university teaching staff who are in an active and expansive phase in their own research. After nine years of the award, 192 researchers have obtained the ICREA Academia awards in Catalan universities, of which 23 have come from the UAB.



On 18 November 2016 and 19 May 2017 the PhD graduations ceremony and the special PhD prize awards took place.

PhD programmes

With 68 PhD programmes and more than 1,000 theses presented in 2015-2016, the UAB has shown that intensive research activity is a powerful means of attracting postgraduate student from all areas of knowledge.

The internationalisation of the PhD programmes, the programme of transferrable skills activities and the promotion of industrial PhDs in the areas of social sciences and humanities have been the priorities of the School for Doctoral Studies. Great efforts have been made to increase the numbers of theses with the international doctoral research component through the signing of agreement for co-tutoring and promoting the periods of doctoral study in international universities and institutions.

L'activitat intensiva en recerca i l'augment d'estudiants de postgrau s'han traduït en 1.072 tesis llegendes (2015-2016)

In terms of industrial PhDs, the Faculty of Philosophy and Arts and the Cultural Heritage CORE organised a one-day seminar to promote industrial PhDs in the areas of knowledge of the faculty and to give information about opportunities for collaboration activities in research and transfer.

Also this year, the monitoring process for PhD programmes was put in place and incorporate in the Internal Quality Guarantee System of the School for Doctoral Studies. In 2016-2017, 38 PhD programmes passed the monitoring process.

1.072

PhD theses presented (2015-2016)

Research support services

This academic year there has been a review and analysis of the scientific and technical services of the UAB, leading to an action plan to allow the efficient fulfilment of research support and to control the management of staff and equipment as well as to facilitate the coordination between services and their internal and external promotion.

It should also be highlighted that this year the Technical Unit for Radiological Protection of the UAB received the ISO 9001:2008 standard certification. Thanks to this recognition the service, which is charged among other things with the safety of people and the correct functioning of the UAB laboratories working with radiation, will be able to expand and consolidate the services it offers to companies and institutions.

The UAB Libraries Service, for its part, has established new group work rooms in the Science and Technology Library and a new Whatsapp information service. The service has also carried out the third phase of digitisation of the Archive of the Society of the Gran Teatre del Liceu.



Celebration of the 10th anniversary of the Digital Document Deposit

On 24 October the Vice Rectorate for institutional Relation and Culture and the Vice Rectorate for Research and Transfer of the UAB organised a joint one-day event in the main lecture hall of the Faculty of Biosciences to inform of new developments in the management of research data, and also to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the UAB Digital Document deposit (DDD).

This event also took part within the celebration of the annual International open Access Week, which aims to disseminate open academic content for everyone through talks, seminars and lectures around the world.

The Digital Document Deposit of the UAB is used to collect, manage, disseminate and conserve the scientific, teaching and institutional documents of the UAB, and it also brings together digital documents that form part of the UAB libraries' collection. It is an organised, open access collection which is characterised by great diversity in terms of the formats, topics and types of documents held.

The Digital Document Deposit (DDD) of the UAB occupies the top position of repositories among all Spanish universities

The Digital Document Deposit (DDD) of the UAB occupies the top position of repositories among all Spanish universities according to the January edition of the web ranking of Spanish university repositories drawn up by the Spanish national Research Council (CSIC) and is placed 20th in the world ranking.

Highlight



Three students from the UAB win the Joan Oró Prize

Students Núria Lite and Carles Hernández from the Bachelor's degree in Journalism along with the PhD student Jesús Sánchez from the IDEA programme won the 10th Joan Oró Prize for the dissemination of academic research of the Catalan Association for scientific Communication. The multimedia project they presented details how a study of the evolution of political ideas helps to analyse the changes in public opinion and how these changes affect the policies implemented in certain societies.



20th anniversary of the Humanities Library

On the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the Humanities library, and coinciding with the International Day of Music, on 21 June there was a concert with works by J. S. Bach for solo violin performed by Josep Lluís Puig i Bartolomé.

The Humanities Library, which includes the general Cartographic collection, covers an area of 8,600m², on two floors, and contains around half a million volumes and 1,099 reading points. In recent years, the library has received many donations from large public library collections and has enriched its collections with bequests from the archives of writers and academics such as Pere Calders, Rafael Tasis, Francisco Rico, Jordi Castellanos and Enric Lluch. It is also continuing with the digitisation project of the Archive of the Society of the Gran Teatre del Liceu.





10th anniversary of the UAB Research Park

On 26 May the UAB Research Park organised an event to celebrate its 10th anniversary. The event brought together researchers, directors of the research institutes and centres on the UAB campus and representatives of related regional institutions and companies.

The celebration was attended by the heads of the three institutions that make up the park: the president of the Board and rector of the UAB, Margarita Arboix; the president of the CSIC, Emilio Lora-Tamayo, and the director general of the IRTA, Josep Maria

Monfort. All of them underlined the value of the task being carried out by the UAB Research Park over these ten years to strengthen relationships between research and the business fabric.

The day also included a round table discussion on the future of science parks and their role in the knowledge economy, moderated by the director of the PRUAB and vice-rector for Innovation and strategic Projects of the UAB, Javier Lafuente.

UAB Research Park

This year the UAB Research park carried out programmes and activities to promote innovation and entrepreneurial spirit and to support the creation of technological start-ups.

In terms of support for **innovation projects** the UAB Research Park worked with Sabadell economic Promotion to jointly organise the fourth year of the **Forum for Technologies and Innovation**. This year the forum focussed on industry 4.0 and it was attended by over 100 people. This year the UAB Research park also launched several transfer and innovation projects with companies and institutions, among which projects which deserve a special mention are the reWINE project, supported by the LIFE programme of the European Union, and the interregional cooperation project HIGHER, working to define new dynamics for open and collaborative innovation with the aim of promoting collaboration between research and industry in different European regions.

In support of **promoting entrepreneurship**, the UAB Research Park offered programmes and activities to promote entrepreneurial spirit and to accompany new entrepreneurs from the UAB campus in aspects of innovation and creation of technological companies. Again this year, then, the **Generation of Ideas** programme took place to offer support to campus researchers to mould

their ideas and generate market solutions from their own research. During this fifth year of the programme the focus was on cultural, creative, experience-based industries. This year, for the first time, the programme was organised jointly with the UAB CORE for Cultural Heritage and the UAB CORE for Smart and Sustainable Cities. 34 researchers from 13 teaching research centres from the humanities and engineering on the UAB campus took part and eight projects were created.

The Research Park also ran the **Engega!** programme for the second year, together with the Repsol Foundation and the InnoEnergy accelerator. This project offers training to help researchers find new application for their technology in the energy efficiency sector. There were also three sessions this year of the **Entrepreneur's Corner**, an opportunity for companies and entrepreneurs connected to the research park to share and exchange experiences and knowledge.

In terms of **company creation**, this year the park helped to create three companies emerging from research on the UAB campus and also offered support to five new start-ups which have joined the park's company network.

