

Universitat Autònoma
de Barcelona

Annual report for the 2018-2019 academic year



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Edited by

Secretary General
Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona

Coordination

Rector's Office
Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona

Design

Mètode Design

Fotographs

Antoni Bofill
Pierre Caufapé
Carlos Iborra
Pedro Moreno
Jordi Pareto
Amics UAB
Area of Communication and Marketing
Area of International Relations
Fundació Autònoma Solidària
UAB Research Park

Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona

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

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Presentation



The Annual Report of the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (UAB) gives information about the main events during the academic year in terms of teaching, research and knowledge transfer.

This year, institutional activity at the university has been closely linked to the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the UAB. Among the activities carried out, I would like to highlight particularly the nomination of five honorary doctorates in recognition of their contributions in the areas of cultural identity (Jaume Plensa), solidarity (Marie-Paule Kieny), freedom of expression (Caddy Adzuba), knowledge (Lisa Randall) and commitment to the Catalan language and society (Joaquim Maria Puyal). As well as recognising their academic excellence, the celebration of this event has enabled the university community to come together and reclaim the fundamental values of a public and socially-committed university.

This reflection on the past, present and future of the university has also been a leading factor in drawing up the Strategic Plan for the UAB 2018-2030, which was approved by the Senate this year. The plan is the culmination of a participative process to establish the strategic lines and priority objectives in the different areas of the university over the next decade.

In the 2018-2019 academic year our pledge for teaching quality and innovation has been fundamental in rolling out a diverse and cross-sectional offer to respond to new social demands. I would

also like to highlight the creation this year of the Teaching Excellence Award of the UAB which aims to recognise teaching activities carried out by our teaching and research staff and promote constant innovation and improvement in teaching.

The impact of the activities carried out by research groups at the UAB and the UAB Sphere has translated into a major increase in resources from European competitions, consolidating the position of the UAB among the leaders in Spain in terms of the returns obtained from the Horizon 2020 framework programme. Our strategies for internationalisation and the attraction and retention of talent have resulted in our obtaining six grants this year from the European Research Council.

In the area of transfer and innovation, I would like to point out that the UAB Research Park has made a decisive contribution to promoting the B30 Hub with the incorporation of new members who have joined the strategic alliance this year to promote innovation in the region surrounding the B30 trunk road. Also, the day seminars organised by this platform have become an essential meeting point for researchers and the business fabric. This year the UAB has also maintained its leadership in patent applications among Spanish universities to the European Patents Office.

The presentation of the ECIU University project, presented by the European Consortium of Innovative Universities to build university alliances has been very important strategy for the internationalisation of the UAB. The

project promotes a kind of international training which involves people from society and industry and allows courses or routes to be followed which respond to specific themes related to the global challenges established by the United Nations.

The university community has taken an active part in volunteer and cooperation programmes at the UAB and in actions aimed at highlighting our commitment to the environment. One of these actions was the approval of the UAB Declaration of Climate Emergency.

The year the UAB has successfully carried out the missions that it had set itself and has demonstrated a firm commitment to progress in the social and regional environment. This collective desire has had positive results thanks to the perseverance of the university community and despite the great difficulties imposed by what is clearly insufficient financing of the public universities.

Under the motto “The audacity of knowledge”, the UAB has concluded the celebrations of its 50th anniversary this academic year. The celebrations have clearly shown the strength and vitality of our institution and have laid the basis for a continued period of rigour and determination in order to achieve our goals in the future.

Margarita Arboix Arzo
Rector

Figures for 2018-2019

Courses

Bachelor's degrees	102
Master's degrees	129
PhD programmes	68
Lifelong learning programmes (2017-2018)	403
UAB faculties and schools	13
Attached university schools	10

Teaching

New undergraduate students	6,957
Total undergraduate students	25,924
Bachelor's degree graduates (2017-2018)	4,663
Master's degree students	2,992
Master's degree graduates (2017-2018)	2,110
New undergraduate students in attached centres	1,236
Bachelor's degree graduates in attached centres	4,924
Titulats de grau en centres adscrits (2017-2018)	1,191
Master's degree students in attached centres	797
Master's degree graduates in attached centres (2017-2018)	478
Lifelong learning students (2017-2018)	5,898

Research (2018)

Research groups recognised by the Government of Catalonia	205
Departments	57
Research and study centres	25
UAB research institutes	8
Attached research institutes	35
PhD students	4,832
Doctoral theses presented (2017-2018)	541
Articles published in indexed journals (WOK-ISI)	4,568
Total patents applied for	35
New companies in the UAB Research Park	4
Resources allocated for research (in millions of Euros)	78.89

Internationalisation

Foreign undergraduate students	1,415
Foreign official Master's degree students	1,100
Foreign UAB Master's degree students	1,008
Foreign PhD students	1,755
UAB students on exchange programmes	1,335
Students on exchange programmes at the UAB	1,385
Foreign students on the Study Abroad programme	2,893

Human resources (2018)

Teaching and research staff	3,868
Trainee research staff	569
Administration and services staff	2,275

Budget (2018)

Expenditure settlement statement (in millions of Euros)	319.74
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Notes:

- Information for the 2017-2018 academic year was correct at 31 May 2019.
- The number of full-time equivalent undergraduate students is 24,166.
- 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 199.
- The number of full-time equivalent teaching and research staff is 2,666.

50th Anniversary of the UAB

The celebration of the 50th anniversary of the UAB has been central to much of the institutional and cultural activity of the university. Under the motto “The audacity of knowledge” a series of activities and events were organised throughout the year to emphasise the challenges achieved throughout the fifty years of the university’s history.



The UAB begins an academic year dedicated to migrant people

On 6 September the official opening of the 2018-2019 academic year for the UAB and the Catalan university system took place at the Sant Pau Modernista Complex in Barcelona. As part of the 50th anniversary celebration of the UAB, the site of the first Faculty of Medicine hosted a ceremony dedicated to people who have migrated, in the presence of the President of the Government of Catalonia, Quim Torra, among other authorities. The founder and director of the Proactiva Open Arms organisation gave the inaugural speech “Human Rights in the Mediterranean”.

The event was accompanied by musical performances by the Orpheus XXI and the Choir of the UAB and closed with a *Halab* dance performance by the Sol Picó.



50 years of the student movement

On 14 May there was an audio-visual presentation *50 years of the student movement at the UAB*. in the main lecture hall of the Faculty of Sociology and Political Science. The event was attended by representatives of the students and members of the Governing Team, the Administration and Services staff and the Teaching and Research staff of the UAB. It included a round table discussion moderated by Miquel Domènech, coordinator of the activities for the 50th anniversary celebration at the UAB, including the participation of some of the people who appeared in the audio-visual, representing the different generations that have made up the history of the student movement at the UAB.



Concert at the Palau de la Música

On 19 May the 50th anniversary celebrations continued at the Palau de la Música Catalana with a concert by the UAB Orchestra and Choir, together with Marc Timón, the Girls’ Choir and the Youth Choir of the Catalan Orpheus.

During the first part of the recital the audience enjoyed two works performed by the Girls’ Choir and the Youth Choir of the Catalan

Orpheus. Then, director, composer and alumnus of the UAB Marc Timón conducted the cantata *El secret de les coses*. In the third and final part of the concert all the performers came onto the stage for the hymn *Hör mein Bitten*, by Felix Mendelssohn.

Extraordinary Honorary Doctorate Awards

As part of the celebrations for the 50th anniversary of the UAB, there were five honorary doctorates awarded for five thematic areas and areas of academic knowledge all of which show a commitment to society: freedom of expression, solidarity, cultural identity, scientific knowledge and commitment to the Catalan language and society.



On 6 November at the auditorium of the Faculty of Arts and Humanities, the sculptor **Jaume Plensa** received an honorary doctorate from the UAB in recognition of his artistic career in the field of sculpture, in which especially remarkable are his projects for the public space and contributions to the performing arts. The sponsor was Jèssica Jaques, lecturer in Aesthetics and the Theory of Art at the UAB.



On 6 June the closing act for the 50th anniversary celebrations included live music from The Bazaga's, who played English music from the 1980s at the Plaça Acadèmica of the university



Microbiologist and activist **Marie-Paule Kiény** was awarded with an honorary doctorate by the UAB on 16 January in recognition of the values and solidarity expressed and transmitted through the transference of free patents from her research, focusing on diseases that especially affect developing countries. Prof. Tomàs Pumarola, from the Department of Microbiology of the UAB was the sponsor.



On 5 March, Congolese lawyer **Caddy Adzuba** was awarded an honorary doctorate by the UAB for her systematic and courageous struggle for freedom of expression and in defence of the rights of women, children and other victims of serious violations of human rights in the Democratic Republic of Congo, and especially for her role as a journalist in Radio Okapi. Prof. Gregorio Garzón, of the Department of International Public Law and International Relations was the sponsor.



Lisa Randall, professor of Physics Theory at the University of Harvard and well known scientist received an honorary doctorate from the UAB on 25 March in recognition of her achievements in the field of particle physics and cosmology, a precious source of inspiration for professors and students worldwide and a genuine expression of the audacity of knowledge. She was sponsored by Prof. Àlex Pomarol, of the Department of the Theory Physics of the UAB.



On 7 May, journalist **Joaquim Maria Puyal** received an honorary doctorate from the UAB in recognition of his career as a communicator and his exemplary contribution to the development of language, culture and media in Catalonia. Miquel de Moragas, honorary professor of the Department of Media, Communication and Culture of the UAB was the sponsor.

Highlight



Presentation of the collection "50 Years of UAB Experiences"

On 9 October the new collection "50 Years of UAB Experiences" was presented at the Casa del Llibre bookshop. The first four volumes in the collection which is published by the UAB Publications Service bring together a set of unique experiences of distinguished teaching staff from the UAB: José Enrique Ruiz-Domènec, Antoni Serra-Ramonedà, Ramon Pascual de Sans and Francisco Rico.



Exhibition "50 Years of Research at the UAB"

On 29 April the exhibition "50 Years of Research at the UAB" opened in the Communications Library and General New Archive. Curated by Carlos Acosta Rizo, lecturer in History of Science, and with the collaboration of Living Culture and the Audio-visuals and Multimedia Unit of the Area of Communication and Promotion of the UAB, the exhibition shows the scientific and technological equipment that has been used throughout the 50 years of the university.

Institutional Governance and Activity



On 27 February in an extraordinary session the UAB Senate debated and approved the Strategic Plan for the University which will set out the institutional activities for the period 2018-2030.

Governance agreements

During this academic year, the governing and representational bodies of the university have continued with their activities.

Student elections to the Senate took place on 14 and 15 No 2018 and the session in which the new members joined took place on 18 December 2018. At that session the student member of the Senate Committee was chosen and the student representative of the Senate at the Governing Council, and the annual report of the Rector on the general policy lines of the university was approved.

The **Senate** met twice: on 27 February and 30 May 2019. During these meetings the Strategic Plan of the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona for 2018-2030 was approved and there was a declaration regarding the economic situation of the university.

The **Governing Council** met seven times: on 27 September, 7 November and 5 December 2018; and on 6 February, 13 March, 15 May and 4 July 2019. 104 agreements were adopted and points of information, discussion and approval were dealt with. The following are some of the main ones.

- Approval and presentation to the Board of Trustees of the UAB Budget for the 2019 financial year, the financial report, the balance statement and the settlement of the budget corresponding to the financial year ending on 31 December 2018 as well as the general lines and the calendar of the Budget Stabilisation Plan of the UAB for 2020-2052.

- Approval of the regulations and general plan of the UAB for: recognition of research activities covered under article 21.1 of Law 24/2015 of 24 July on patents; the protocol for action against harassment for reasons of sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression of gender and sexist violence at the UAB; the creation of the Commission for Quality at the UAB; the UAB Bellaterra Campus Mobility Plan 2018-2024; Regulations for scientific journals at the UAB and the 4th Action Plan for Gender Equality 2019-2023.
- Nomination of Dr. Anne Cheng as the recipient of an honorary doctorate.
- Declaration of climate emergency seconding the initiative of the UAB Ecologist Assembly.
- Approval of communication and declarations in the following areas: communication of the strike days of 28 and 29 November for the lowering of university fees, communication in support of the motion to support the citizens' initiative for universities in the terms of the annexe and to urge the Catalan Parliament to debate and approve the citizens' initiative for universities, manifestation of support for the action of the Governing Team deriving from the requirements of the Electoral Committee.

Board of Trustees

In 2018-2019 the Board of Trustees of the UAB renewed the position of its chair Gabriel Masfurroll Lacambra, in agreement with the Government of Catalonia.

In addition to all the actions taken within the framework of the University-Society Programme (see the chapter on Social and Environmental Commitment), the board of Trustees has taken on the competences that are given to it by the Law on Catalan Universities in the areas of university community, planning and management and finance. Specifically during this year there were 22 meetings of the committees, 8 plenary sessions and 263 agreements were made.

It should be pointed out that the Board of Trustees has worked actively on the events of the 50th anniversary celebrations and on the UAB Strategic Plan for 2018-2030.

Among the most important actions this year are the tasks carried out in line with the Governing Team for finding formulas for the improvement of innovation and transfer at the university, which have translated as the continuation of the Smart Money programme and the consolidation of the B30 Hub (aimed at speeding up the process of knowledge transfer by the research groups to the business fabric and the creation of collaboration networks) as well as the design of the Dual Training and Challenge Generation projects.

Horitzó 2030



Strategic Plan for 2018-2030

The approval of the Strategic Plan for the UAB for 2018-2030 represents the culmination of a participation process for reflection on the future of the UAB and establishes the strategic lines and priority objectives that will allow the future challenges of the university to be faced. Specifically, the new plan defines the mission and vision of the UAB on the horizon of 2030 and established six strategic lines which cover the offer of academic courses, knowledge transfer, promoting the potential of the campus and the students and staff of the UAB, governance and international projection, as follows:

1. Multidisciplinary and multilingual offer of course which are capable of meeting the needs of society with the support of research and innovative and quality teaching models.
2. Responsibility for social change through the generation and transfer of knowledge.
3. The people at the UAB are its main asset.
4. The UAB campus: spaces to promote relations, confluence and cohesion of the different groups that make up the university community.
5. Autonomous, participative and transparent model of governance with an effective and efficient management system.
6. Consolidation and international recognition as an innovative and quality university.

To roll out the plan 17 strategic objectives have been defined with 50 operational objectives.

Recognition of teaching staff at the UAB

This year several members of the UAB academic staff have received academic and institutional recognition. Among them, it should be highlighted that Prof. Amparo Hurtado of the Department of Translation and Interpreting and East Asian Studies received an honorary doctorate from the Ricardo Palma de Lima University in Peru for her teaching and research work in translation studies.