New TECNIO certification for the UAB

ACCIÓ, the agency for competitiveness of the Government of Catalonia has accredited the UAB Research Park and the UAB Office for Valorisation and Patents as facilitators of technology through the TECNIO certification. This recognition has also been received by the Centre for Hardware-Software Prototype Solutions (CEPHIS) and the Centre for Research in Metamaterials for Innovation on Electronic and Communications Technologies (CIMITEC), both from the UAB. These groups join the ten groups from the UAB-CIE Sphere that have already received this accreditation.

TECNIO is the accreditation awarded by the Government of Catalonia through ACCIÓ to identify the most innovative technology, the developers that offer it and the facilitators participating in the process of technology and knowledge transfer. Catalan companies therefore now where to go to develop new products and processes, whether through the acquisition and exploitation of patents, contracting of R&D projects or contact with spin-offs.





This year the UAB launched the first calls for applications to the **Smart Money Programme** with the aim of accelerating the knowledge transfer process for research groups at the UAB. The programme will finance and support three development projects that involve carrying out precommercial valorisation of research results in order to transfer

these results to the production sector and generate a real impact in society.

This initiative has the support of the University-Company Committee of the Board of Trustees and is open to UAB researchers leading projects that have the potential for obtaining company licences or becoming new companies. The results obtained must capture smart money or industrial partners interested in joint ventures.

The novelty and degree of innovation, the degree of technological protection, the viability of the proposal and the market impact are the elements that will receive particular consideration.

Valorisation of research and patents

In 2016 the Office for Valorisation and Patents of the UAB received 27 new inventions from research groups at the university. This figure represents a significant drop compared with the previous year when 44 inventions were received. This can almost certainly be explained by the decrease in financing for competitive projects of over 50% in 2013-2014, which resulted in a reduction of the number of projects capable of generating patents. However, it is also significant that the annual average number of inventions at the UAB is substantially higher than the Spanish and European averages.

In 2016 the UAB maintained its leadership among Spanish universities in patent applications to the European Patents Office

By sector, most of the inventions came from the field of human health (45%) and from ITC and electronics (14%).

In 2016 the UAB also requested 6 new unique priority patents. Bearing in mind the total number of patents applied for (priorities and international extensions) the total figure grew to 47.

It should be highlighted that in 2016 the UAB maintained its leadership among Spanish universities in patent application to the European Patents Office.

We Patent and We Publish

With a view to raising awareness among research staff of the compatibility of the transfer process with the publication of research results, this year the UAB launched the We patent We Publish Programme. This initiative offers researchers the opportunity to send a draft article which has been revised by the Valorisation and Patents Office of the UAB, which undertakes to identify whether the research published can be protected by a patent. If this is the case the office will work together with the researcher to deposit the patent before the article is published

Highlight



Prize for the best business idea from the UAB Research Park

On 30 November the UAB Research park awarded the prizes to the winning projects of the fifth Generation of Ideas Project, which this year focussed on the best business ideas in the sector of cultural and creative businesses presented by researchers of the UAB campus. Researchers from the Computer Vision Centre won first prize with the Digitus II project, which offers an automatic service for the transcription and indexing of manuscripts from historical archives.

This year the prize was organised jointly with the Cultural Heritage CORE and the Smart and Sustainable Cities CORE of the UAB, with the support of ACCIÓ, Eurecat and the National Archive of Catalonia..

Two projects from the UAB selected for the Caixalmpulse programme

Two projects led by Xavier Daura from the Institute of Biotechnology and Biomedicine of the UAB, and by Rubén López, from the department of cell Biology, Physiology and Immunology of the UAB, were selected to receive Caixalmpulse funding, created by the Fundació Bancària La Caixa and Caixa Capital Risc. Two projects from research centres of the UAB-CIE Sphere were also selected, led by the Agrofood Research Centre (CRAG) and the Vall d'Hebron Research Institute (VHIR).

The projects will receive a grant of up to 70,000 Euros to carry out their valorisation and commercialisation plans and they will have access to a support programme and expert advice for a period of eight months.

163th

in the world and number one university
in Spain in the Times Higher Education
ranking



Research dissemination

During the 2016-2017 academic year there were 113 campaigns for research dissemination. Among the most outstanding research was the recovery of more than 150 wooden pillars over 7,300 years old from the La Draga archaeological site. These provide a unique prehistoric example of wooden architecture on the Iberian peninsula; the construction of an experimental water purification plant based on sustainable energy; the development of the first automatic translator for Sardinian; the reconstruction of the climate in the Iberian peninsula over the last 2000 years; the discovery of a fossil impression in a rock of the skin of a dinosaur from the Late Cretaceous period in Vallcebre; the discovery of an unpublished musical work by Enric Granados; and the use of a cognitive cerebral pattern to activate devices.

The UAB carried out 113 research dissemination campaigns

Other highlights were the genome sequencing of the Iberian lynx, the wild cat at most danger of extinction; the first ever demonstration that pregnancy causes lasting changes in the brain structure of the mother; the development of a bronchial sat-nav for early detection of lung cancer; the confirmation that official indicators of poverty do not adequately reflect recent changes in the Spanish economy; and the development of two independent applications for

mobile devices which allow people with speech difficulties to communicate.

Research has been disseminated in all areas of knowledge. In **health sciences** the most significant were the agreement between the UAB, ESTEVE and the ALBA synchrotron to research new pain inhibitors; the observation that one in five Europeans is exposed to traffic noise at levels above the European Union limit; a study of the stigma and discrimination related to mental health in Catalonia; the discovery that a higher aggregation of proteins does not also cause more toxicity in Parkinson's disease; the launch of a European project to develop cortical implants to recover speech; the discovery that the activation of a protein can allow treatment of memory loss in cases of dementia; and the development of light-regulated molecules to alleviate symptoms of chronic pain.

In the area of **biology** the following projects deserve to be mentioned: a study on the success of reintroducing groundhogs in the Pyrenees; the effects of ocean warming and acidification on calcareous phytoplankton; the joint creation of Mediterranean Biosphere Reserves, with Abertis and the UAB Campus; a study confirming the key role of citizen science in the conservation of biodiversity; the discovery of new clues to primitive marine life in an African lake; the characterisation of the synaptic proteome of the zebra fish; and the forecast of pollen levels for the spring.

In the areas of **humanities** and **social sciences** the following projects are highlighted: the confirmation of the existence of a unique building in the forum of the archaeological excavation site in Llivia; the analysis of Spanish public opinion on economic growth, the environment and prosperity; the discovery that milk was an important element during the neolithisation of the northern Mediterranean; the discovery that the first Europeans did not use fire to consume food; the analysis of the increase in motorcycle use and the decrease in car use during the last decade in Barcelona; research on the addictive use of technology in adolescents; a study of sources of satisfaction in rural and indigenous communities of third world countries; new evidence that the Neanderthals used plants to treat their pains; the opening of two new sites of the Campus for Archaeology and Palaeontology of the UAB at Coll de Nargó and Pallars Jussà; confirmation that the economic crisis has meant an increase in students combining work and study; and the 2,100 case studies of socioenvironmental conflicts in the world undertaken by the Atlas for Environmental Justice (EJAtlas).

In **experimental sciences** the following should be mentioned: the detection of furthest gamma ray emissions today in MAGIC telescopes; improvement in the prediction of the probability of the biggest earthquakes based on

12th

young university in the world in the QS
TOP 50 Under 50 ranking



mathematical arguments; participation in a project to analyse the materials that make up most of the Earth's asteroids in order to study how they can be deflected by a projectile; the discovery of possible signs of new physics found in a new joint analysis of LHCb data and other experiments; and the development of a pioneering technology that could transform treatment plants into biorefineries.

In the area of environmental sciences: ICTA-UAB projects to analyse the process of green gentrification in cities; the effect of random coastal occupation in the tropical reefs of Brazil; the drop in heavy metal pollution on the Barcelona coast; the effects of waste generated by tourism in the Mediterranean islands; the existence of an ice age thermostat which avoided extreme climatic cooling; the new theory of economic a-growth which contributes to the viability of climate policies; the future threat to wild fish and shellfish of unrestricted improvements in fishing technology; and the negative effect of palm oil plantations on the fertility of tropical soils.

In relation to the **collaboration between the centres of the UAB-CIE Sphere**, some of the most outstanding topics to be disseminated were the collaboration between the Catalan Institute of Palaeontology in the discovery of fossil footprints of an unknown species of reptiles dating back 247 million years;

the research of ICN2 which has enabled the discovery that flexoelectricity also exists in semiconductors; and the PHENOMEN project at the same centre which is looking into new information technology based on phonons.

These campaigns translated as 22,855 impacts in digital media, 1,319 impacts in national press, 93 on radio and 61 on television

These campaigns translated as 22,855 impacts in digital media, 1,319 impacts in national press, 93 on radio and 61 on television. In terms of international dissemination, 31 press releases were issued to international agencies. The releases published through AlphaGalileo obtained 20,296 visits by science writers and those published through EurekAlert obtained 27,550 giving a total of 47,846 visits by specialist science journalists from different international media. Also, 74 scientific articles were published in the electronic journal UABDivulga, which has 2,785 subscribers. During the year this publication received 84,841 visits.

Highlight



Second Night of Science and knowledge

On 18 May, the UAB, Sabadell City Council, the Parc Taulí, Bosch i Cardellach and Olga Torres Foundations and the ESDI School of Design organised the second Night of Science and Knowledge at the auditorium of the Antiga Caixa Sabadell Foundation. During the event several prizes and grants were awarded and recognition given to scientific activity. Among the prizes, the vice-rector for Research and Transfer of the UAB, Armand Sánchez, presented the grants of the P-SPHERE European project in the area of health: three postdoctoral contracts for the UAB and three research contracts for the UAB-CIE Sphere.



The UAB and Abertis create the UAB Campus for Mediterranean Biosphere Reserves

The UAB and the Abertis Foundation have signed a collaboration agreement which will enable the creation of the UAB Campus for Mediterranean Biosphere Reserves, linked to the International UNESCO Centre for Mediterranean Biosphere Reserves based at the Castle of Castellet. The aim is to generate research, dissemination, exchange and innovation in the area of biosphere reserves in the Mediterranean. On the part of the UAB the creation of the campus will take place through the Institute of Environmental Science and Technology (ICTA-UAB) and the Faculty of Science.

International projection

The UAB strategy for the international dimension aims to measure and consolidate a network of universities and institutions that collaborate with the UAB in terms of education, research, transfer and cooperation.

Strategic lines

International relations, internationalisation and international projection are strategic aspects for the UAB. The strategy in the international dimension aims to measure and consolidate a network of universities and institutions that collaborate with the UAB in education, research, transfer and cooperation. To achieve that objective work is being carried out closely with the faculties and research centres. The intensification of the presence and participation of the international university networks that the UAB belongs to also provide an important instrument for creating our own network.

Work is being carried out closely with the faculties and research centres to consolidate a network of collaborating universities

Efforts have also been increased to broaden the offer of classes in English and to develop and consolidate complementary options – such as the International Summer Term – which can attract international students and at the same time allow students from the UAB to have international experiences at home.

To improve the efficiency of our actions work is being carried out to define and develop an information and internal training plan which will guarantee access and use of the knowledge generated in international relations and internationalisation for the three main components of the UAB community: teaching and research staff; administration and services staff; and students.

Institutional relations

The UAB received a total of 46 visits by international institutions from very diverse countries during the 2016-2017 academic year. A total of 15 delegations were welcomed from Asian universities from South Korea, Indonesia, Japan, Taiwan and China. Among the visits, two that particularly stand out are the delegation led by the Indonesian ambassador in Spain, Yuli Mumpuni Widarso, with twenty representatives from nine Indonesian universities, and the visit by committee members of the King Sejong Institute of Korea, which established an office at the UAB this year. Also, the visit by a delegation of ministers from the Japanese parliament resulting from increased Japanese interest in the UAB.

Visits were also received from delegations from Latin American countries such as Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Cuba and Chile, interested in getting to the UAB better and expanding their collaborations in the areas of engineering, psychology, nursing and translations and interpreting.

From North America, the UAB received visits from twenty universities in the USA, and student exchange agreements were signed with eight of them for the coming academic years. The student exchange agreement with the University of California was also renewed for three more academic years, with a higher number of students which will make it easier for US students to attend the International Summer Term. The agreement for a double degree in Biology and Microbiology with the Canadian Thompson Rivers University was also

prepared for signing and will be in force from the upcoming academic year.

The number of visits by European universities increased compared with last year. The countries that visited most were Belgium, Denmark, France, Italy, Norway, France, the United Kingdom and Russia.

International relations at the UAB have also been strengthened by UAB institutional visits to the main international congresses and education fairs as well as to numerous institutions in addition to those made in the context of participation in university networks and consortia (see above). The UAB took part in the EAIE European Universities Conference in Liverpool from 12 to 16 September, the APAIE conference with universities from Asia and the Pacific held in Taiwan from 20 to 23 March, and the NAFSA conference with universities from the USA and Canada which took place in Los Angeles from 30 May to 3 June.

As a result of the visits received and the international visits made, 27 agreements were signed – 13 general collaboration agreements, 13 student exchange agreements and one double Bachelor's degree agreement. Currently work is being carried out on the double master's degree in European Integration between the Faculty of Law and the Russian Presidential Academy of National Economy and Public Administration (RANEPA).



Participation in networks and consortia

The UAB forms part of some of the most dynamic international university networks and consortia and is an active participant in them. It has been especially active in the European Consortium of Innovative Universities (**ECIU**). This year the UAB hosted the two Leadership Development Programmes which is organised by the consortium and took part in the meetings of the Board which took place at the University of Aveiro in Portugal in October and the Universidad Tecnológica de Monterrey in Mexico in April. During the board meeting in Mexico the positions were renewed and Lluís Tort from the UAB was relieved from the position as president of the ECIU he had held since 2015 by Victor van der Chijs from the University of Twente. Also, the establishment of an office of the ECIU in Brussels was approved.