Also this year the Government of Catalonia awarded the Cross of Sant Jordi to Prof. Gemma Rigau of the Catalan Studies department and to Jaume Terrades, Emeritus Professor of Ecology. Also, the University Nursing and Occupational Therapy School of Terrassa, attached to the UAB celebrated its centenary this year, and was also awarded this recognition.

Prof. Agustí Lledós, of the Department of Chemistry and Prof. Joan Gómez Pallarès, of the Department of Ancient and Medieval Studies, receive the Narcís Monturiol for scientific and technological studies.

Highlight



First Summit of Rector of Spanish Public Universities

On 26 November the Jaume I University of Castelló hosted the first summit of rectors of Spanish public universities entitled "University policies on matter of gender, under debate". During the summit there was discussion of the strengths and weaknesses of university policies on gender and the Declaration of Castelló was approved, establishing priorities to progress to gender equality in the university ambit.



The first Night of the Board of Trustees of the UAB brings together university, society and business

On the 4 October the first Night of the Board of Trustee of the UAB took place at the Modernista Sant Pau Complex. Under the banner "Society and university: further together", during the evening the work of different institutions and individuals was recognised: the Barça Foundation (University-Society Prize), Banco Santander (University-Business Prize), the filmmaker Carla Simón (Alumni Prize) and research Miquel Chillón (UAB Transfer Prize).

Teaching

The UAB has continued to offer an innovative, diverse and cross-cutting set of courses which open doors to professions and areas of knowledge with more projection for the future.

Academic policy

The UAB has continued to offer an innovative, diverse and cross-cutting set of courses which open doors to professions and areas of knowledge with more projection for the future.

Quality is the fundamental pillar for studies at the UAB. The university promotes innovation and improvement in teaching through calls for projects and training activities and this year has seen the addition of the new initiative: **UAB Price for Teaching Excellence**, which was won in this first year by Prof. Sònia Parella of the Department of Sociology.

Teaching innovation has also been present in the more flexible teaching options which facilitate access to the UAB by a new type of student and new training demands. As well as the continuing postgraduate courses examples of the new courses are the dual pre-graduate courses, closely linked to the needs of regional companies and institutions, and the MOOC.

The prestige of the UAB and the constant growth in the offer of courses in English has contributed significantly to attracting foreign students, especially at postgraduate level, and to the internationalisation of local students.

Finally, this year has seen professional advice and guidance offered to more than 4,000 students and access to work placements both within the country and abroad. The UAB Emprèn programme has made resources and activities available to students to stimulate creativity and promote social and environmental enterprise.

During 2018 the **general competences** for undergraduate degrees at the UAB were revised and approved to include the university's commitment to equality between women and men and in lines with the objectives for sustainable development and the lines of the Strategic Plan. They are:

1. Introduce changes in the methods and processes in the area of knowledge to offer innovative solutions to the needs and demands of society.
2. Act within the area of knowledge itself to place a value on social, economic and environmental impacts.
3. Act with ethical responsibility and respect for basic rights and responsibilities, diversity and democratic values.
4. Act within the area of knowledge itself to assess inequalities for reasons of sex and gender.

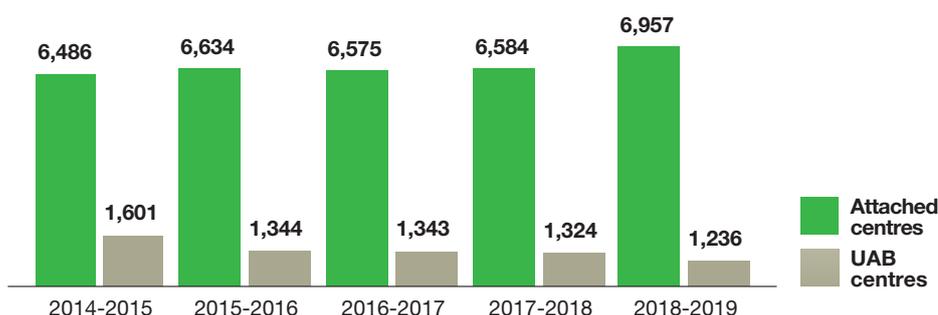
New degree courses being offered from 2020-2021 already include these basic general competences and it is anticipated that the rest of the courses will incorporate them as they are reviewed. A handbook has also been produced to identify learning outcomes and teaching and assessment methods for the different areas of knowledge.

The UAB firmly supports the creation of joint courses with other universities and has been working to launch new degree courses jointly with the universities of the A4U universities alliance. Specifically in 2020-2021 it is planned to offer a new degree in Science and Humanities, coordinated by the UAB and with the participation of the Universidad Autónoma de Madrid and the Universidad Carlos III of Madrid, and a Degree in Science shared with these universities and coordinated by the Universidad de Madrid.

As part of the process of internationalisation of courses the UAB is committed to publishing teaching guides in three languages (Catalan, Spanish and English). To achieve this objective has come to an agreement with the **UAB Language Service**, which has produced a guide to writing the teaching guides in English. It is planned that these actions will allow all teaching guides to be trilingual in 2019-2020.

Also, as a result of the process of analysing scientific and technical documents at the UAB, the **Speech and Sound Processing Service** has been approved as a teaching service dependent on the Faculties of Art and Humanities given the importance of its support for teaching activities.

Headcount for new students on Bachelor's degrees



Undergraduate student numbers in UAB Centres 2018-2019

Centre	Students registered		
	Women	Men	Total
School of Engineering	365	1,866	2,231
Faculty of Economics and Business	1,218	1,614	2,832
Faculty of Biosciences	1,289	609	1,898
Faculty of Science	884	1,375	2,259
Faculty of Education	1,933	347	2,280
Faculty of Communication	1,212	602	1,814
Faculty of Political Science and Sociology	559	536	1,095
Faculty of Law	1,296	629	1,925
Faculty of Arts and Humanities	1,961	1,251	3,212
Faculty of Medicine	1,783	728	2,511
Faculty of Psychology	1,450	325	1,775
Faculty of Translation and Interpreting	930	277	1,207
Faculty of Veterinary Medicine	673	212	885
Total	15,553	10,371	25,924

Undergraduate student numbers in attached centres 2018-2019

Centre	Students registered		
	Women	Men	Total
Eina, University Centre for Design and Art in Barcelona	274	116	390
Escola Massana. Municipal Art and Design Centre	255	75	330
School of Prevention and Integral Safety and Security	71	201	272
US for Health Sciences*	32	35	67
US for Social Sciences*	9	3	12
US Gimbernat	777	613	1,390
US for Nursing Sant Pau	306	56	362
US for Nursing and Occupational Therapy of Terrassa	697	153	850
US Salesiana de Sarrià	66	524	590
US for Tourism and Hotel Management	470	191	661
Total	2,957	1,967	4,924

In process of detachment from 2015-2016. US= University School

Highlight



Different centres celebrate the anniversary

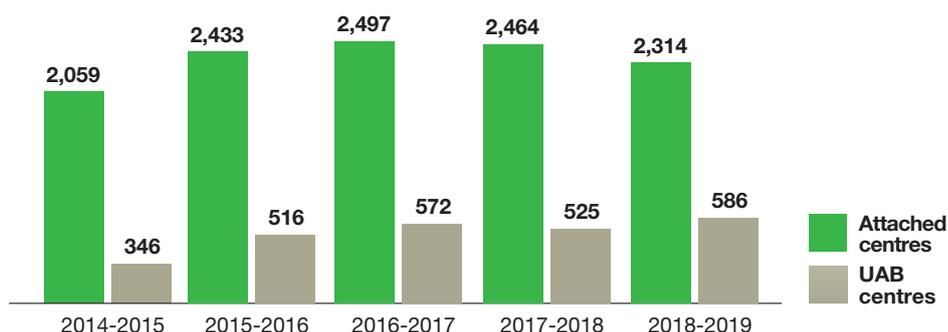
The **Faculty of Medicine**, which was established at the same time as the UAB itself in 1968, has also celebrated its 50th anniversary this year. The main event took place on 20 September at the Sant pau Teaching Unit in the historical Hospital de la Santa Creu i Sant Pau Modernista complex in Barcelona, which is where the activity of the faculty began.

The **Faculty of Arts and Humanities**, hosted the closing event for the fiftieth anniversary on 6 June after two years of celebrations. During the event homage was paid to the retired lecturers from the faculty who mainly saw the setting up of the university and there was a journey through the five decades of the history of the faculty through music, memories and testimonies.

The **Sabadell Campus** and the **Taulí Park Teaching Unit** also held special activities to celebrate their 25th and 10th anniversaries respectively. The Taulí Park auditorium was the venue on 19 September and was attended by the rector of the UAB, Margarita Arboix, and the director of the western section of the CatSalut Vallès Occidental Health Sector. On 7 March the 25th anniversary of the opening of the Sabadell campus took place there and was attended by Esteve Deu, historian and emeritus lecturer of the UAB who gave a talk on "Sabadell, from industry to services".

38%

foreign Master's degree students



Bachelor's degrees

In the 2018-2019 academic year, the UAB launched the first new Bachelor's degree approved in accordance with the new planning criteria. These are cross-cutting, innovative and quality degrees which facilitate access to professions and areas of knowledge with more projection for the future. With these new qualifications, eight degrees and one double degree, the number of courses offered by the UAB is over one hundred for Bachelor's degree (102), including 12 double degrees and 4 degrees also offered in English.

New degrees 2018-2019

- Ancient History
- Data Engineering
- Gender Studies (three years, UAB degree)
- Philosophy, Politics and Economics (UAB, UAM, UC3M i UPF)
- Geography, Environment and Regional Planning
- Intelligent and Sustainable Cities (three years)
- Computational Mathematics and Data Analytics
- International Relations
- Political Science and Public Management + Sociology

The capacity for attraction and the offer of Bachelor's degrees has grown with respect to previous years: pre-registrations for first choice rose by about 2% and the number of places assigned for first choice by 4.4% but the biggest rise was in the number of registrations.

First time registrations in the UAB centres rose by around 7% from 6,584 students

in 2017-2018 to 6,957 in 2018-2019, spurred on by the positive acceptance of the new qualifications which fully covered the number of places on offer. This growth has had a positive effect on the total Bachelor's degree registration figures, which had experienced a slight but sustained drop in recent years, rising this year by 1% to 25,924 students.

For the centres attached to the UAB there was a drop of 6.6% for first time registrations and the number of students fell from 1,324 last year to 1,236 in 2018-2019. The total number of registrations for bachelor's degrees fell slightly more by 7.5% from 5,321 students in 2017-2018 to 4,924 this year. However, the process of detachment of the university schools in Manresa, which began in 2015-2016 needs to be taken into account.

In 2017-2018 on the other hand 4,663 students graduated from UAB centre, 4.4% fewer than in 2016-2017 (4,877) and 1,190 graduated from attached centres, 9% more than the previous year (1,092).

In terms of the offer of courses approved for 2019-2020, the UAB will incorporate three very innovative degrees: two in the area of communications, **Interactive Communication** and **Communication in Organisations**, and one in engineering, **Engineering for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency**. Also Gender Studies was launched this year as a UAB-specific degree. Next year the same degree will be offered as an official bachelor's degree with the title **Sociocultural Gender Studies**.

Postgraduate courses

The UAB offers a broad and diverse series of Master's degrees covering all areas of knowledge and training options (professional, research and specialisation). Following the sharp growth that preceded the consolidation of Master's courses as a stage in university education, the offer of official Master's degrees at the UAB currently attracts around 3,000 new students a year (2,900 in 2018-2019) and generates 2,600 Master's graduates (2,588 in 2018-2019).

This year six new UAB-specific Master's degree were offered, of which four were in the humanities and social sciences (Chinese for Spanish-speaking Students; Conference Interpreting; Journalism and Innovation in Digital Content and Translation and Intercultural Studies), one on the application of technology in the health field (Internet of Things for Digital Health) and one on the area of health (Paediatric Physiotherapy).

For 2019-2020 the new Erasmus Mundus Master's degree in Children's Literature Media and Culture (CLMC) has been approved to be offered by the Faculty of Education, and the UAB-specific Master's degree in Tourism Management of Cultural Heritage, offered by the School of Tourism and Hotel Management, which is attached to the UAB. Also, this year four other Erasmus Mundus Master's degrees have been renewed: Education Policies for Global Development (GLOBED), once again coordinated by the UAB, Leading International Vaccinology Education (LIVE+), Models and Methods in Quantitative Economics (QEM2018) and EUROPHOTONICS.

Postgraduate programmes and students

	Programmes	Students		
		Women	Men	Total
Official postgraduate (2018-2019)				
Master's degrees in UAB centres	110	1.764	1.228	2.992
Master's degrees in attached centres	19	503	294	797
PhDs	68	2.633	2.199	4.832
TOTAL	197	4.900	3.721	8.621
UAB-specific postgraduate (2017-2018)				
UAB-specific Master's degrees	145	1.862	707	2.569
Postgraduate diplomas	84	871	332	1.203
Specialisation courses	174	1.420	706	2.126
TOTAL	403	4.153	1.745	5.898

Continuing education

In the area of continuing education, the Graduate School has begun a process of applying to UAB-specific postgraduate and continuing education courses measures to ensure quality that is comparable with the official qualifications. It has also been working to highlight the importance of the offer of the courses on offer and reinforce the relationship with society and the business fabric.

At the end of March the Graduate School organised the annual meeting of the University Network of Graduate and Permanent Education Schools which discussed current challenges in postgraduate and continuing education.

The Board of Trustees of the UAB has launched a discount scheme of 10% on the price of Master's degrees and postgraduate diplomas for students who have already qualified at the UAB and form part of the . This offer form part of the task of the UAB Alumni Foundation to promote lifelong learning and it aims to contribute to the loyalty of UAB students and make the university's courses more visible.

In 2017-2018 the Graduate School managed more than 400 UAB-specific Master's degrees and continuing education courses improving job opportunities for the almost 6,000 people who took courses this year.

More than a million students registered on MOOC courses offered by the UAB in six years

The MOOCs taught by the UAB through the world-renowned Coursera platform que la UAB have attracted more than a million registrations. The UAB is among the leading universities in the number of students in Coursera, together with the best universities in the world. The UAB is also the second university to offer courses in Spanish, behind the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de Mexico (UNAM). This year the UAB and the UNAM established a general agreement for the production and diffusion of MOOCs and undertook to develop an Iberoamerican University MOOC Space (EMIU) to promote collaboration between the Iberoamerican higher education institutions present on the Coursera platform.