As part of the internationalisation strategy of the **4 Universities Alliance (A4U)**, the UAB took part in institutional trips to Indonesia in July 2016 and Malaysia at the end of February 2017. As a result of the relationships established with the Indonesian institutions a project was present to the Erasmus+ KA107 competition with associated countries. This was approved and has with the

The UAB took part in the General Assembly meeting of the YERUN, which took place at the University of Konstanz on 17 October and approved the next set of priorities for the network: young researchers, high quality research which takes social needs into account, and the employability of graduates.



provision of grants has made mobility available to students, teaching staff and administration staff between Indonesian universities and the universities of the A4U.



The **YERUN** (Young European Research Universities) network has seen the participation of the UAB at its general assembly meeting at the University of Konstanz on 17 October and at the Universidad Autónoma de Madrid to initiate contact with European universities interested in offering double degrees. The UAB met the Tor Vergata University of Rome and the University of Essex and is considering a joint programme with them.

Highlight



Institutional mission to Asia with the A4U

From 26 February to 3 March the vice-rector for International Relations, Marius Martínez, took part in an institutional mission to Malaysia by the A4U. The mission visited the cities of Kuala Lumpur, Penang and Johor Bahru, and consisted of a number of meetings and visits to the main Malaysian universities to establish contact with a view to promoting bilateral collaborations in the areas of teaching, research and technology transfer and to reinforce the relationships with the main higher education agents there.



The World 100 network focuses on Spanish universities

On 29 March the UAB took part in the Discover the World 100 event at the University of Navarra. The vice-rector for Communication and Promotion, Virginia Louzón, attended together with the director of international marketing of the FUAB, David Miró. The World 100 network, which the UAB is a member of, organises occasional meetings in different countries to explore questions of standing from the specific perspective of the country and to involve new members.



The 2017 International Summer Term of the UAB in took place from 26 June to 4 August on the Bellaterra campus. More than 130 students from 16 countries around the world took part, and were able to take all their classes in English.

Welcome and support for international students

Over the year the **International Welcome Point** has attended 9,448 requests for support in person. Of these it is significant that 3,472 were related to obtaining and renewing legal residence permits in Spain, 3,281 were related to exchange and Study Abroad programmes and 519 with requests for help obtaining work permits or authorisation. No less important were the number of requests related to international postgraduate grants (MAEC-AECID, IFP/Ford, CONICYT, Erasmus Mundus, etc.), which totalled 441.

The UAB also organises a series of events to welcome new students and offer them help in their stay and in their integration into the university and the country. The **International Welcome Days**, held at the beginning of each semester, are filled with activities that allow international students to get to know the campus and the services offered as well as the student association at the UAB. During these days new students can also find out about the Mentor programme which offers peer help and support, and the **Tandem** programme for language and cultural exchange between local and new students. One of the novelties during this academic year was the introduction of the **Buddy Programme**, where student volunteers from the UAB give help and support to the international students on the International Summer Term programme and encourage them to take part in activities outside the classroom.

Mobility programmes

During the 2016-2017 academic year the participation of the UAB in the **Erasmus+** programme, which includes 1,448 agreements with 549 universities, enabled 667 UAB students to study in European universities and the UAB to host 800 students from elsewhere in Europe. On the same programme, 66 members of the UAB teaching staff and 12 administration and services staff visited other European universities and 142 students did European work placements. The Erasmus Staff Week organised by the UAB attracted 18 members of the administration and services staff from universities all over Europe.

The Spanish national **SICUE** programme has 453 agreements which facilitated mobility visits for 172 students, of which 125 were hosted by the UAB and 47 were UAB students travelling to other universities in Spain.

The **UAB Exchange Programme** offers UAB and international students the opportunity for mobility to and from non-European countries and has 400 agreements with 216 universities in 34 countries. This year 203 UAB students travelled abroad and the UAB hosted 451. Also, 146 students did work placements in companies and institutions around the world thanks to the work placement scheme which is included in the exchange programme.

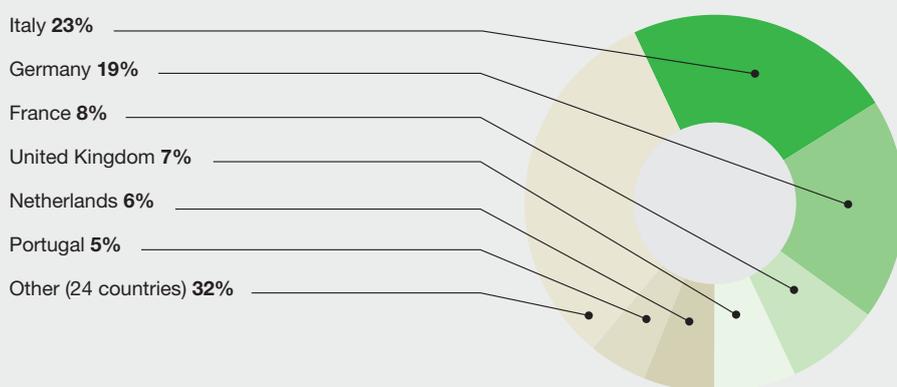
This year 3,038 students took place in the **International Study Abroad programmes** in all its different options. In the Pre-Established option, which offers teaching at the Casa de la Convalescència and the Eixample campus, 46 subjects were offered in the areas of business, economics, social sciences, humanities and arts and Catalan and Spanish language. In the Selected Courses option, 103 students took 290 undergraduate classes, with most demand in the areas of economics and business, arts, tourism, translation and communication. On the other hand, the Tailor-Made courses option saw a growing number of students and offered new programmes in the areas of science, engineering, psychology and risk prevention. New programmes were launched with students from universities in the United States, Turkey, Chile and South Korea and existing collaborations were maintained with universities in the United Kingdom, Mexico, Colombia, Germany, Finland, Taiwan, Uruguay, China and Macau. .

1,209 students from the UAB took part in mobility programmes

Participants in the mobility programmes. 2016-2017

	Incoming	Outgoing
Erasmus+ study	800	670
Erasmus+ Internships		142
UAB Exchange Programme	451	203
UAB Exchange Programme Internships		146
SICUE	125	48
Study Abroad	3,038	
Total	4,414	1,209

Country of origin of Erasmus students at the UAB. 2016-2017



Country of origin of students on the UAB exchange programme, 2016-2017



Highlight



Erasmus Staff Week welcomes 21 administration and services staff

From 15 to 19 May the UAB organised this year's Erasmus Staff Week. During the week 21 members of staff from 11 universities were able to see the UAB campus and find out about some of the aspects of its organisation and services. There was special emphasis on the procedures the UAB has in place to give support to the students and administration and services staff taking part in the Erasmus+ programme. Participants were also able to present information about their own universities to create an exchange of experiences and new ideas in the management of international exchanges of students and staff.



The buddy, a new figure in the international student welcome programme

This year saw the introduction of the Buddy Programme – a new method of offering help and support to international students taking part in the International Summer Term. The buddies are local students who accompany them during their stay at the UAB with a view to making their integration easier and more enriching. The aim is to offer cultural activities, interchange of experiences and the creation of a student network among the participants. This year the team of buddies was made up of seven students from five faculties of the UAB.

Social and environmental commitment



As part of the event to celebrate the first ten years of the Incorpora project of the "la Caixa" Social Projects, on 27 June the UAB received an award at the CaixaForum in Barcelona as one of the five institutions and companies to have been part of the project since its inception. The Incorpora network promotes the contracting of people with special problems to find work from an innovative, transverse and integrated perspective

A university committed to society and the region

The UAB, as a public university, is committed to serving the community and the region as well to the development of a socially and environmentally responsible model of management.

The result of this conception of the university during this academic year was to continue to provide incentives for policies for equity aimed at conserving equality of opportunity to enter higher education and it has developed several socio-educational in collaboration with educational centres in the surrounding area. This year an important addition to these programmes has been the Let's Go! Programme to improve English language learning in the secondary schools of Badia del Vallès.

The volunteer programmes at the UAB this year have also increased with the project "From prison into the community" and the consolidation of the Welcome Programme for refugees at the UAB. The university's membership of the "Our house, your house" campaign along with the support from the Caixa d'Enginyers Foundation offered renewed momentum for the Welcome Programme, which is introducing new activities to improve the stay and facilitate the integration of the refugees taken in.

As part of its commitment to the environment, the UAB continues to support improvements in sustainable mobility, with actions to promote the use of bicycles and the reduction of private vehicle use. In addition, the signing of the Vallès Circular Agreement with regional institutions has opened up new challenges for promoting a more sustainable economic model.

Student equity and support

This year, actions for conserving equity and equality of opportunity were strengthened with a campaign to ensure that the UAB funding to palliate situations of emergency can reach all students in need of it. This year, in particular, there were two calls for funding applications from students in situations of economic, social or family difficulties which could affect their normal course of study.

This year there were two calls for applications for funding to palliate emergency situations

As part of the eighth call for applications for Ithaca - Banco Santander salary grants, thirteen awards were made to high performing higher secondary school students from problematic socio-economic backgrounds. Also, the Fundació Autònoma Solidària, with the support of the Board of Trustees of the UAB, awarded nine Impuls grants to students with disabilities to facilitate their access to the university and completion of their higher education.

The UAB also has a line of collaboration grants for students. These grants are awarded to students who collaborate in different areas of the university while they are studying. In 2016-2017 69 grants were awarded.

University-Society Programme of the Board of Trustees

Through the University-Society Programme, the Board of Trustees, as the body representing participation in society, promotes strategic actions that contribute to strengthening links between the university and society.

Within this programme, the Board of Trustees offers support to actions that serve the interests of people who have had, have or may have in the future some kind of link with the UAB, either before their arrival (socio-educational support programmes and support for young people at risk of social exclusion), during their time at the UAB (Impuls grants to support students with special needs) or after they have left the UAB (UAB Alumni network, UAB Impuls employment finer). As part of this programme, the Board of Trustees also works in strategic areas of the university such as innovation, entrepreneurship, knowledge transfer and connection with the region, among others.

A new initiative this year was the agreement by the Board of Trustees to collaborate with the UniX and Let's Go! Programmes to promote, strengthen and extend the actions of the Fundació Autònoma Solidària in secondary schools to improve the academic results of young people in the areas of basic competences.



Socio-educational programmes

With the aim of strengthening and creating closer relations between the university and society, the UAB has different socio-educational programmes which are carried out both on campus and in schools in the region. Programmes such as the **Ithaca Campus** and the **Argon Programme** promote the relationship between the university and secondary school students as an initiative to encourage them to continue with their studies after compulsory secondary education. The Ithaca Campus is one of the most successful socio-educational programmes at the UAB. Since 2004, more than 5,000 school students have taken part in it, mainly from secondary schools in the Vallès Occidental. The young people selected to participate in the Ithaca Campus share a similar profile: family economic difficulties with could mean that entry into the labour market is prioritised over the continuation of their studies.



The **Plurilingual Teaching and Interaction Research Group at the UAB** and the **FAS** received one of the **Recercaixa** programme grants to carry out research in the **Let's Go** programme. This programme aims to promote **English learning** to improve the results of students in their fourth year of secondary school in **Badia del Vallès**.

The UAB wants to highlight its commitment with less favoured parts of society and the region. It therefore has another set of socio-educational programmes aimed at offering accompaniment and support to students from primary and secondary schools which, as a result of socio-educational or personal circumstances, have difficulties to attain their academic objectives. These are the **CROMA**, **UniX**, **Shere Rom** and the new **Let's Go!** programmes, managed by the **FAS**, which aim to motivate children and young people to continue studying after the age of 16.

Since 2004, more than 5,000 young people have taken part in the Ithaca Campus

Also, the **University with your Reach** programme supports continuing education for an active old age and offers opportunities for training and social involvement through the Learning on Campus and the 17 classrooms tutored by the UAB. This year the UAB held the tenth meeting of the organisers the university outreach classrooms for seniors at Catalan universities.

Highlight



Argon Prize awards

The fourteenth Argon competition for upper secondary school students received more than 350 pieces of work, of which 46 were recognised, 21 with prizes and 25 with a special mention, divided into 7 categories and areas. The first prizes in each area received free tuition at the UAB in their first year. The award ceremony took place in October when the seven prizewinning project winners received their prizes in the thirteenth year of the event.



14th year of Ithaca Campus

From 26 June to 4 July the UAB held the fourteenth year of the Ithaca Campus. This iconic programme at the UAB is managed by the **Fundació Autònoma Solidària**, and this year welcomed 385 lower secondary school students from 77 Catalan schools to attend the UAB campus for two weeks and take part in activities related to knowledge and the university with the aim of encouraging them to continue studying after compulsory secondary education.



Over the year, 610 people, including students, teaching and research staff and administration and services staff took part in the social and volunteer programmes managed by the Fundació Autònoma Solidària (FAS).

Social and volunteer programmes

The task of achieving a more committed and supportive university community is clearly seen in the different social and volunteer programmes managed by the Fundació Autònoma Solidària (FAS), in which 610 people participated this year between students, teaching and research staff and administration and services staff.

The social volunteer programmes, such as the Justice Programme (in prisons or juvenile centres), socio-educational programmes and the Social Health programme attended a total of 3,200 people at risk of social exclusion or experiencing a difficult period and poor health. Groups of students also led awareness campaigns for topics such as the environment, food waste and healthy lifestyles. This year a new experimental programme was set up for research and social action by mentors to support the reinsertion of former prisoners led by researchers from the UAB and the UB and financed by RecerCaixa.

Cooperation for development

In the 2016-2017 academic year, the **Solidary Fund** financed six university cooperation projects for development promoted by teaching and research staff in different areas of knowledge. It also gave support to seven postgraduate, Master's degree and PhD projects to be carried out in Algeria, Argentina Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ethiopia, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Pakistan, Uganda and Catalonia.