The UAB was a pioneer in programming the MOOC courses six years ago and during that time it has launched over forty courses. This year the UAB introduced a dozen new MOOCs of which five form part of the specialisation programme "Big Data – Practical Use", and is the first Coursera programme specifically centred on big data to be taught in Spanish. The programme was presented during the meeting with the UNAM which took place on 5 and 6 November to celebrate the third anniversary of Coursera in Spanish.

Highlight

Three graduates from the UAB received the Graduation Prize from the Ministry

The Ministry of Science, Innovation and Universities has awarded the Graduation Prize to three former students of the UAB in recognition of their academic excellence. The former students were David Aguilera who graduated in Humanities (second prize), Juan Manuel Agulló, who graduated in Biomedical Sciences (third prize) and Antonio García Galán, who graduated in Business Management and Administration (third prize). All three finished their Bachelor's degrees during the 2014-2015 academic year.



17th annual meeting of the RUEPEP at the UAB

On 28 and 29 March the Graduate School of the UAB organised the annual meeting of the University Network of Graduate and Permanent Education Schools University (RUEPEP). Under the title "Quality and Employability: current challenges in postgraduate and continuing education studies" the delegates discussed quality certification, good practice, employability and the social impact of postgraduate and continuing education courses. On 27 March the general assembly of the RUEPEP took place at the Casa de la Convalescència in Barcelona.



ICTA-UAB coordinate a new Erasmus+ project

ICTA-UAB has received around a million euros in Erasmus+ funding to coordinate the **Edu-BioMed project** (Capacity Building for Higher Education and Applied Research in UNESCO's Mediterranean Biosphere Reserves), which is planned to last three years. The main aim of the project, which is coordinated by the Conservation, Biodiversity and Global Change Research Group of ICTA-UAB, is to strengthen and improve academic activity in four higher education institutions, two of them Moroccan and two Lebanese, in the context of Mediterranean Biosphere Reserves, in collaboration with the main agents involved and with the support of the public administrations and European partners.

International educational projects

The UAB is promoting the participation of its teaching staff in international calls for educational projects and offering support to the projects accepted. As part of the different European calls for educational projects and international cooperation, in 2018 the UAB participated widely with successful results and 24 projects selected.

In terms of the calls for the **Erasmus+** programme, the highlight was the selection of the first Knowledge Alliance of the UAB, **Precision Pathobiology for Disease Models (PATHBIO)**, coordinated by Jesús Ruberte of the CBATEG and the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine.

Also selected was a new **Erasmus Mundus** Master's degree, **Children's Literature, Media and Culture (CLMC)**, which the faculty of Education will offer from the 2019-2020 academic year, and four others were renewed.

The international cooperation competition Capacity Building in the field of Higher Education, selected two new projects: **Edu-BioMed**, coordinated by the ICTA and **CONSENS**, with the participation of the Department of Geology and the Faculty of Economics and Business. The call attracting the greatest participation and most projects was the Strategic Partnerships in the field of Education, Training and Youth, with ten projects selected, five in the area of higher education with a proposal from the Faculty of Translation and Interpreting, three in the area of school education and two in the area of youth. In the calls for

Initiatives for policy innovation: Social Inclusion through Education, Training and Youth two proposals were selected, one of which is coordinated by the Department of Applied Pedagogy. Finally, the Jean Monnet Activities competitions awarded a **Jean Monnet Chair in European Policies** to Ana Mar Fernández, a senior lecturer in the Department of Political Science and Public Law.

Apart from the Erasmus+ competitions, the UAB also obtained grants for the international cooperation project EuropeAid in China; for a project for the European Documentation Centre (Libraries Service) of the General Direction of the European Commission; and a project from the Department of Translation and Interpreting after a call by the General Direction for Interpreting of the European Commission.



The UAB and the Taulí Park present a new dual pregraduate course – Radiology Specialist

On 28 June the rector of the UAB, Margarita Arboix, and the director of the Taulí Park Health Corporation, Joan Martí, presented the new **dual pregraduate course Radiology Specialist**, which the two institution will offer jointly from the 2019-2020 academic year.

This is the first university course for radiology technicians to be offered in Spain. The training is aimed at working radiologists and young people with a professional training qualification in the field for the purpose of improving the qualification, employability and personal development. Nursing and physiotherapy graduates may also apply.

Dual pregraduate courses are the new professional training courses offered by the UAB, and the first to be offered among the Catalan universities. These are university-specific qualifications aimed at young people from sixth form or vocational training courses who have not yet obtained a degree or professional experience. Last year the first of the UAB dual pregraduate courses was launched: **Specialist in Information Systems in Local Government**, with joint responsibility by Diputació de Barcelona and the local governments.



The Employability Service participates in the Youth Employment Fair in Barcelona

The Employability Service participates in the Youth Employment Fair, which took place in Barcelona on 21 and 22 March. On the stand of the Interuniversity Council of Catalonia there was a team from the Employability Service of the UAB specialised in careers guidance who attended some thirty people, giving them information about job opportunities and resources offered by the UAB.

Highlight



UAB Challenges innovation workshops success

This year has seen two sessions of the disruptive innovation workshops UAB Challenges, one on 10 October and the other on 12 March. Aimed at UAB undergraduate students, the workshops are run by Xavier Verdaguer, the founder of the Imagine Creativity Center and are aimed to generate ideas to resolve some of the challenges set out in the objectives for sustainable development and which can be applied on the UAB campus. Participants are organised in multidisciplinary teams, made up of students from different faculties according to the particular nature of the challenge. An expert jury selects the four winning teams, for each challenge. These teams receive a certificate and are able to go on to take part in the generation of ideas programme STARTUP LAB UAB, where they receive guidance and support to carry out their own projects or to make an initial prototype or proof of concept.

Three of the four winning teams in the STARTUP LAB UAB competition in 2019 started out in the UAB Challenges workshops

On 25 April the final of the entrepreneurship competition STARTUP LAB UAB took place as part of the MEMEnginy technology fair. This year it served to address projects to overcome social and environmental challenges based on the objectives for sustainable development and shared with the UAB Challenges workshops event. The jury identified four winning projects, three of which were presented by teams who had taken part in the UAB Challenges workshop.

Employability and entrepreneurship

The **Employability Service** offers advice to students and graduates who are in the process of professional development through a series of careers activities and the promotion of entrepreneurship and different job-search resources.

In the 2018-2019 academic year it published 2,319 job and work placement offers and managed 1,921 agreements. There were also 140 group activities attended by 4,349 people and 1,249 individual careers guidance activities.

A total of 282 students were able to do work placement on the Erasmus+ and UAB Work Placements programmes both in and outside Europe.

The **UAB Emprèn** programme for entrepreneurship offers a series of initiatives and activities to promote the entrepreneurial spirit of students and graduates in a cross-cutting multidisciplinary manner. Among the activities to highlight were the **UAB Challenges** innovation workshops, the **STARTUP LAB UAB** competition and the **course on Social and Collaborative Entrepreneurship**, with the collaboration of the UAB Research Park and the support of the UAB Board of Trustees.



The Innovate in Social Entrepreneurship Space (EINES) is created

In a meeting chaired by the rector of the UAB Margarita Arboix on 27 March, the UAB presented the Innovate in Social Entrepreneurship Space (EINES, at the Faculty of Economics and Business. Also present were representatives of local and regional councils, social agents and other organisations connected with the UAB.

The objective of this new space is to stimulate and offer support to entrepreneurship and social innovation by promoting synergies between the UAB and the social and productive environment. One of the three lines of action will be research and transfer linked to the region with a strong social impact. Training involves the generation of a profile of people who are qualified in the specific area of social innovation by means of a new professionalising Master's degree. The project plans for the creation of a chair in social entrepreneurship and a professional work placement bank for postgraduate students offering positions linked to social change both in the public administration and in not-for-profit organisations.





1st Prize for Teaching Excellence

The Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona has awarded the first Prize for Teaching Excellence which was created in recognition of teaching activity by our teaching and research staff and constant improvement in university teaching. Prof. Sònia Parella of the Department of Sociology received the award and Prof. Agustí Reventos of the Department of Mathematics received recognition for his Outstanding Teaching Career. The awards took place on 22 May in the Main lecture Theatre of the Faculty of Law as part of this year's Teaching Innovation Seminar.

Teaching quality and innovation

During 2018 work was carried out to make progress in the institutional accreditation of UAB Centres. The first phase of this process consists in certifying the cross-cutting teaching quality processes at the UAB. The first review of this has been carried out by the Internal Quality Guarantee System of the UAB. In parallel a specific training route has been offered to centre quality managers on different teaching quality processes. Administration and Services staff have also had access to the training activities in this area. Also, in 2019 the accreditation process began for three centres: the Faculty of Communication; the Faculty of Arts and Humanities and the Faculty of Psychology.

It is also worth mentioning that this year the **Quality Committee of the UAB** was approved as the committee delegated by the Governing Council. The Quality Committee is a requisite in the process of institutional accreditation since it is the body that approves the general and cross-cutting processes in the whole of the UAB. The committee has competences over the quality promotion and guarantees and continual improvement in all areas of the university: teaching, research and management.

In applying the Internal Quality Guarantee System work has been carried out to assess the creation, modification and accreditation of Bachelor's, Master's and doctoral degrees. In particular, preparation has been done for the creation of five Bachelor's degrees, thirteen Master's degrees and one specialisation course and the accreditation process for the first six doctoral studies programmes to undergo the process has been completed with

five PhD programmes receiving favourable accreditation. The doctoral studies programme in Economic Analysis received favourable accreditation on the path to excellence.

Student satisfaction surveys for the 2017-2018 academic year were planned, managed and the results published for the semesterly surveys evaluating teaching activity on the Bachelor's and Master's degrees, with total response from almost 6,500 students, and evaluation of more than 3,000 Bachelor's and Master's degree subjects to which 7,000 students responded, and a satisfaction survey for graduates of Bachelor's and master's degrees in 2017-2018. Also, for the first time there was a satisfaction survey for PhD thesis supervisors for those theses that were presented in the 2017-2018 academic year. The UAB also took part in the Via Universitària survey sent out by the Vives University Network with around 3,200 students from the UAB responding to the survey.

The evaluation of teaching activity corresponding to the 2018 process involved the evaluation of 312 applications for a teaching premium of which 95.5% were successful.

In terms of teacher training and innovation the initiatives that emerged from the university's innovation projects have continued to receive support. This year 13 projects were selected. Support has also continued for the training of lecturers through 69 training activities designed for both new and continuing lecturers. 1,800 lecturers took part in 30 tailor made training activities.

12th

in Europe in the pilot edition of the European Teaching Ranking



The Archaeology and Palaeontology Campus receives the Vicens Vives Prize

The Government of Catalonia has awarded the Jaume Vicens Vives Prize 2018 for university teaching quality to the Archaeology and Palaeontology Campus of the UAB in the group category. The prize, which was awarded on 6 September as part of the opening ceremony for the University of Catalonia, recognises the important work carried out to consolidate the archaeological sites as a teaching and research space to promote the regional heritage and act as a pole for knowledge transfer.

The Archaeology and Palaeontology Campus of the UAB was also chosen in 2018 as an area of good practice by the Association of Catalan Public Universities (ACUP), in the area of work outside the classroom.

Nine faculties have taken part in the AIDA Programme for teaching in the English language

The 2018-2019 academic year was the second year of the **Grant Programme for the Intensification of Teaching in English (AIDA)**, and enjoyed a high level of participation by lecturers who carried out the training activities over the year and took advantage of the accreditation for their level of teaching in English which is organised by the Language Service of the UAB. The programme continued to include training

session on language competences for teaching in English, session on methodological innovation for classes taught in a third language and observation and evaluation sessions. There are now nine faculties that have taken part in the programme with a high level of success and satisfaction. Also, an agreement was signed with the Fulbright Commission to have a Fulbright scholar in one of the departments of the UAB in 2020-2021.

Digital teaching support

After the completion last year of the move of the Online Campus to a Moodle-based platform, this year has consolidated its use and it has become a central tool for teaching and learning at the UAB. Specifically, more than 6,000 teaching spaces have been activated linked to 3,797 subjects, representing 84% of all subjects and in some centres almost 95% of subjects are activated.

As well as continuing to update versions of the campus, this year has seen the start of an analytics process which, in the first phase, aims to see who the current users are in online teaching at the UAB. This information will enable us to offer functions which meet the needs of the teaching staff more closely and show centres what kind of online use is made in the teaching of their courses. At the same time it helps to set up actions aimed at a deeper insight into the concept of learning analytics which the university considers will be key in the coming years.

In terms of new functions the new version which is hoped will be available to teaching staff in the 2019-2020 academic year and will include the possibility of including short explanatory videos on the platform, seen as an improvement in the teaching activity and a boost for existing communication tools.

Classroom equipment this year has been replaced in six faculties by mini PCs. A total of 174 have been installed.

Language Service

In 2018-2019 there were 7,125 enrolments for language courses offered within the UAB Idiomes programme.

Courses included in the AIDA Programme for improving the use of English in teaching were offered for the second year with the participation of 70 teaching and research staff. Apart from these classroom-based courses there were also 3,558 new registrations for the MOOC “English for Teaching Purposes”, offered on the Coursera platform. It should also be pointed out that this year, for the first time, the Language Service took part in the International Summer School offering classes in Spanish for foreigners.

For language assessment and certification, ACLES accredited the C2 English exams making the UAB the only university in Spain to obtain the CertAcles seal for the highest level exams within the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages scale.

The current **Plan for Languages** of the UAB published five calls for grant applications to promote competence in third languages in the university community and the use of English as a working language, resulting in a total of 24 grants awarded. Also, the Language Service offered 90 grants to UAB students taking language courses there, meaning a 50% reduction in the cost of enrolment.

Other language evaluation and promotion activities also continued this year as well as support for international projection.

Highlight



UABers are at the centre of orientation and promotion activities

The UAB has launched a **promotion campaign where the stars are the students**. Four students from different faculties have provided the smiling face of the UAB on the trams and buses of Barcelona, the advertising boards in the Ferrocarrils railway stations and on the campus and on online media banners with bigger audiences.

For the first time, the distributed **new catalogues with the offer of Bachelor's degree courses at the Open Days**, at the beginning of February. Until now future students had to wait until March to get the catalogues from the Education Fair. Also, the website and paper catalogues have been renewed with a more attractive design and new content, such as why do one degree rather than another and why do a degree at the UAB, explained by lecturers from each of the courses. On the website there are also testimonies from students talking about their experiences and new videos with a two-minute presentation of each degree course by students, teaching staff and alumni.

The UABers have been at the centre of a long list of activities in the Visit the UAB programme, from the Open Days to the Family Days, the Education Fair and a series of local, national and international fairs, Secondary School Visits and Campus Visits and another long list of activities carried out in the centres of the UAB or in attached centres.