New backing for the Welcome Programme of the UAB

On 3 July the UAB and the Fundació Caixa d'Enginyers signed a collaboration agreement through which the bank will contribute to the funding of the Welcome Programme of the UAB. This programme is a pioneering experience for the welcoming of refugees at the university and which has taken in around fifty young refugees since October 2016 in the Vila Universitària housing complex. The main actions carried out as part of the project have been: a welcome plan that allows full access to all the services and resources through the creation of housing provision on the university campus; accompaniment to ensure integration through a network of volunteers offering linguistic and psychosocial support, and academic promotion and awareness through seminars and talks, etc. The project has 39 volunteers from the university community.

Support for disabilities

The support service for students with disabilities or special educational needs **PIUNE** attended 243 students this year. The service offers guidance to future students of the UAB and promotes measures to support students with disabilities or special educational needs during the time they are studying. The programme also manages the adapted transport service on the Bellaterra campus and the accompaniment service on foot for those who require it.

This year was the eighth year of the Impuls grants, supported by the Board of Trustees, which were awarded to eight students who needed them to facilitate their access to the university.

The UAB Impuls programme also works with the UAB Employability Service and has the support of the Board of Trustees and "la Caixa" Social Projects, as part of the Incorpora programme, and has helped 80 students and graduates of the UAB to find work.

This year, thanks to the support of the Board of Trustees of the UAB, the resource centres and the adapted study cabins in the Communications, Humanities and Social Science libraries were renewed.



Environmental management

Environmental management on the campus is guided by the **UAB sustainability actions plan 2013-2017**, as part of the Healthy and Sustainable Campus project. At the beginning of 2017 work began on the new sustainability plan for the period 2018-2022.

One of the main challenges for the UAB is the management of responsible and sustainable mobility. To put this into practice several measures are being promoted such as encouraging public transport (increasing the service frequency), a more rational use of private transport (pilot project of a car-sharing app using the smart mobility concept) and the use of bicycles within the current integrated BiciUAB project (new BiciUAB service in the FGC railway station, new bike parking). This year the UAB became a member of the Mobility Committee of the Metropolitan Area of Barcelona.

In terms of dissemination and awareness-raising once again the **Sustainable and Safe Mobility Week** and **Bicycle Day** were organised and for the first time the **Middays on Campus** programme took place as an initiative to discover unknown parts of the campus and the surrounding area.

In terms of energy saving the university introduced measures to raise awareness among the community proposed by energy improvement groups (See chapter 08 «Resources management»).

From 24 to 28 April 2017 the 8th Healthy and Sustainable Week took place at the UAB. The event is aimed to promote better health in the university community through the encouragement of healthy habits and lifestyles, and to raise awareness of the importance of reducing global warming and the greenhouse effect.



Signature of the Vallès Circular Agreement

The objective of this agreement is to place Vallès Occidental at the front of the processes of change and evolution towards a more sustainable economic model, promoting the principles of circular economics through the collaboration of all the administrations, institutions and organisations in the region, among which is the UAB.

This initiative is based on the integration of transverse policies, the creation of a public-private ecosystem, recognition of companies and organisations acting as agents for change, the potential of governments to influence the economic model, support for the production fabric to advance through the ecodesign of products and services and ecoinnovation and industrial symbiosis. Actions are also planned to bring the public closer to a model of responsible consumption based on sharing, reusing, repairing, recycling and consuming locally-produced products and services.

Highlight



European Sustainable Mobility Network at Universities

Since July 2016 the UAB has been a partner of the European Sustainable Mobility Network at Universities (U-MOB). This is a five-year European project co-funded by the European Commission as part of its LIFE project. The project is aimed at creating a university network to facilitate exchange and transfer of knowledge about the best practices for sustainable mobility among European universities with a view to reducing CO₂ emissions.



The UAB introduces a service to encourage the use of bicycles

With the aim of encouraging the use of bicycles and reducing private car use, the UAB has created a service named BiciUAB, which offers bicycle services at accessible prices for the university community. These include bicycle hire, open and closed bike parking, a repair service and free self-service repair service

University community



On 10 November 2016 the UAB Festa Major took place. For the first time this year there was a competition for the poster which was won by the student Yerai Toledano, chosen from the 65 entries that were presented.

Observatory for Equality

During the 2016-2017 academic year the activity of the Observatory for Equality concentrated on different aspects of visibilisation, training, research and participation. On 22 November 2016, Joana Gallego, lecturer at the Faculty of Communication was nominated director of the Observatory, taking over from Teresa Freixes.

From an institutional point of view, on 8 March the twelfth celebration of International Working Women's day took place. This year's event paid homage to Mercedes Unzeta, professor of biochemistry and molecular biology at the UAB. On 25 November 2016 the International day against Gender Violence took place.

With the aim of preventing and raising awareness of discrimination and sexist violence in free time situations the Protocol for addressing and acting against sexist aggression at the UAB Festa major was drawn up.

Of the activities linked to the European EGeRA project, one highlight was the UAB Third Gender Equality Report and the signing of the EGeRA Charter by the rector, for the sensitive governance of gender in higher education and research institutions

Protocol for the change of given name to felt name

The Governing Council at its meeting on 23 March approved the Protocol for the change of given name to felt name for transsexual, transgender and intersexual people in the UAB community. The protocol established the conditions under which people should be treated and named in accordance with the gender name with which they identify and facilitates the change of legal name for the gender-felt name in all documents and resources used without any legal implications.

Student participation

The UAB promotes policies for participation, especially by students, and it offers the different parts of the university community a series of activities aimed at creating networks and cohesion within the community. There are resources and facilities to strengthen the different organised groups in the UAB, such as the associations, the academic group delegate network and the student councils.

Student representation this year was consolidated in the figure of the academic delegate: 379 delegates were registered in the census, 18% more than the previous year, representing 845 of all academic groups at the UAB. Also, on 15 March there were elections to the permanent Council of the Student Council at the UAB.

This year there were 85 registered associations with a total of 2,410 members – more than 90% of whom are students. The UAB community has had economic and logistical support for organising events and has contributed to the consolidation of the use of spaces in the Group Resources Centre and the Associations Area, which this year returned to the Plaça Cívica. Grant applications for student groups and associations in 2017 totalled 45 of which 40 were awarded funding to a total of 12,500 Euros.

Student debating skills were encouraged with the second year of the Quick Debate

Marathon and participation in the University Debate League and the Secondary School Debate League. The success of the #DebatsPublicaXXI cycle should also be mentioned. This initiative aims to create different areas for debate on the kind of university model needed for the 21st century and to promote student participation in the functioning of the university

Tutorial Action Plan

On 12 July the Governing Council approved the Tutorial Action Plan of the UAB (PAT-UAB). This plan is an open framework of reference based on the actions carried out in the tutorial plans of the UAB centres, with the aim of guiding, advising and providing support to the students of the UAB in the different aspects of their learning and early stage career development. To that end the PAT-UAB has defined specific objectives and the tutorial activities deriving from them along the pathway of the student. Academic guidance activities, promotion and transition to the university, integration in the dynamics of the teaching centre, monitoring during the whole period of study and careers guidance, opportunities for mobility and external work placements.