Research and transfer of knowledge and technology

The strategy for the international project of research at the UAB has contributed to improving the securing of resources and reinforcing the attraction of international talent.

The importance of research group activity at the UAB and the centres and institutes linked to the UAB Sphere has been decisive for obtaining greater resources in 2018. Thanks to projects with high scientific, technological and social impact which largely benefit the cross-cutting and interdisciplinary nature of the campus and participation in research networks, the UAB has increased its resources for research and transfer by 12%.

Through the UAB Sphere, the university has given incentive and recognition to the collaboration between research groups and has promoted the creation of strategic research communities (COREs) with the aim of addressing the big social challenges. This year the **CORE in Education and Employability** was launched.

The consolidation of a support structure for the management of European projects and the launch of mechanisms for capturing and incorporating international talent have been two of the key elements in the strategy for international projection of research at the UAB. This year has seen the second **Talent Programme** for capturing and retaining research talent, for which the Governing Council has agreed to reserve two places from the Teaching and Research Staff replacement programme in 2019 to be able to offer permanent places to researchers with a European Research Council project.

It is important to point out that with 53 million Euros obtained from the Horizon 2020 programme, the UAB is among the leaders in Spain in terms of returns from the programme. Also this year six new European Research Council grants have been obtained, bringing the total number of grants obtained by the UAB and the UAB Sphere to 41 since the creation of the ERC.

In terms of support for the research groups, this year criteria for prioritising the research support employees have been approved, introducing quality parameters in the distribution of the employees among the recognised UAB research groups. Also approved were the regulations for the recognition of administrative staff research activities and PhD services.

In the areas of transfer of technology and knowledge, this year the UAB has launched the new **Proof of Concept** grants. The UAB Research Park has also offered support for innovative projects and the creation of spin-off companies. In terms of research results, in 2018 the UAB maintained its leadership in applications to the European Patent Office.

During this academic year the UAB has worked together with Eurecat and the Ambit B30 association to promote the **B30 Hub** and attract new R&D organisations to this strategic alliance.



On 6 July the grants were awarded for the new call for Proof of Concept grants at the UAB.

New call for Proof of Concept grant applications

On 2 July the grants were awarded to successful applicants of the new UAB Proof of Concept awards. Four UAB projects received grants worth 50,000 Euros to carry out studies and viability tests of their research results and therefore facilitate their transfer to the market.

The successful projects for this first call for applications are as follows:

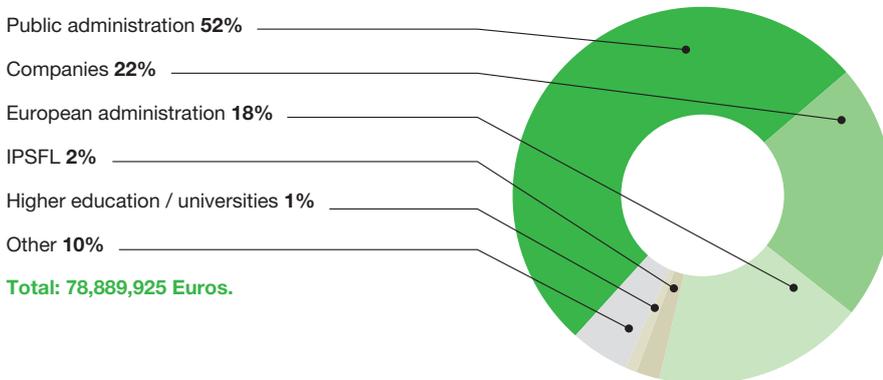
- “Inhibitors for the repair of DNA damage for cancer therapy” led by Jordi Surrallés, researcher in the Department of Genetics and Microbiology.
- “Biotechnological production of a plant chitinase with strong insecticide activity” led by Soledad Martos, researcher in the Department of Animal Biology, Plant Biology and Ecology.
- “Evaluation of the capacity of SynuClean-D to prevent neurodegeneration in multiple system atrophy” led by Salvador Ventura, researcher at the Institute of Biotechnology and Biomedicine (IBB) of the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology.
- “Improvement of a system to control the firmness of curd in cheese production”, led by Manuel Castillo, researcher in the Department of Animal and Food Science.

The Proof of Concept grants at the UAB have the support of the Secretariat of Universities and Research of the Department of Business and Knowledge of the Government of Catalonia and are co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund.

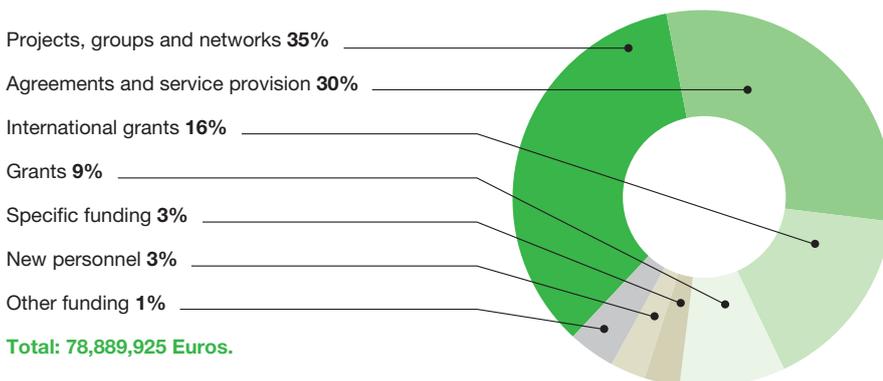
6

European Research Council grants to researchers from the UAB and UAB Sphere (2018-2019)

Research funding by broad areas, 2018



Research funding by type, 2018



Highlight



Albert Quintana awarded an ERC Proof of Concept grant

Researcher at the Institute of Neurosciences of the UAB, Albert Quintana, has received a Proof of Concept grant from the European Research Council in the 2018 call for applications. He will use the grant to continue with a line of research into resistance to antibiotics, which is derived from the “NEUROMITO: Elucidating neuronal susceptibility to mitochondrial disease” project, of which he is also the PI. That project was awarded an ERC Starting Grant in 2014.

Joan Lull receives an ERC Starting Grant

Joan Lull, associate lecturer in the Department of Economics and Economic History of the UAB and researcher in the Markets, Organizations and Votes in Economics Foundation (MOVE), has obtained a Starting Grant from the European Research Council to carry out the project DYMOLANO “Dynamic Modelling of Labor Mobility and Human Capital Accumulation”, which analyses the implications of geographical mobility in the accumulation of human capital.

Gara Villalba obtains an ERC Consolidator Grant

Gara Villalba, researcher at the Institute of Environmental Science and Technology (ICTA-UAB) i of the Department of Chemical, Biological and Environmental Engineering has been awarded a Consolidator Grant from the European Research Council for the project “Analysis of integrated systems of urban vegetation and agriculture” (URBAG). This grant will also enable him to set up the laboratory “Integrated metabolic and atmospheric research for urban sustainability”.



10th anniversary of the MELISSA Pilot Plant

On 4 April the MELISSA Pilot Plant celebrated its 10th anniversary by analysing the results it has obtained. This second generation laboratory, which forms part of the MELISSA project of the European Space Agency, develops technologies for the automatic supply of water, oxygen and food for long-haul space mission crew.

Research centres

During the 2018-2019 academic year the Governing Council approved the setting up of the **Institute for Sports Research** from the former Centre for Olympic Studies and Sport of the UAB. This agreement recognises the importance of the scientific activity carried out by the centre and research groups of the UAB into question related to sporting activity.

Also approved this year was the **Centre for Study and Research in Entrepreneurship and Social Innovation (CREIS)**. This new centre aims to provide in-depth analysis of entrepreneurship and social innovation both in terms of an understanding of the phenomenon and the study methodology and conceptual frameworks used, as well as their practical implications. At the same time, CREIS transfers knowledge to associations, social companies, public administrations and, in general, to the different social agents related to the world of entrepreneurship and social innovation.

To facilitate scientific interaction and cooperation among the centres that make up the UAB Sphere, this year the Governing Council approved recognition of the research group **Genic Therapy for the Nervous System of the Vall d'Hebron Research Institute (VHIR)** as a unit associated to the Institute of Neurosciences of the UAB.

Finally, the pharmaceutical company Chiesi Espanya and the UAB have signed an agreement for the creation of the **INSPIRA-UAB Chair** which will be assigned to the Department of medicine of the UAB. This union between the UAB and the pharmaceutical company will make it easier to promote translational and clinical research into common chronic respiratory diseases, and into the medicinal gases and electromedicine for research into pneumology. It will also increase the pre- and post-graduate training available to health professionals in respiratory medicine and will contribute to the dissemination of information about respiratory health among the public at large.



On 5 October the Josep Carreras Foundation opened the new centre of the **Research Institute against Leukaemia** at the ICO-Germans Trias i Pujol-UAB campus in Badalona. This centre (CERCA) which is affiliated to the UAB covers lines of study that are principally for leukaemia but also other cancers of the blood and carries out research which could benefit all haematological patients.



On 15 November the new building of the **Sant Pau Research Institute** was opened. This research centre is attached to the UAB and the new research building concentrates all the human and material resources dedicated to scientific research and complementary support services covering the main needs of biomedicine. The new building will also act as a pole for attracting other research groups and organisations thereby providing added value to the lines of research carried out at the Hospital de la Santa Creu i Sant Pau.

541

theses read (2017-2018)

Doctoral studies

During the 2018-2019 academic year the new model of financing PhD programmes was implemented and this has allowed doctoral studies programmes which cut across disciplines, managed by the School for Doctoral Studies and the departments.

With 541 theses read in 2017-2018, 26% of them with the international research component, the 68 PhD programmes available at the UAB have an incredibly powerful attraction for postgraduate students in all areas of knowledge.

It is also important to mention that during 2017-2018 ten theses were read at the UAB which were inscribed in the programme of industrial PhD degrees.



Míriam Rosás, a PhD candidate on the Advanced Immunology programme won the second year of the **Thesis in 4 minutes** competition for the presentation of her thesis *AIDS, the final twist of the knife?* And she represented the UAB in the final which was held at the Catalan Foundation for Research and innovation.



Award of PhD certificates and prizes and for outstanding PhD theses

On 16 December and 17 May the UAB held PhD graduation ceremonies and awarded prizes for the most outstanding doctoral theses of the year. The first ceremony was hosted by Spanish National Research Council research professor at the Institute of Space Studies of Catalonia, Emili Elizade, who gave a talk on “The Expanding Universe: Edwin Hubble, Georges Lemaître and Vesto Slipher”. In the second ceremony Joan Gómez Pallarès, director general of research in the Department of Business and Knowledge gave the talk “Are there fish in the water?”.

There as well as the welcoming event for first year PhD students, this year there was also a meeting of all candidates of the UAB with the aim of promoting good relations among the students and sharing concerns and expectations.

Highlight

Antoni Rosell-Melé receives an ERC Advanced Grant

Antoni Rosell-Melé, a researcher at the ICTA-UAB, has been awarded an ERC Advanced Grant for the project “New geochemical approach to the reconstruction of tropical paleoatmospheric dynamics” (PALADYN), the aim of which is to investigate the natural range of variability in the Hadley circulation during past episodes of extreme heat and cold.

Jordi Sort receives a Proof of Concept grant from the ERC

Jordi Sort, an ICREA researcher in the Department of Physics at the UAB has been awarded a Proof of Concept grant from the European Research Council in the 2019 competition for the project “MAGIC-SWITCH: Magnetic Switch Controlled with Voltage - Towards a Secure and Energy-Efficient Magnetic Device”, which is the result of research that he started in 2014 thanks to the receipt of an ERC Consolidator Grant.

Also, Teresa Puig, a researcher at the ICMAB-CSIC institute located on the UAB campus obtained a Proof of Concept grant for the IMPACT project “Industrial manufacturing process for a high temperature superconducting coated conductors technology”.



Salvador Ventura receives a grant from the CaixaImpulse programme

Prof. Salvador Ventura, a researcher at the Institute of Biotechnology and Biomedicine (IBB) of the UAB and professor in the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, has received a grant from the CaixaImpulse programme if the “la Caixa” Social Projects for the project “SynuClean-D. A new compound to cure Parkinson’s Disease”.



CORE
SMART
CITIES



CORE
PATRIMONI
CULTURAL



CORE
SALUT
MENTAL

Strategic research communities

The strategic research communities (CORE) of the UAB are research networks generating knowledge focussed on strategic challenges and made up of the research groups and centres of the UAB and the UAB Sphere. As a result of this strategic conception, the UAB has three active COREs (Smart and Sustainable Cities, Cultural Heritage and Mental Health).

Among the most important activities carried out this year was the Observatory for Tourism and Heritage of the UAB and the **CORE in Cultural Heritage** which organised and the 1st Enotourism and Cultural Heritage Seminar to analyse the current state of the enotourism sector and make the existing relationship between enotourism and cultural heritage, using the counties of the Vallès area as a case study. The Cultural Heritage CORE also took part in the participative process for the creation of the Olot Crater Space.

The **CORE for Mental Health** and the Department of Clinical Psychology and Health of the UAN jointly organised the 8th Perinatal Mental Health Seminar of the Spanish Marcé Society (MARES) which is involved in research into the mental health of women during pregnancy and after childbirth, as well as the health of their babies.

Finally the **CORE for Smart and Sustainable Cities** co-organised a participation process jointly with Sabadell City Council to decide on the design and organisation of new Makerspaces in Sabadell. Also, the Digital&Green Skills Vallès programme led by the UAB and

the Smart and Sustainable Cities CORE was chosen as finalist among 260 proposals submitted to the European Digital Skills for the Labour Force Awards.



CORE
EDUCACIÓ
I OCUPABILITAT

New CORE in Education and Employability

In a move to meet the challenges of society in terms of education and employability, the UAB has created the new Education and Employability CORE, whose main objective is to make research in these fields more visible and facilitate the transfer of results from this research in the region. Several of the researcher in this new CORE took part this year in the production of the Plan for Human Rights of Catalonia, coordinated by the Bofill Foundation, and offering proposals in the area of the right to education. The Education and Employability CORE of the UAB also organised a session to bring together researchers working on school dropout and regional agencies promoting projects in this area to incentivise transfer and facilitate possible collaborations between the university, the administration and businesses.

UAB Open Labs

The UAB wants its campus to become a space for innovation and demonstration of new technologies and methodologies, both for the research community and for the production and social environment. With that objective in mind, during 2018-2019 progress has been made in the launch of the Open labs network, which is made up of labs of the UAB and others in collaboration with regional agents. Specifically this year refurbishment work was carried out on the first two UAB Labs: the **Design Lab**, located in the School of Engineering and the **Digital Lab**, situated in the Humanities library.

The Centre for Computer Vision and the UAB this year launched the AIExperiment. This is a citizen project on artificial intelligence and is based in the Library Living Lab of the Miquel Batllori in Volpelleres, Sant Cugat del Vallès. This space is aimed at users and allowed experimentation with new interactions between technology and culture which would normally be inaccessible to a varied, non-specialist broader public.



The commitment of the UAB to publishing scientific knowledge in open format was recognised this year with its inclusion as a strategic partner of the Public Knowledge Project, which promotes the dissemination of knowledge without social, cultural and economic restrictions. From 22 to 28 October the UAB Libraries Service organised several activities as part of International Open Access Week.

Research support services

In terms of scientific and technical services at the UAB, this year has seen the launch of the new **Psychology and Speech Therapy Service**. This is a laboratory of services of the Faculty of Psychology which covers all areas of psychology and speech therapy. The objective is to promote the transfer of knowledge and services to society through three major lines of action: strategic project management, professional placements and assistance.

Another highlight was the award by AENOR of ISO 9001:2015 certification to the **Vectors Production Unit (UPV)**. The UPV is a mixed technological platform of the UAB and the Vall d'Hebron Research Institute created in 2005 and specialising in the production of vectors for gene therapy for public and private institutions around the world.

This year the **Libraries Service** began working on a new Strategic Plan 2019-2022 and has updated its catalogue of services. The Strategic Plan 2015-2018 was finalised with a large number of the objectives having been achieved. Also this year, the collection of digital monographs has continued to expand, covering different areas, and the first eleven datasets have been included in the DDD.

Finally, it is important to highlight that for the second year running the UAB has achieved first place in the library efficiency ranking of Spanish university libraries (SECABA-Rank).



Guidelines for scientific journals at the UAB

The Governing Council approved the Guidelines for scientific journals at the UAB, which aim to improve quality standards for scientific journals and promote recognition within academic and scientific areas. The Guidelines establish the basic criteria to be fulfilled by the UAB journals, both UAB-published and co-published, regulating the function and defining the requirements that must be satisfied to gain access to institutional support and resources.

Also, in accordance with the changes that have taken place in recent years in the publication and dissemination of scientific research in general and scientific journals in particular, the guidelines approved also promote online open access publication. The service hosts 45 of the 57 journals published by the UAB.

Highlight



12 ICREA Acadèmia distinctions awarded to UAB researchers

On 30 April the award ceremony for the 45 distinctions in the 2018 ICREA Acadèmia programme took place at the Palace of the Government of Catalonia, 12 of which were awarded to UAB researchers.

The ICREA Acadèmia award holders from the UAB in 2018 were: Margarita León Borja, from the Department of Political Science and Public Law and the Institute of Government and Public Policy (IGOP); David Urbano, from the Department of Business; Esperança Bielsa, from the Department of Sociology; Agustí Nieto-Galan, from the Department of Philosophy and the Centre for the History of Science (CEHIC); David Roas, from the Department of Spanish Studies; Javier Rodríguez Sánchez, from the Department of Modern and Contemporary History; Joaquim Matias, from the Department of Physics; Antonio M. López Peña, from the Department of the Computational Science and the Computer Vision Centre (CVC); Ferran Martín, from the Department of Electronic Engineering; Fàtima Bosch, from the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology; Jordi Surrallés, from the Department of Genetics and Microbiology, and Antonio Villaverde, from the Institute of Biotechnology and Biomedicine (IBB).

The TV3 Marathon fundraiser to finance two UAB projects on infectious illnesses

The projects "Immunotherapy against ESKAPE pathogens based on iron-capturing bacterial proteins", coordinated by Susana Campoy and Jordi Barbé of the Department of Genetics and Microbiology and "Selective recognition of non-coding RNA and the search for new therapeutic targets to combat antibiotic resistant bacterial infections", directed by Ester Boix of the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology. The projects received a total of 275,000 Euros from the money raised by the 2017 Marathon in aid of support for infectious diseases.



MitoTreat obtains the prize for the best innovative project in the Generation of Ideas Programme

The MitoTreat project has been selected as the most innovative initiative of the ninth year of the generation of Ideas programme, centred on the biomedical and industrial biotechnology sectors and organised by the UAB Research Park and the Biotechnology Reference network of the Government of Catalonia. The winning project proposes the repositioning of a drug which has already been approved by the FDA for the treatment of minority mitochondrial disorders.

100

The UAB is among the hundred most innovative universities in Europe according to Reuters Top 100 (2019).

UAB Research Park

The UAB Research Park has as its mission to carry out technology and knowledge transfer activities, promote entrepreneurial activity through the creation of new research-based companies and facilitate the interaction between research, the business fabric and society.

This year, the Research Park has been involved in different activities to identify the needs of society and detect opportunities and trends for the future in different sectors. That way it will be able to promote new innovative projects between research groups and centres and companies. With this aim in mind the Park has organised two laboratories for ideas, one on the topic of soft fruit, organised jointly with the Department of Agriculture, Farming, Fishing and Food of the Government of Catalonia, and the other on people's perception of science applied to the agro-food sector.

In terms of **innovation projects**, the UAB Research Park has continued to work to help companies and research staff to find funding through competitive calls for applications to be able to carry out their R&D projects. It is therefore important to point out that the park has taken part in nine collaborative projects financed by the European Union, two of which it is also coordinating. The park has also managed six innovation projects for companies, from which financing was obtained through the SME Instrument of the Horizon 2020 programme.

In the **area of entrepreneurship** the Park has offered the AI4ALL course "Artificial Intelligence applied to industry" to generate new market ideas in the area of artificial intelligence technology. In conjunction with the UPC and the UB, the UAB also organised the programme From Science to the Market, with the aim of promoting entrepreneurship among students and graduates of the Master's degree or doctoral studies programmes who want to put their dissertation or thesis to practical use. The UAB Research Park also organised the ninth year of the Generation of Ideas programme, this year centred on the biotechnology and biomedical sectors. It was co-organised by the Biotechnology Reference Network (XRB) and sponsored by the ERN, Palex, Uriach and Minoryx laboratories and the Barcelona Synchrotron Park. Finally, the Park launched the second year of the Explorer Programme "Young people with ideas" which aims to promote the talent and innovate capacity of university students.

In terms of **company creation**, this year the Park helped to create a technology-based company at the Mathematics Research Centre, developing a small, portable diagnostic device which can improve the monitoring efficiency of patients with haematological conditions. It also supported three start-ups which have joined the network of companies in the Park.

B30 Hub

This year, there has been intensive activity to promote the new B30 Hub. This is an alliance between the UAB, the UAB Research Park, Eurecat and the B30 Ambit association which makes available to society the technological capacity, scientific knowledge, talent and training of the member organisations to meet the innovation needs and challenges of companies and institutions.

Also, thanks to the collaboration agreement signed this year by the organisations associated with the B30 Hub, the foundation has been laid for attracting new R&D agents within the region to the platform. This year, for example, the Alba Synchrotron, ESADECreàpolis and the UPC joined.

Throughout the year the B30 Hub organised seven single-themed innovation meetings to find out the most innovative trends in sectors such as food, mobility, bioindustry and big data, among others. A total of more than 650 people took part, coming from areas of business, research centres, hospitals and local government.





New members of the B30 Hub

This year the B30 Hub platform has included some new research, development and innovation agents in the B30 region. Specifically, this year the Alba Synchrotron, ESADECreàpolis and the UPC joined.



Al llarg del curs, el Hub B30 ha organitzat set trobades d'innovació monotemàtiques per conèixer les tendències més innovadores en sectors com l'alimentació, la mobilitat, la bioindústria o les dades massives (*big data*), entre d'altres. En total, hi han participat més de 650 persones, provinents dels àmbits de l'empresa, els centres de recerca, els hospitals i l'Administració pública.

hub b30.

Valorisation of research and patents

In 2018 the Valorisation and Patents Office of the UAB received 50 new inventions from research groups at the university. This figure represents a consolidation with respect to the previous year, when 48 were received. This means that in just two year almost one hundred new research results have been presented. It should also be highlighted that the average number of inventions received by the UAB is substantially higher than the Spanish and European averages.

By sector, most of the inventions belong to the field of human health, information and communication technology and electronics. The other sectors are mainly animal health and welfare and physics and materials.

Also in 2018 the UAB applied for 15 new priority unique patents and, taking into account the total number of applications (priority and international extensions) this figure rises to 35. In 2018 the UAB maintained its leadership in applications to the European Patent office and is seventh in the ranking by states.

Highlight



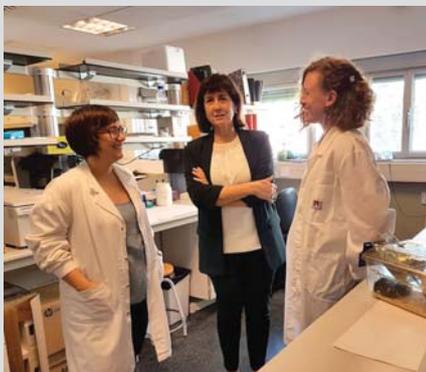
The UAB joins the FEM Vallès platform

On 20 June the rector of the UAB, Margarita Arboix, and the chair of FEM Vallès and of Cecot, Antoni Abad, signed standard form agreement between the UAB and the FEM Vallès FEM Vallès

Through this agreement the UAB will participate actively in debates for the launch of projects aimed at promoting and improving the region, infrastructures and mobility in the area occupying the counties of Vallès Occidental and Vallès Oriental, as well as consolidating their strategic position in Catalan territory.

The UAB participates in the European project on research and innovation ecosystems

The UAB is participating as a member of the SeeRRI project "Building Self-Sustaining Research and Innovation Ecosystems in Europe through Responsible Research and Innovation", which is a SWAFS – Science with and for Society project within the Horizon 2020 programme. The project is led by the Nordland Research Institute in Norway and as well as universities and research centres, regional governments and business associations area also taking part. The aim of the project is to move towards a model of more sustainable research and innovation ecosystems. In order to do this three European regions have been selected as case studies each with different smart specialisations, and one of these is the B30.



Gene therapy cure for type 2 diabetes and obesity in mice

A research team from the UAB led by Fàtima Bosch, director of the Centre for Biotechnology and Gene Therapy (CBATEG) has managed to cure mice of obesity and type 2 diabetes using gene therapy. A single dose of a therapeutic vector on model mice has cured them of types 2 diabetes and obesity sin no long term side effects.

The research, which was published in , was carried out by CBATEG researchers from the departments Biochemistry and Molecular Biology and Animal Health and Anatomy of the UAB, and the Online Biomedical Research Centre (CIBER) for Diabetes and Associated Metabolic Diseases. (CIBERDEM).

Research dissemination

AIThroughout the 2018-2019 academic year there were 130 campaigns for disseminating the research of groups and individuals at the UAB, which has translated as 1,750 media impacts, of which 1,479 were in the press, 151 on the radio and 75 on television.

In terms of international dissemination, 41 press releases were sent to international agencies. The releases published by AlphaGalileo obtained 7,352 visits by science correspondents and those published in EurekAlert had a total of 70,928 visits by journalists specialising in science in different international media.

During the year 96 research articles were published in the e-journal UABDivulga, which received 146,556 visits.

Among the main campaigns, one that should be especially mentioned was the discovery of a gene therapy capable of curing type 2 diabetes and obesity in mice, the identification of a molecule that stops and reverses neurodegeneration leading to Parkinson's disease in animal models, a pioneering study to analyse the effects of woods on health, a new methodology to quantitatively analyse and map living spaces in cities, the results of a report on the workings of the Legal system and work on the diet and burials of dogs in the Neolithic period.

In the area of bioscience and health sciences there were a number of dissemination campaigns among which were a blood biomarker to diagnose early stage Alzheimer's disease , a project to slow down the progression of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, primary observations of genetic and physiological damage in mussels caused by microplastics, a new process of resistance to bacteria, and a

new massive genomic sequencing strategy for preimplantational genetic diagnosis in embryos.

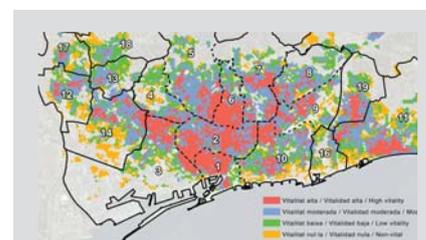
In the area of environment and ecology, two studies were carried out on the impact of tourism: one identifying air transport as the main source of pollution in this sector in Barcelona and another which concludes that rubbish left on the beaches of the Mediterranean is three times higher in the summer. Two other studies were carried out on the effects of climate change on the composition of reefs and the effects of urban green spaces on health.

In technology and experimental science some of in events was the tenth anniversary of the MELISSA Pilot Plant and the finalisation of the Life Saving-e project for energy self-sufficiency in urban sewage plants, a maths law which could predict mass extinctions in ecosystems and a new system for measuring quantum entanglement.

In the social sciences, some of the main projects were on school dropout in compulsory secondary education by immigrant students compared to non-immigrants, on the increase in precarious employment situation among young people over the last ten years, and on the effects of audio-visuals on audience attention and the creation of a platform giving visibility to the microvillages of Catalonia.

Several dissemination campaigns were carried out in the area of humanities such as several studies on the area covered by mountain pines 50,000 years ago, ancestry that survived the ice age on the Iberian Peninsula, cave paintings located at higher altitudes and on the finding of human remains from the Bronze Age in the Pyrenees.

Finally, among the dissemination campaigns for events organised this year, highlights include the presentation of an experimental hive to find out why the bees are dying and the creation of the Besós Observatory to monitor the river systems in the basin, a Lope de Vega exhibition, and international conference on the historical events of 1968, and the recognition of the Creative Europe programme for a cultural and research project involving the participation of the Bastida project – UAB.



Barcelona's urban vitality is mapped

Researchers from the Department of Geography and the ICTA-UAB have come up with a new methodology to quantitatively map and analyse living spaces in cities. This is the first study to synthesise and apply the theoretical ideas of Jane Jacobs on the shaping of modern cities to ensure that there is life on the streets. This has been developed using data from the city of Barcelona and its conurbation. Researchers Xavier Delclòs and Carme Miralles, from the Department of Geography have used census and registry sources as well as GIS to create an index for analysis using six variables which they have called JANE to work on.