On 29 November the prizes were awarded for the best degree final projects from a gender perspective. This year 24 awards were made. The event was attended by the prize-winners and their tutors as well as the vice-rector for Students and Employability, Sara Moreno, the director of the observatory for Equality of the UAB, Joana Gallego, and the director of the Catalan Institute of Women, Núria Balada.

Human resources

During this academic year the UAB has prioritised the stabilisation and promotion of academic staff and administration and services staff, in collaboration with social agents.

In the area of teaching and research, 31 permanent positions were approved as part of the public offer for 2016 (20 associate lecturers and 11 university professors) plus 23 places for assistant lecturers as part of the Serra Húnter programme. Consequently, the criteria for prioritisation of the position was also agreed for each of the categories. A new rule was also approved for emeritus and honorary teaching staff to facilitate the participation of retired members of staff in research activity. For non-permanent members of the teaching and research staff the UAB called for application for new trainee researchers, postdoctoral research staff and adjunct lecturers.

Also, committees were set up to work on a new model of academic dedication by teaching staff and a new theoretical model of staffing for teaching staff for the department of the UAB. This important task carried out throughout the year meant that it could be concluded with a budget to be presented to the Governing council and the Senate during the first semester of the new academic year.

In the area of administration and services staff, the public offer of 21 places was approved, corresponding to the staff who either retired or permanently resigned in 2015, in accordance with the partial replacement permitted by the Spanish government. It is anticipated that 43 places will be offered in 2017.

During the academic year work was carried out closely with social agents and staff from different areas to make progress on drawing up a list of all positions for administration and services staff, reflecting both the permanent and temporary positions in order to re-size the staff according to present needs and future objectives. Efforts were made to stabilise the staff in collaboration with the social agents and pressure was made on the government to revise and revert the replacement rate imposed as a result of the economic crisis. Work also began to establish a professional career model and adapt the training plan to make it one of the main points for progression.

Recognition of retired staff

On 10 October, to coincide with the official opening ceremony for the academic year, there was an act in recognition of the seventy members of UAB staff, both teaching and research staff and administration and services staff, who retired in 2015-2016.

Highlight



Activitat cultural

During 2016-2017 there was a programme of 205 cultural activities with a participation of more than 12,000 people. There were eight exhibitions attracting around 3,200 visitors, 99 activities in the Cinema with audiences of almost 5,100 and 46 activities in the theatre with audiences of more than 2,100.

Eight shows and concerts performed by members of the UAB took place both on and off campus, organised by the permanent associations with the participation of 100 members. The production of *La libertad en el tejado*, by the Aula de Teatre de la UAB, is of particular note and was performed at the 15th International Theatre Festival of the University of Granada.

There was also support for the organisation of around 200 activities by the university community. One highlight was the musical programme of the FMUAB which was possible thanks to the Autònoma Actua Award, and enabled performances on stage by 13 groups.

Some of the most memorable musical and theatre activities were the concert by Maria Arnal and Marcel Bagés and the productions of *There was a Fiesta*, by Produccions la Cople de Wisconsin, and *Limbo*, by the Les Impuxibles company. The exhibition *Text Art Objecte. Un itinerari per revistes d'art dels anys 70 als 90* and the pre-première of the film *Moonlight*, winner of the Oscar award for best movie, were some of the most viewed activities in the exhibition space and the cinema.



On 18 December the fifth UAB Fun Run took place on the Bellaterra campus in support of the TV3 Charity Marathon. The run was a complete success in terms of participation and support with over 2,000 registered runners and 14,400 Euros collected.

Ombud's Office

The **Ombud's Office of the UAB** is the body charged with ensuring the respect for all rights and freedoms of the members of the university community, and in 2016 it dealt with 100 cases. The content of these requests for action was related to academic aspects (63%), economic aspects (22%) and employment questions (8%), as well as campus services (7%). The Ombud's Office annual report, which was presented at the meeting of the Senate on 25 May, highlights actions related to the economic problems of students when paying their fees, complaints related to administrative procedures in the attached centres and postgraduate school, and with questions related to the fulfilment of the syllabuses and teaching guides for the taught subjects.

At its meeting on 25 May, the UAB Senate appointed Manuel Gerpe, retired professor of Constitutional Law as the new Ombud's Officer of the university. Manuel Gerpe takes over from Josep Font, retired professor of Organic Chemistry, who had held the post since 2009.

Friends of the UAB

The **Association of Friends of the UAB** is made up of members and former members of the university community and friends of the UAB. This year, it offered a programme of activities to enliven university life through a series of debate, lectures and cultural excursions.



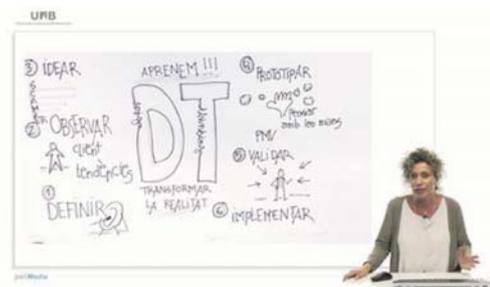
During the **Annual Friends' Party** which took place on 24 November, the Friends of Friends awards took place in recognition of the professional careers of Lluís Ferrer, professor in the Department of Animal Medicine and Surgery and former rector of the UAB, and Sergi Berbel and Toni Casares, dramatists and founders of the Aula de Teatre de la UAB. The UAB Choir also received the UAB Group Prize. In parallel, the University-Company prize and the University-Society prize of the Board of Trustees were awarded to Joan Soto, former CEO of Hewlett Packard Spain, and Josep Cuní, former presenter of the programme *8 al dia* on 8TV.

UAB Alumni

The **UAB Alumni** Foundation works to promote a network of UAB graduates as a dynamic and interconnected professional community based on employability, continuing professional development and the offer of services. To that end, in 2016-2017, UAB Alumni has taken up a new challenge with activities centred on professional skills and networking. Highlights included the first international UAB chapter in Brussels, which was presented jointly with the Euroacció Mentoring programme on 21 September at the headquarters of the delegation of the Government of Catalonia in Brussels, with the presence of Sara Moreno, vice-rector of Students and Employability, and Amadeu Altafaj, the permanent representative of the Government of Catalonia in the EU. The international chapters are representatives of the UAB Alumni that promote networking, offer professional support and organise programme for knowledge updating and debates on current topics related to the university in different cities around the world.

At the same time, UAB Alumni has consolidated its participation in activities on the campus by co-organising meetings of Alumni in different faculties and hosting the 17th Training Seminar of the International Conference of Alumni Associations.





With the aim of promoting the acquisition of knowledge among students about the generation and development of ideas in the area of social entrepreneurship and cooperativism, the UAB published five audiovisual clips on topics such as talent, creativity, design thinking, leadership and shared project management.