The burial of dogs was a common funeral ritual in the north-east of the Iberian Peninsula 6,000 years ago

This study, led by researchers from the UAB and the University of Barcelona has

looked at the most numerous ancient cases of the symbolic sacrifice and burial of dogs in Catalonia. The research indicates that the Neolithic people fed the dogs a mixed diet very similar to their own, including cereals and vegetables. The remains of 26 dogs found in funeral structures from four archaeological sites and necropolises in the province of Barcelona were studied, and isotopic analysis was carried out on eight of them.

Highlight



NanoEduca receives the National Scientific Communication Prize

The Government of Catalonia and the Catalan Foundation for Research and Innovation (FCRi) have awarded the 2018 National Scientific Communication Prize to the NanoEduca programme. This is a joint initiative of the , the Catalan Institute for Nanoscience and Nanotechnology (ICN2) and the Centre for Specific Teaching Resources for Support to Educational Innovation and Research (CESIRE), and aims to training secondary school teachers in nanoscience and nanotechnology and create practical learning materials which can be used in the classroom.

New Guide to Experts at the UAB

The Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona has released the new *Guide to Experts at the UAB*. The guide is available in Catalan, Spanish and English and allows you to look up expert researchers in certain fields using key worlds or the name of the researcher in question. The results give a brief description of the field of expertise, the key words identifying their activity and the department or area in which they are based, alongside contact information and a link to their ORCID file with further details of their academic and research activity.

The UAB in the university rankings

The impact of the results of research activity by the UAB research groups has been a major factor in consolidating the UAB among the top 200 universities in the world. In the 2018 **Times Higher Education World University Rankings** the UAB rose two places to occupy 145th position in the world and 93rd position in terms of research impact factor. The UAB also improved its position in this year's **QS World University Rankings** and is currently 188th in the world.

In terms of the classification by area, the UAB is among the top hundred best universities in the world in nine of the disciplines on the QS World University Ranking by Subject and among the hundred best in the world in the areas of health and medicine and education in the Times Higher Education Subject Ranking. The UAB also occupies once again nine position worldwide in the area of veterinary science and is among the hundred best in the world in the areas of agricultural science, geography, economics and biotechnology according to the Shanghai Academic Ranking of World Universities.



A pioneering study analyses the effects of woodland on human health

A group of volunteers has taken part in an experimental study by the ICTA-UAB to analyse the potential effect of woodland on human health. The research brought scientific evidence of the effects of a woodland walks for emotional and physical health. Specifically the study analysed the therapeutic potential of woodland for human wellbeing analysing the interaction of chemical components generated by a large part of the vegetation with people's health.

The research forms part of the project "Healthy woodland for a healthy society" carried out by the ICTA-UAB and the Centre for Ecological Research and Forestry Applications (CREAF) and sponsored by the "la Caixa" Bank Foundation with the collaboration of the AIDS Research Institute, IrsiCaixa, Sant Celoni Hospital and Duet Group.

145th

in the world in the Times Higher Education ranking

International projection

The ECIU University project, in which the UAB participates, was one of the 17 projects selected in the European competition to build university alliances offering innovations in teaching, mobility and a European campus.

56

new agreements with international institutions

The activity of the UAB in the international setting has facilitated the signing of nine new collaboration and exchange agreements and participation in international university networks and consortia.

The **ECIU University** project presented by the universities of the European Consortium of Innovative Universities, was one of 17 projects selected in the European competition to build university alliances offering innovations in teaching and mobility and a European campus.

Also this year the Barcelona headquarters of the **King Sejong institute** for the promotion of the Korean language and culture was opened. This collaboration means a much greater offer in the area of eastern Asian studies.

In terms of mobility programmes, this year students graduating at the UAB had spent a period at a foreign university. Also, 5,000 foreign students chose to study at the UAB.

Institutional visits and trips

The UAN received more than forty institutional visits during the 2018-2019 academic year and also made several institutional trips.

Visits were received from different Chinese delegations including the delegation of the **Renmin University in China**, with which the UAB offers the double Master's degree in European Integration and Chinese Law. There were also visits by different universities carrying out joint research projects in the areas of veterinary medicine, economics,

science and technology, among others. Examples are the **International University of Kirgizstan**, the **University of Technology of Malaysia**, and different Latin American universities. In terms of English-speaking universities there were visits by a delegation of the **University of Essex** (UK), to discuss the YERUN network and also future collaborations in doctoral studies following Brexit, and the **Institute of Technology of Georgia** (USA).

International trips were made twice to Egypt to establish institutional relations for the development of quality courses at Egyptian universities, resulting in a broad agreement with the **Arab Academy**, and a trip to China to offer support to the **UAB Alumni Beijing Chapter** and sign new agreements with the **Beijing Normal University**.

The UAB also returned to three of the major international university fairs: the EAIE 2018, in September in Geneva; APAIE 2019, in March in Kuala Lumpur, and NAFSA 2019, in May in Washington.

International agreements

Apart from the agreements signed as part of the Erasmus+ programme, the Area of International Relations managed more than 100 agreements over the course of the year, meaning 56 new general and specific collaborations, student exchanges on the UAB Exchange Programme and double and joint degrees.

These 56 agreements include the double Bachelor's degree in Tourism with the **Salzburg University of Applied Sciences** and the joint Master's degree

between the Faculty of Medicine and the **University of Leiden**. A new specific collaboration agreement was also signed with the **Arab Academy of Science, Technology and Marine Transport** in Egypt, linked to the Arab League, to collaborate mainly in the accreditation, supervision and accompaniment of the launch of new degrees in Law, Computer Engineering and Communication.

New exchange agreements were signed between students of the Faculty of law and different Latin American universities from the **Sui iuris network**, promoted by the faculties of Law of the A4U alliance in 2012.

An exchange agreement was also signed between student of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and the **University of Pretoria** and three exchange agreements between nursing students and the **University of Indonesia** and the **Muhammadiyah de Yogyakarta University**, both in Indonesia, and with the **Cooperative University of Colombia**.

In recent year there has been a major increase in relations with the USA and Canada. This year two student exchange agreements were signed with the **University of Montreal** and the **University of York**. The **Faculty-Led Program** of the Faculty of Biosciences also continued. For two years it has welcomed to the faculty a group of students and lecturers from the **Institute of Technology of Georgia** in the USA.

Other countries with which our relations have strengthened are Singapore, Malaysia, Japan, China and the United Arab Emirates.



Participation in networks and consortia

The UAB has continued to participate very actively in the university networks and consortia of which it forms part. This year it published position paper in both the ECIU and the YERUN network about the European framework programmes which will be launched in 2021, with emphasis on the need to increase spending on higher education.

More specifically, this academic year activity at the **ECIU** has centred mainly on drawing up a project for the European Universities competition, which was selected. The vice rector for International Relations, Màrius Martínez, forms part of the board of the ECIU and is the treasurer.



Activities in **YERUN**, the European network for young universities, this year involved the launch of working groups in European politics, joint PhD programmes and the employability of university graduates.



In terms of the international activities of the **A4U alliance** 2018 close with an institutional visit to Malaysia and Vietnam as part of a mover to forge new relations with Asian institutions. In 2019 the A4U placed more emphasis on seeking new agreements with African universities.



Opening of the Barcelona headquarters of the King Sejong Institute

On 27 February 2019 the Barcelona Headquarters of the King Sejong Institute was officially opened at the UAB, coinciding with the visit by the ambassador of the Republic of Korea to Spain. The institute is financed by the Korean government for the study, promotion and dissemination of the Korean language and culture. Its location at the UAB has strengthened even more the link between the Faculty of Translation and Interpreting and eastern Asian studies.

Highlight



First meeting on scientific, cultural and multilingual collaboration in the context of the Mediterranean Pyrenean Euroregion

From 8 to 10 April meetings took place at the UAB as a result of the collaboration between the French General Consulate in Barcelona, the French Institute, the Interuniversity Council of Catalonia (CIC) and the General Directorate of the Mediterranean Pyrenean Euroregion. Attending were twenty representatives from the universities of Montpellier, Toulouse and Perpignan and twenty representatives from the universities of Catalonia and the University of the Balearic Islands, as well as representatives of the organising bodies. The meetings set the groundwork for organising meetings annually or every few years to promote scientific, academic and cultural collaborations among the universities in the Euroregion. During these days a meeting was also held for Batxibac students, organised each year by the Department of French and Romance Studies, and this year more than 150 students from the double pre-university course attended. A mini programme of French films was also organised thanks to the French Institute.



ECIU University

ECIU University

On 26 June the European Commission published the result of the European Commission competition to promote the creation of university alliances offering innovation in teaching, structured mobility and a European campus. The **ECIU University project**, which was presented by the European Consortium of Innovative Universities was one of 17 projects to be selected. With a duration of three years and finding of around five million Euros, ECIU University is an educational project based on meeting challenges rather than awarding degrees. It will launch a platform where students, researchers and industry can receive training and work together to find innovative solutions for the big challenges related to the sustainable development objectives of the United Nations for cities and communities. New course will be created involving individualised and flexible education known as “microcredentials” which will serve participants as a “passport of competences” adapted to their needs, instead of offering fixed degree courses which are common to everyone. Given that mobility and transnationality will form the nucleus of ECIU University, to facilitate the relations between its members three *Challenge Innovation Hubs* will be set up in Linköping (Sweden), a Hamburg (Germany) and Barcelona (coordinated by the UAB).



20%

of graduates in 2017-2018 spent a period abroad

Welcome and support for international students

The International Support Service offers a range of services to the international community at the UAB, before their arrival, upon arrival and during their stay. Altogether throughout this year it provided 7,276 face-to-face services to international visitors. Of these 2,780 were related to obtaining and renewing residency permits in Spain, 2,243 had to do with the different exchange programmes and Study Abroad and 615 offered support in obtaining a work permit or authorisation to work. There were also a large number of requests for help with applications for international postgraduate grants (MAEC-AECID, IFP/FORD, CONICYT, Erasmus Mundus, etc.), with 366 requests attended.

The UAB also offers a support programme for foreign students with a welcome session and help in integrating into the university community and the country. The **International Welcome Days**, which are held at the beginning of each semester are filled with activities to show students the campus and the services offered as well as the different associations that exist. The **Mentor** programmes, which offer peer accompaniment and support, the **Tandem** programme for language exchange and speaking practice, and the **Buddy Programme**, which supports students at the UAB Barcelona Summer School, all help in allowing these students to integrate.

Mobility programmes

During the 2018-2019 academic year, participation by the UAB in the **Erasmus+** programme allowed 743 students from the UAB go to universities in Europe and the UAB welcomed a total of 898 European students. As part of the same programme 77 members of the teaching staff and 15 members of the administration and services staff were able to spend periods in European universities and 146 students did work placements in European companies.

The Spanish **SICUE** programme facilitated mobility for 166 students of which 155 were welcomed by the UAB and 61 were UAB students spending periods at Spanish universities.

The **Exchange Programme** for student mobility to countries outside Europe saw 249 students from the UAB travel abroad and 382 visiting students. Also 136 students from the UAB did work placements in companies and institutions around the world thanks to the work placement element of the programme.

There were 2,893 inscription on the **Specific Programmes for International Students - Study Abroad** of which almost 2,000 were for the Pre-Established mode which offers teaching in Barcelona. The areas of knowledge most in demand in this mode were language, economics and business, and communication. Meanwhile 76 students opted for the Selected Courses mode, mainly for subjects on the Bachelor's degree in Tourism and Hotel management. There were 32 Tailor Made courses this year with 921 students from Uruguay, Mexico, Argentina, Chile and Colombia, the USA and eastern Asia.



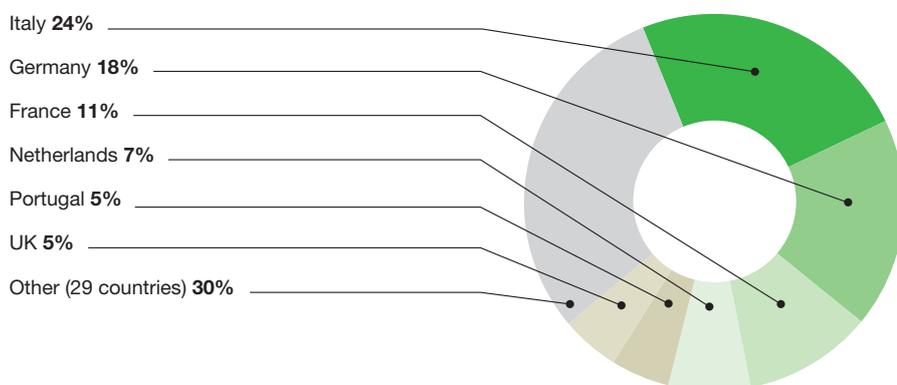
UAB Barcelona Summer School

During the months of June and July the fourth UAB Barcelona Summer School took place, with 18 subjects and more than 240 registered students. For the second consecutive year students from the UAB took part alongside international students, this year from 29 different countries. In particular the presence of North American (from the USA and Canada), Egyptian, Mexican, British, French, Chinese, Korean and Singaporean students was notable. The programme is now well-established and attracts an increasing number of collaborating universities such as the University of California, the National University of Seoul and the University of Linköping in Sweden. Finally, the programme also welcomed a total of 10 students from the Welcome Programme managed by the FAS.

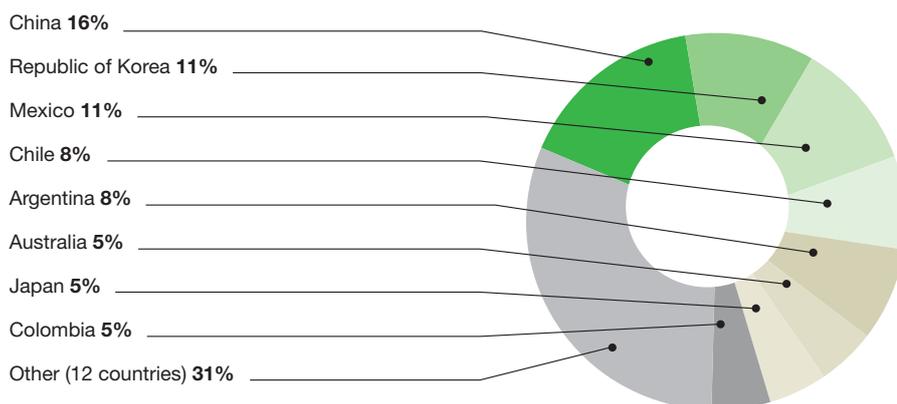
Participants in mobility programmes, 2018-2019

	In	Out
Erasmus Studies	898	743
Erasmus Work Placements		146
UAB Exchange Programme	382	249
UAB Exchange Programme Work Placements		136
SICUE	105	61
Study Abroad	2,893	
Total	4.278	1.335

Country of origin of international Erasmus students at the UAB. 2018-2019



Country of origin of international students on the UAB Exchange Programme. 2018-2019



Highlight



12th year of the Erasmus Staff Week

From 17 to 21 June, the UAB organised the 12th Erasmus Staff Week. During the week the UAB welcomed staff from universities in different European countries as well as the countries associated with the Erasmus+ programme (Canada, Thailand, Ghana and Bhutan). The aim of the week this year was to put international relations offices in contact to improve the management of the different Erasmus+ programmes and to find out about other procedures and ways of working. For the first time this year the Language Service of the UAB offered an intensive Spanish course.

First meeting of the UAB Alumni Beijing Chapter

On 28 June 2019 the first meeting of the second international UAB Alumni chapter took place in Beijing. The meeting enabled the presentation of the Alumni Foundation, its internationalisation strategy and the desire of the UAB to establish networking opportunities with the Chinese alumni who have graduated from Bachelor's and Master's degrees, PhDs and tailor-made courses at the UAB. The Beijing chapter is the second international chapter after Brussels which was set up in 2016.

Social and environmental commitment



On 25 February the ceremony for the presentation of the Ithaca-Banco Santander salary grants that were awarded over the last four academic years.

Solidarity and commitment on the 50th anniversary of the UAB

The vocation of the UAB to serve the community and the region and its commitment to socially and environmentally responsible management have been evident this year in the declaration of a state of climate emergency and in the activities aimed at raising awareness in society about the situation of people who have had to flee their countries under the banner “**UAB refuge: the Autònoma welcomes you**”.

The UAB has continued to roll out programmes and action designed to maintain equality of opportunity for access to higher education and socioeducational programmes with the collaboration of schools within the framework of the policies for equality that had been established previously.

The work done over these fifty years to reduce social inequality and in equal opportunity for access to the university have been recognised in the results obtained in the first ranking to measure the social impact of universities in accordance with the sustainable development objectives of the United Nations – the **THE University Impact Rankings**, in which the UAB was placed 7th in the world for its policies to reduce inequality, 11th for its policies for gender equality and 20th for responsible consumption and production.

Equity and student support

Through the Board of Trustees and other bodies, the UAB has a series of grants available to offer economic support to students with low incomes.

One of the measures that the UAB has taken to promote equity and equality of opportunities in the access and continuation of university studies is the **Finestreta programme** to provide a bridge in situations of emergency. In the 2018-2019 academic year there were two call for applications for a total grant fund of 270,000 Euros.

Last year another series of grants was introduced for curricular work placements which aims to compensate situations in which students are unable to attend obligatory activities on the campus for economic reasons. It was very well received with a total of 77 grants awarded.

Also this year, 29 **Ithaca-Banco Santander salary grants** were awarded to high performing sixth form students with difficult socio-economic backgrounds. Also, the Fundació Autònoma Solidària, with the support of the Board of Trustees of the UAB, awarded eight Impuls grants to students with a disability so that they can attend university and complete their higher education.

The UAB also has a line of funding for students who collaborate in different tasks at the university while they are completing their studies. In 2018-2019 seventy grants were awarded.

Universitat-Society programme of the Board of Trustees

The University-Society programme is an initiative of the Board of Trustees of the UAB and is intended as a body to enable society to participate in the activities of the university through strategic actions which contribute to strengthening the links between the two.

The actions included in the programme are especially aimed at students, both before coming to university (socioeducational support programmes such as Argó and projects for young people at risk of social exclusion such as UniX and Let's Go), during their time at the UAB (Impuls grants and the support programme for people with special needs) and after they have finished their studies (UAB Alumni network and the UABImpuls job-seeker programme).

The Board of Trustees also collaborates in different actions in strategic areas of the university such as innovation, entrepreneurship, knowledge transfer and connection with the region.





Socioeducational programmes

With the aim of strengthening and bringing closer relations between society and the university, the UAB has several socioeducational programmes to offer which take place both on the campus and in local schools. Programmes such as the **Ithaca Campus** and the **Argó Programme** promote good relations between the university and secondary school students as an incentive for them to continue their education beyond the compulsory stage. The Argó programme, which is now in its fifteenth year, offers support to sixth form students and higher-level vocational training students to reach university by giving advice on schoolwork, training sessions, company placements and the Argó Prize for final school projects and vocational training final projects. This objective is reinforced by other activities to attract future students to the UAB, such as the **Physics and Maths Saturdays**, the **Interactive Chemistry Days** and participation in the **BiblioLab project** organised by the Diputació de Barcelona and the **Youth Mobile Festival "10 a la menos 9"** festival.

The UAB stresses its commitment to these more disadvantaged aspects of society and the area, and so it offers a series of socioeducational programmes aimed at supporting students in primary and secondary education who, for sociocultural or personal reasons, find it difficult to meet academic objectives. They are the **CROMA 2.0 Programme**, the Let's Go programme, the UniX programme and the Shere Rom project, which also aim to motivate children and young people to continue their education beyond the compulsory stage.

UAB success in the social and environmental impact rankings

In the first THE University Impact Rankings the UAB was placed 34th in the world. The rankings evaluate the activity of more than 500 universities with respect to the sustainable development objectives of the United Nations. The UAB was particularly successful in the "Reduction of inequality" objective where it was placed 7th in the world and 1st in Spain.

Altogether this year more than 2,500 people were able to benefit from the socioeducational programmes offered by the UAB.

The **University with Reach** programme promotes continuing education in a context of active ageing and offers opportunities for courses and social involvement through the Learning on Campus programme and the 17 classroom tutored by the UAB. This year the UAB held a day workshop on the promotion of the use of digital technology in the classroom.



The UAB takes part in the "10 a la menos 9" Festival

On 11 the Bellaterra campus was once again one of the venues for the "10 a la menos 9" Nanoscience and nanotechnology Festival aimed at secondary school students from the final year of compulsory education (15/16 years old). The campus activities were divided between the Faculty of Science of the UAB, the Catalan Institute of Nanoscience and Nanotechnology (ICN2), The Barcelona Institute of Materials Science (ICMAB-CSIC) and the Barcelona Institute of Microelectronics (IMB-CNM).

Highlight



15th year of the Ithaca Campus

This year 398 students from 80 secondary schools in 33 municipalities took part in the Ithaca Campus. The campus was divided into two separate periods: 25 June to 3 July and 4 to 12 July 2019. Thanks to their period spent at the UAB the students were able to see first-hand what the university campus is like and be motivated by it to continue with their studies.



Award of the Argó Prize

On 26 June 40 Argó prizes for final school projects were awarded in the 16th year of the competition. 373 projects were presented divided into six areas of knowledge. The following day at the UAB the Argó prizes were awarded to winners from the 40 vocational training final projects presented.



On 11 December at the UAB Theatre there was an event to celebrate the International Day of People with Disabilities. During the day the Impuls grants were awarded and Josep Maria Sanahuja, director of the Centre for Studies and Research for an Inclusive Society (CERSIN) and lecturer in the Department of Applied Pedagogy, gave a talk on the challenges for moving towards an inclusive university.

Social programmes and volunteering

The achievement of a university community that is more committed to and supportive of society has been evident through the participation of 450 people, including students, administration and services staff and teaching and research staff in social and volunteering programmes managed by the **Fundació Autònoma Solidària (FAS)**.

Volunteering programmes in the social area, such as the Justice Programme (in prison and youth detention centres), the socioeducational programmes and Social-Health Programme, have attended a total of 2,861 people at risk of social exclusion or who experiencing a difficult time in terms of health or personal life. Also, groups of students have promoted awareness-raising campaigns about the environment, food waste and healthy habits. This year volunteer activities were also set up in the geriatrics section of the Hospital de Sant Pau.

Cooperation for development

The UAB **Welcome Programme** which is aimed at people requesting international protection has this year established questions of asylum and refugees as a central part of the academic year under the banner “UAB refuge: the Autònoma welcomes you”.

The **Solidarity Fund** made two calls for applications this year. The first was aimed as administration and services staff and teaching and research staff and will finance seven university cooperation for development projects in different areas of knowledge, while the second call aimed at students will support four projects by Bachelor’s and master’s degree and PhD students. These projects will be carried out in Bolivia, Lebanon, Morocco, Mexico, Mozambique, Peru, Senegal, Chile, Venezuela and Catalonia.

Disability support

The support service for students with a disability or special educational needs, **PIUNE**, has provided support for 230 students this year. This service offer information to future students of the UAB and promotes measures to support students with a disability or special educational needs throughout their studies. The programme also manages an adapted transport service on the Bellaterra campus and accompaniment on foot for students with poor orientation.

This year the UAB has approved the criteria for drawing up a document regulating the operating rules for a sign language interpreting service for students with impaired hearing in order to guarantee that establishment of the rights and responsibilities regarding this service.



#UAB refuge: the Autònoma welcomes you

“UAB refuge: the Autònoma welcomes you” was the theme for the UAB Annual Party in 2018 and the centre of a large number of academic and cultural activities organised around the problems and needs of refugees” The Week of Migrations and Human Rights and the exhibition “We are Lesbos” are a couple of these activities which enjoyed the participation of the entire university community.

The UAB participates in the programme of the Government of Catalonia for taking in refugees and this year an agreement was signed with Castellar del Vallès Council to take in refugees. Since 2016 a total of 110 people have benefitted from the programme, of which 10 are refugee students who have joined undergraduate and postgraduate courses at the UAB. Work is currently being carried out to establish a fund to be able to provide refugees with study grants.



La gestió ambiental

This year actions and initiatives included in the **Plan for a Healthy and Sustainable Campus** were started. The plan is for the period 2018-2022 and was approved last year. It includes initiatives focussing on people's health and the sustainability of the campus and has been drawn up in the context of the **Objectives for Sustainable Development of the United Nations** in line with the institutional declaration of the Catalan Public Universities (ACUP) signed by the UAB which places the 2030 Agenda at the centre of university activities.

The Governing Council has approved the **Plan for Mobility 2018-2024**, taking into account the result of the first plan (2008-2014), with the aim of increasing access to the university campus using criteria of sustainability, efficiency and safety. The plan wants to see greater use of public transport and promote the use of bicycles and walking on the campus through the construction of new paths and pavements and new bike lanes. It also wants to rationalise the use of private vehicles through planned circulation and parking and support for electrical vehicles through charging stations.

Also this year the **Sustainable and Safe Mobility Week** was organised from 21 to 26 October including **Bicycle Day**, and from 1 to 5 April **Healthy and Sustainable Week**, which offered more than forty activities to the university community. The **"Move around the UAB"** initiative and support for bicycle users were very broadly taken up and continued to be this year too.

The UAB has signed the declaration of the state of climate emergency. It has joined forces with the different sectors of society to place in the front line of the media and politics the gravity of the climate crisis that is affecting the world. This declaration will inspire the theme for the next UAB Annual party.

To promote energy saving measures have been put in place for raising awareness among the community for improving energy use, such as the new "I prefer sustainable" and participation in the DIFON project (see chapter 9 "Resource management").



The circular economy under discussion

This year the UAB has encouraged student discussion and participation in the global challenges of the circular economy with the aim of reducing waste and promoting reuse and recycling.

The topic has been broached in a series of seminars organised by the University-Company Programme of the UAB and the Association of Environmentalists of Catalonia, and also through the participation of the CORE in Smart and Sustainable Cities and the UAB Open Labs in the Circular University Challenge project aimed at students from any discipline who want to present individual or group solutions to promote the circular economy.

Highlight



The first public charging station for electric vehicles is installed

The first public charging station for electric vehicles has been installed in the Eix Central below the Plaça Cívica. The station allows charging of a vehicle from 2 to 4 hours according to the model and two vehicles can be charged at the same time.



Sustainable mobility video competition

This year saw the first competition for videos about sustainable mobility at the UAB. The competition, which forms part of the U-MOB LIFE project, is sponsored by VadeCity, and is held jointly with 23 other universities in Spain. The aim is to raise awareness of the effects that different types of mobility at the university have on the environment, economy, society and safety.

The UAB is 37th in the world for sustainability according to GreenMetric

The UAB has gone up 13 position compared with last year in the GreenMetric ranking of the University of Indonesia, which assesses efforts to become more sustainable and policies for responsible management of the environment.

University Community



Q Party Certificate! For the UAB Annual Party

The UAB Annual Party has received the Q Party Certificate from the Public Health Agency of Catalonia. The UAB is the first university to receive this quality award which recognises action of sustainability, quality and safety.

Student participation

The UAB has a very active community and a network of associations for different social and cultural activities on the campus. The UAB support them by making available a set of resources and equipment. This year, on the suggestion of the Governing Team of the UAB and with the agreement of the faculties the Governing Council has fixed eight days in the academic year when from 1pm to 3pm students are encouraged to take part in non-academic activities.

There were elections this year for different student representation organisations.

Four delegates were elected from each of the faculties to represent them in the UAB Student Council Meeting (CEUAB). At that meeting there was a vote to elect the members of the CEUAB Executive Committee with a mandate of one year. Delegates were also elected for the academic group which acts as an interlocuter between the students and the faculty.

The associations at the UAB held the assembly of the Directory of Groups at the UAB, with 82 groups listed and more than 2,400 people involved, and the election of five members to form part of the Directory Coordination. Funding for students associations in 2019 saw 64 applications and 61 grants were awarded to the sum of 12,500 Euros.

Observatory for Equality

The great milestone this year was the approval of the **4th Plan of Action for Gender Equality for 2019-2023**. The Governing Council also approved the **Protocol for prevention and action against sexual harassment for reasons of sex, sexual orientation, identity or expression of gender, and gender-based violence**. The protocol includes measures for prevention, support and accompaniment, and also to identify behaviour displaying harassment or gender-based violence to be able to guarantee full protection throughout the UAB community.

This year different activities and campaigns were organised to give information and visibility to problems as part of the celebration of International Women's and Girls in Science Day on 12 February, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women on 20 November and the International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia on 14 May. For the first time this year the Observatory organised an Institutional Event for the International Day for Persons with Disabilities on 3 December.

On 7 March the fourteenth institutional event for International Working Women's Day was held, and there was a homage to Maria Jesús Espuny, emeritus lecturer in the Department of Law and Historical-Legal Studies.

It should also be highlighted that Maria Prats was named the new director of the observatory and has taken over from Joana Gallego. Maria Prats is lecturer in Regional Geographical Analysis at the Department of Geography of the UAB.

4th Plan of Action for Gender Equality

This academic year the Governing Council approved the 4th Plan of Action for Gender Equality for 2019-2023, which was drawn up by the Observatory for Equality. The purpose of the plan is to articulate policies for gender and LGBTI equality in the university.