Employability and entrepreneurship

This Year the new **Employability Service** was approved by the Governing Council on 26 January. The service continues the work carried out by the university's career service, Treball Campus, but the activities are reorientated to provide more guidance in the professional development of students and graduates in accordance with their courses of study and in order to facilitate greater involvement among those who use the service. This second objective has led to the **Committee of Users of the Employability Service**, which includes representatives of the students, companies and institutions. The committee is of a consultative and advisory nature and will evaluate the activity of the service and make suggestions on its lines of action.



This year the Employability Service published 2,087 job offers and work placement offers and managed 2,836 agreements. It also offered 125 professional group guidance activities, attended by 5,579 people, and 250 professional individual guidance activities.

288 students were able to take part in work placements both within and outside Europe through the Erasmus+ and UAB work placement programmes.

This academic year saw the launch of the **UAB MIPUE project**, which forms part of the **Euroacció Mentoring programme**. With the collaboration of UAB Alumni this programme offers guidance and advice to students and graduates who are interested in a career in the institutions of the European Union. Throughout the year different sessions were offered in UAB centres to let students know about the project and to encourage them to take part.



In terms of entrepreneurial activity, the **UAB Emprèn** programme brings together all the initiatives and activities at the UAB which are aimed at **promoting entrepreneurial spirit** among students and graduates of the university in a transferrable and multidisciplinary way. The programme offers **information and training** in entrepreneurial activities to facilitate and promote the generation of ideas. UAB Emprèn has a **workspace** where people with new ideas can receive specialist **support and advice** to develop them.

This year, UAB Emprèn placed greater emphasis on the distribution of benefits and the possibilities for **social entrepreneurship and cooperativism**.

Highlight

Literary prizes 2016

On 23 November the award ceremony took place for the winners of the best works of literature of 2016 organised jointly with the Cerdanyola del Vallès City Council. The prizewinning authors and works were: Núria Broquetas, Valldaura Novel - Memorial Pere Calders Prize 2016, for *El llagut de foc*; David Yeste, Miquel Martí i Pol Poetry Prize 2016, for *24 Vintervariationer*; and Vera Sanahuja, Caterina Albert Short Story Prize 2016, for *La mare i el monstre*.

Once again this year, the prizewinning works were published electronically and on paper by the UAB Publications Service.



The Physical Activities Service takes part in Active Campus Europe

On 24 January the Active Campus Europe (ACE) project was presented in Limburg, Holland. The UAB took part through its Physical Activities Service together with 15 other European universities. The ACE project is financed by the Erasmus+ programme and its main objective is to increase physical activity in daily life in the work and teaching spaces of the university.

The UAB Physical Activities Service promotes physical activity and good health and encourages the university community to take part in competitive activities.

Resource management



Implementation of the budget

In terms of income, in 2016 the Government of Catalonia maintained the same contribution as the previous year. Public prices for the 2016-2017 academic year were frozen for the second consecutive year. In terms of other income, the increase in research income should be highlighted.

In terms of expenditure, for personnel the most significant items were the additional salary payment and the 1% increase in salaries. Purchasing expenditure for goods and services experienced a small rise and financial expenditure remained stable. Investments by the Government of Catalonia remained at similar levels to the previous year.

The UAB balanced its budget at the close of 2016

In terms of financial operations, a total of €2.9m of repayable advances for the financing of the science parks was amortized. The new debt of €1.3m corresponds to the FEDER and FSE advance, and will be reclassified as capital subsidy in due course.

Treasury requirements were similar to those in the previous year, increasing towards the end of the financial year meaning that the available credit policy was to the value of €2.27m.

314

million Euros budget (budget after expenditure settlement)

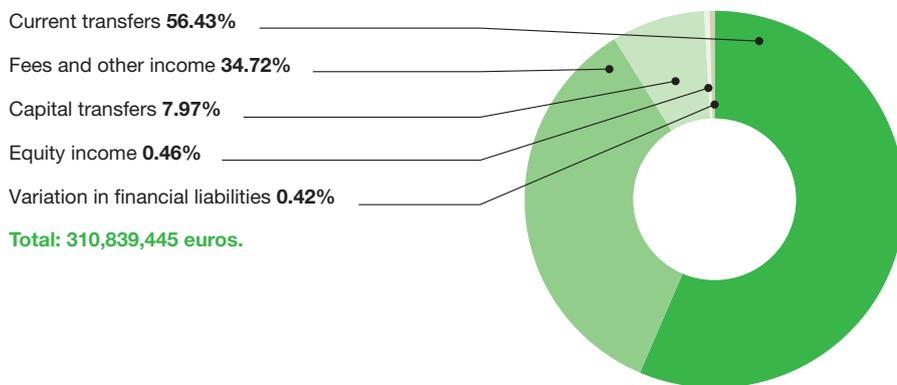
Actions for energy efficiency

Within the framework of actions for energy saving and improving efficiency, the UAB has opted for a strategy of responsible energy consumption, improvements in the energy efficiency of its facilities and the promotion of responsible practices in terms of energy use. In that sense one of the keys to the improvement of energy efficiency has been the use of a monitoring system to control energy consumption. This system shows the consumption figures for the 25 buildings on the UAB Bellaterra campus, with a total of 53 devices connected to the system. Specifically, this monitoring allows consumption reports to be drawn up, the detection of unnecessary passive use, energy consumption profiles to be established and energy potential to be optimised. The system also helps the energy improvement groups to design actions and raise awareness among the university community on energy saving.

Among the action for energy saving carried out in the 2016-2017 academic year was the installation of LED-technology fluorescent lighting in many of the ground floors of buildings and in the outdoor lighting, the installation of new, more efficient climatization equipment and the installation of temperature valves to control the entry of water in the radiators according to the temperature of the space involved, and the double doors at the entrances of the buildings.

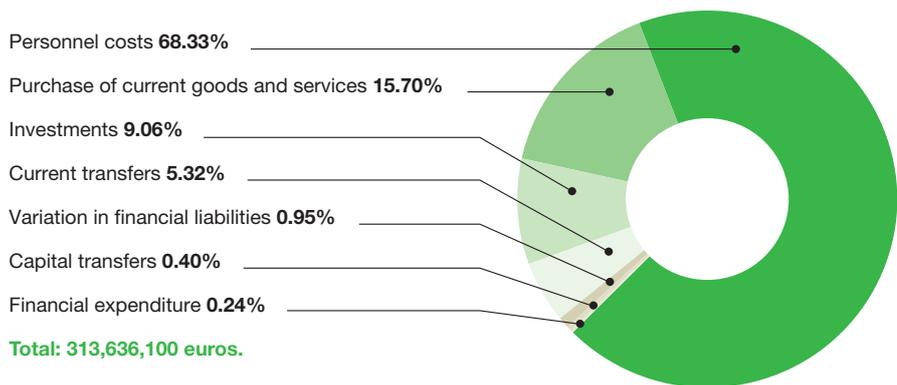


Income statement for 2016



Please note: the difference between recognised rights (€310.84m), part of which corresponds to final and/or multi-year income, and recognised liabilities (€313.64m) does not determine the budget deficit or surplus for the year, as some of this income may have come from previous years and may be spent in years following the year for which the statements were drawn up.

Expenditure statement for 2016



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