The plan aims to respond to three challenges: introduce the LGBTI perspective and make sexism and gender-based violence visible, facilitate the implementation and evaluation of actions, and involve the entire university community while offering the commitment of the institution in the whole process and especially in accountability.

The measures proposed in the plan are set out in five lines: promotion of a culture and policies of equality; equality in conditions of access to, promotion and organisation of work and study; promotion of the gender perspective teaching and research; equality of participation and representation in the university community; and the promotion of organisation free of sexism and gender-based violence.



Human resources

This year the UAB has prioritised actions for the stabilisation and promotion of academic positions and administration and services positions, in collaboration with social agents.

For **teaching and research staff** two strategic agreements that had been approved the previous year were implemented: the Academic dedication model for UAB teaching staff and the Theoretical staffing model for academic staff in departments and hospital teaching units. The former provides an adequate reflection of teaching staff teaching dedication in relation to their academic activity as a whole. The latter allows departmental staffing to be designed according to teaching needs and the research and transfer activity of the member of staff.

Public offers of positions in 2018 resulted in a total of 70 permanent teaching positions (12 professors and 58 associate lecturers) to which 21 places of assistant lecturer were added throughout the year through the Serra Hünter programme.

It is also important to mention that the Governing Council agreed that associate lecturers joining UAB departments from 2019 should undergo a mid-term assessment after the third year of their contract. To that end the departments will have to design the assessment criteria to be used for the associate lecturers and will have to take into account the AQU quality standards to achieve AQU research accreditation. As long as the budget permits and there is authority from the General Directorate of Universities, the UAB must guarantee that candidates with a positive

On 27 November the prizegiving ceremony for the third year of the best Bachelor's degree final project (TFG) with a gender perspective took place. This year 93 projects were presented (almost double that of last year) from different UAB faculties and 27 received prizes.

outcome of their assessment and have the corresponding accreditation can opt for a permanent lecturer position, whether government or university funded.

For **administration and services staff** this year the first **proposal for a professional career model for this category** was presented, aimed at recognising and increasing the involvement of the professionals who form part of this group at the UAB. This proposal anticipates a progression similar to the six-year periods for teaching and research staff, which are cumulative and result in a salary rise providing there is sufficient budget to cover it.



The UAB congratulated for its commitment to the employment of deaf people

On 17 November as part of the 23rd Training Seminar for Deaf People, the ACAPPS Federation congratulated the UAB for its pledge and commitment to employing people with a disability and in particular deaf people. Since 2010 the UAB has employed 32 deaf people in the faculty libraries of the UAB.

Highlight



30th anniversary of the UAB Friends association

On 20 June in the Auditorium of the Rectorat building the institutional celebration of the 30th anniversary of the UAB Friends association was held. Founded in 1989 by Rector at the time Ramon Pascual, UAB Friends was the first organisation of friends to be set up in a Catalan university. During these thirty years the association has organised over 220 activities involving more than 400 experts. The star activity was the 'The University Has An Opinion' series of talks.



To mark the event an olive tree was planted in the gardens of the Torre Vila Puig, where the association is based.



Recognition of retired staff

On 6 September there was an event in recognition of members of teaching and research and administration and services staff who retired during the 2017-2018 academic year. They were thanked for their work during their time at the UAB.



Six students from the UAB have been recognised as the best sportspeople in their category at the 33rd University Championships of Catalonia which were held on 9 October at the UPC. In the individual categories they won a total of 40 medals: 17 for athletics, 1 for cross country, 2 for karate, 8 for swimming, 4 for judo and 8 for taekwondo. For team sports the university rugby team the 'Centaures' were the victors in the men's 7 a side and the women's and men's handball teams were runners up.

Friends of the UAB

In terms of public offers of position in 2018, a total of 219 places were approved for administration and services staff. Thanks to this staff who have occupied structural place continually, at least in the last three years, have been stabilised. Finally, on 20 June the **trade union elections** took place for the Government-employed Teaching and Research Staff Committee, the Non-government-employed Teaching and Research Staff Committee and the Administrative and Services Staff Committee. The e-voting system, which has also been used in the past, meant that vote counting was much easier and also made it easier to vote.

Ombud's Office

The Ombud's Office of the UAB is the body responsible for ensuring respect for the rights and responsibilities of members of the university community before the different university bodies and services.

In 2018 a total of 107 files were opened, 78 from students representing 73% of the total. The content of the complaints was related to these operational areas: academic (69%), economic (18%), work (9%), campus services (2%) and external (2%). The specific topics for which most complaints were received were assessments (15) payment of grants to students and interest on registration fees (14) and the employment processes for staff (7).

The Friends of the UAB association, which celebrated its 30th anniversary this year, brings together members and former members of the university community and friends of the UAB. During the year it organised 32 activities included in series of talks and debates The University Has An Opinion and Claris Suppers, and also cultural visits.



During the **UAB Friends Party**, which took place on 22 November, an honorary award was made to the university on the occasion of its 50th anniversary, received by the rector Margarita Arboix representing the institution. The Friends of Friends Award went to Carme Trilla, housing specialist; Xavier Muñoz, former member of the Board of Trustees and chair of UAB Friends; and Juanjo Villanueva, emeritus lecturer of the Department of Computational Science and former director of the Computer Vision Centre. The UAB Group Prize went to the Employability Service and was collected by vice rector for Students and Employability Sara Moreno. Finally, the Friends of the Libraries Prize was awarded to Francisco Rico, Eduardo Rojo and, posthumously, to Jesús Moncada.

UAB Alumni

The UAB Alumni Foundation works to promote the network of UAB graduates to form a dynamic and interconnected community of professionals with an international presence based on the promotion of continuing education, professional practice and the creation of other common spaces.

UAB Alumni participate in day-to-day campus activities such as the Annual Party and the Healthy and Sustainable Week. This year saw the creation of the Speak Corner during the MEMEnginy fair which gave the opportunity for different people from the UAB to present their start-ups. The UAB Alumni also participate in the graduation ceremonies to offer a welcome to the new graduates.

In 2018-2019, the foundation continued to promote networking activities and the joint generation of knowledge with sector networks of alumni from the faculties, such as the 3rd Meeting of the Alumni Community of the Faculty of Economics and Business (CAFEE)m centred on digital change within companies, 25 years of the Labour Relations degree and a meeting of the first contingent of biochemistry students at the UAB.

A menu of services aimed at professional guidance with personalised assessment for improved employment, international mobility and entrepreneurship, and discounts on Master's degrees and PhDs at the UAB is also available to members.

As part of the Board of Trustees Night, the **UAB Alumni Prize** was awarded to film director Carla Simón.

Highlight



“UAB refuge: the Autònoma welcomes you” was the banner for the UAB Annual Party in 2018

On 7 November the UAB Annual Party took place under the banner “UAB refuge: the Autònoma welcomes you” included several awareness raising activities about the global refugee crisis. Two refugee students from Lebanon who were taken in by the UAB through the Welcome programme of the Government of Catalonia gave the opening speech.



Ceremony for the Literary Awards of the UAB and Cerdanyola de Vallès Council

On 9 May the award ceremony took place for the literary competition organised each year by Cerdanyola Council and UAB. This year Xavier Mas Craviotto won the 10th Caterina Albert Prize for Short Stories for Young People with the book *Lluny* (Far); Jordi Ferrer Gràcia took the 24th Miquel Martí i Pol Poetry Prize for the collection *Carn estranya* (Strange meat), and Roser Blàzquez Hernández was awarded the 25th Valldaura – Pere Calders Memorial Novel Prize for the work *La volada del pinsà* (The flight of the chaffinch).



UAB students Gorka Samaniego, Neus Galobardes and Anna Vilà are the members of the winning team in the University Debate League organised by the Vives University Network. The competition aimed to promote communication skills and critical thinking in students and this year around 1,400 students from 16 universities in Catalonia, the Balearic Islands and the Valencia Region took part.

Cultural activity

This year around 170 cultural activities were organised involving the participation of more than 12,000 people. There were five exhibitions in the fixed programme attracting more than 2,500 visitors, 66 showings in the UAB Cinema, with around 5,000 viewers, and 25 activities in the UAB Theatre with total audiences of more than 1,600.

Seven new shows and concerts put on by members of the UAB were staged and there were more than 15 shows in and outside the UAB by permanent cultural associations and art studios (Choir, Chamber choir, Orchestra, dance group and theatre group), involving the participation of more than 231 members and there were also 15 training activities with recognised ECTS credits. For the 50th anniversary concert at the Palau de la Música Catalana, the UAB Choir and Orchestra, in collaboration with the Catalan Orpheus and the Vallès Symphonic Orchestra played the cantata *El secret de les coses* by Marc Timón, among other pieces.



Support was also given to activities organised by the different services, groups and members of the university. One of them was the programme of musical events at the FMUAB which resulted in the Autònoma Actua Award.

More than thirty proposals were received allowing nine new music groups to play on the UAB Annual Party stages and three of the permanent music groups. Two outstanding performances by Lia Sampai and Adrià Pagès were seen at the Literary Awards of Cerdanyola and the UAB. Support was also given to the organisation of activities by departments, teaching centres and research groups as well as external organisations, such as the Capellades International Music Competition.



The most outstanding professional performing arts at the UAB Theatre were the concert by Joan Miquel Oliver, to present his new work *Elektra*, and *Mexicatas*, by Sergi Belbel and directed by Antonio Calvo. The exhibition “Neuromarketing. I can’t get it out of my head!”, curated by Pere Navalles, the exhibition “Between the lines. Travel, desire and fantasy illustrated”, curated by Jaume Vidal and co-produced by the official Master’s degree in Analysis and Management of Artistic Heritage, and finally the pre-screening of *Beautiful Boy* by Felix van Groeningen were some of the exhibition and film activities at the UAB Gallery and the UAB Cinema.

Resource management

319,7

million Euro budget (after expenditure settlement)

Implementation of budget

The 2018 Budget for the UAB was conditioned by the 2017 budget of the Government of Catalonia in the context of article 155. This was another year without an initial budget for the necessary financing of the salary rises in 2017 and 2018 nor for the partial payments of the extra salary payment in 2012 (20.77%). Neither was there financing for the costs involved in complying with the legal sentences related to the recovery of employees rights nor the natural increase.

Throughout 2018 we were unable to make progress on a base agreement between the Catalan public universities and the Secretariat for Universities and Research to establish a system of distribution for public universities for the period 2017-2020. Registration fees for the 2018-2019 academic year remain frozen for the fourth year running.

The lack of anticipated income and especially that from the Government of Catalonia has meant that the university closed the financial year with a deficit of 3.2 million Euros. The last year the university closed in deficit was 2011. Article 81.5 of the Organic Law on Universities and the Budget law for the Government of Catalonia for 2017 establish the conditions for the approval of a stabilisation plan for budgets (PEP) which corrects the imbalance. The PEP has to be approved by the Board of Trustees of the UAB and by the competent department of the Government of Catalonia within a period of two months.

The treasury needs of the UAB in 2018 were similar to those the previous year, but at the end of the year the debt pending from the Government of Catalonia with respect to expenditure implemented and paid in 2018 has meant

that the UAB has had to rely on a credit note for 3.8 million Euros, far higher than the 0.58 million the previous year.

Income statement for 2018. Rights recognised

Current transfers **56.19%**

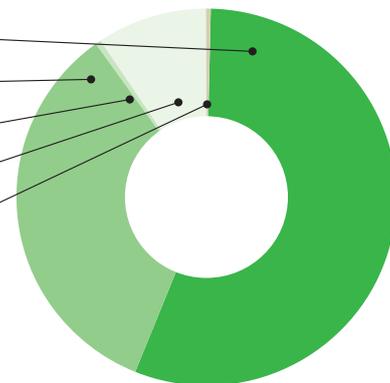
Fees and other income **33.65%**

Variation in financial liabilities **0.47%**

Capital transfers **9.27%**

Equity income **0.42%**

Total: 316,397,033 euros.



Expenditure statement for 2018. Obligations assumed

Personnel costs **67.76%**

Purchase of current goods and services **15.29%**

Financial expenditure **0.25%**

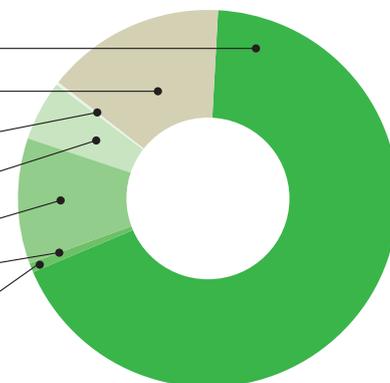
Current transfers **5.15%**

Investments **10.74%**

Capital transfers **0.01%**

Variation in financial liabilities **0.80%**

Total: 319,741,117 euros.



Please note: the difference between recognised rights (€316.397m), part of which corresponds to final and/or multi-year income, and recognised liabilities (€319.741m) 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.



Energy efficiency actions

The UAB seeks responsible consumption of energy resources by encourages responsible practices in energy use and the improvement of energy efficiency in its installations. Since January 2018, the UAB has consumed 100% renewable electricity thanks to the joint tender purchase by the Consortium of University Services of Catalonia (CSUC). Also, during the 2018-2019 academic year the university put into place measures for energy saving and efficiency, among which were the installation of LED fluorescent lighting in spaces of intensive use in the UAB and in exterior spaces on the campus, the installation of solar protection film in spaces where the sunlight is greatest, the optimisation of heating installations through the installation of temperature control valves and improvements in the interior insulation of radiator pipes. Also all climatized spaces (heating or cooling) have had the temperatures adjusted in accordance with the needs of the space.

As part of the policy for installing new and more efficient climatization equipment, this year the UAB has refurbished two boiler rooms in the faculties of Science and Bioscience.

Finally in order to improve the dissemination of information about energy consumption, as part of the DIFON project information screens have been installed enabling electricity consumption to be seen in real time in the Communication Library and General New Archive and the faculties of Sciences, Biosciences and Communication.



New energy saving campaign

“I prefer sustainable” is the tagline for the information and awareness-raising programme that UAB has launched in 2018-2019 to make the university community more aware of the need to save energy and to promote responsible use of resources.

The campaign design was chosen from entries in a competition for students of the subject Creativity in Public Relations on the Advertising and Public Relations Bachelor's degree at the UAB. The winning campaign used a suggestive tone and modern design to reach a young audience.

This new campaign which has been promoted by the energy improvement groups of the UAB, the Office for Architecture and Logistics and the Office for the Environment of the university forms part of the objectives set out the Action Plan for Sustainability of the UAB.



On 30 January students from the Bachelor's degree in Advertising and Public Relations presented the winning energy saving campaign.



Campus UAB

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

University Hospitals

(Faculty of Medicine teaching units)

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

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