



# **UAB Plan for Languages 2021-2025**

## **1. Objective of the Plan for Languages**

To provide a strategic framework for the language policy of the UAB during the period 2021-2025 in the following areas: teaching, incoming and outgoing mobility, research and transfer, and institutional and management matters.

## **2. Area of application**

The area of application is the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona. The university also recommends that as a subsidiary action some of the criteria of the plan are applied in entities in which the UAB is a majority stakeholder and that the plan should provide guidance to those entities recognised by the UAB.

## **3. Duration**

The period of the plan is five years from July 2021 to December 2025.

## **4. Type of plan**

The Plan for Languages is understood as a general framework or route map in which each area has to establish mechanisms for creating specific plans in accordance with the specific ambits involved.

## 5. Structure and content

The plan is divided into the following sections:

### 5.1. General framework

The UAB Plan for Languages is set out according to the general framework described below.



Catalan is the preferred institutional language, and the official language (together with Spanish) in Catalonia and at all educational levels in Catalonia, and consequently it is the preferred language of the UAB. Being the preferred language makes Catalan a key element for achieving the objectives of excellence and the capture of talent and loyalty-building at the university, since language skills are fundamental for personal and professional development. As a Catalan university, the UAB is also responsible for ensuring the use of the Catalan language and the production and dissemination and improvement in scientific production in Catalan. The university is also sensitive to the need to protect the Occitan language given that Aranese is one of the official languages of Catalonia.

Spanish is the other official language of the UAB and also a centre of reference in Spanish philology. Together with English, it is essential for capturing talent and building loyalty and for achieving the university's objectives of international projection and excellence.

English has become the lingua franca of the international academic community and is increasingly used as an effective working language in the university's activities and in the professional field. It is therefore a key asset for the academic activity of our students.

While the role of English as the lingua franca of the international academic community is clear in the international projection strategy of the university, French also plays an important role geo-strategically and also for reasons of proximity and tradition.

In addition, French, German and Italian are languages of reference in certain fields of knowledge and professional environments, while other professions demand multilingual competence.



Currently, Eastern Asian languages, (mainly Chinese, Japanese and Korean), are also important given the key role of China, along with other Eastern Asian countries in the world geostrategic panorama. Also important is Arabic as the language that extends from the southern coast of the Mediterranean to a good part of Eastern Asia.

Finally, another major asset of the university is its linguistic capital: the concept of universities has always been linked to multilingualism as factor for enrichment and contact among the people who generate and consume knowledge. Together, languages and cultures enrich the university community and the courses, centres, institutes, research groups and services related to languages are the source of research, transfer, knowledge and innovation.

## 5.2. Vision, mission and values

### **Vision**

The UAB is a Model of linguistic quality and efficient communication in teaching, research and knowledge transfer, and in institutional communications.

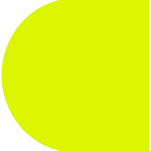

It is a local and international reference in the construction and application of a model of governance of multilingualism at the university and a commitment to linguistic sustainability.

It is a reference for language teaching and learning in innovative methodological environments and in its flexible offer of training adapted to the needs of the university community.

### **Mission**

The UAB is committed to the use of Catalan as its preferred and official language, and to Spanish as a joint official language, and it aims to promote the use of English and a lingua franca in academic and scientific communication. It also aims to be proactive in the learning and use of other languages in a multilingual environment which it considers a heritage to be preserved.

The UAB wants to improve the linguistic and communicative quality of all actions carried out at the university in the fields of teaching, research and transfer, and the improvement of linguistic competence among the university community.



The Plan for Languages is the document that sets out the objectives and necessary actions on matters of language policy for the UAB to be able to pursue its mission.

## Values

The Plan for Languages holds the following values:

- ▲ The promotion of Catalan as a preferred and official language in teaching, research and knowledge transfer.
- ▼ The recognition of Spanish as an import language for the international projection of the UAB.
- ▲ The promotion of English as the lingua franca of the international academic community, in teaching, research, administrative documentation and institutional communications.
- ▼ The recognition of the university's multilingualism and of the plurilingualism and intercultural competence of the university community as traits that identify it as an institution and as strategic assets for the international projection of the UAB.
- ▲ The effectiveness of linguistic rights and responsibilities which derive from the status of languages: Catalan as the preferred language, Catalan and Spanish as official languages, English as the lingua franca of the international academic community and also other languages in their specific contexts.

### 5.3. Strategic objectives

The strategic objectives of the UAB Plan for Languages are in line with the strategic objectives of set out by the university, and are principally the following:

- The offer of multidisciplinary, multilingual teaching capable of Meeting the needs of society, with the support of research and innovative, quality teaching models.



The strategic objectives of the Plan for languages are the following:

**1**

Monitor and increase linguistic and intercultural competence among all sectors of the university community.

**2**

Increase the availability of language provision and use at the UAB in relation to the university community and to potential international students and teaching staff.

**3**

Support the development of innovative multilingual teaching.

**4**

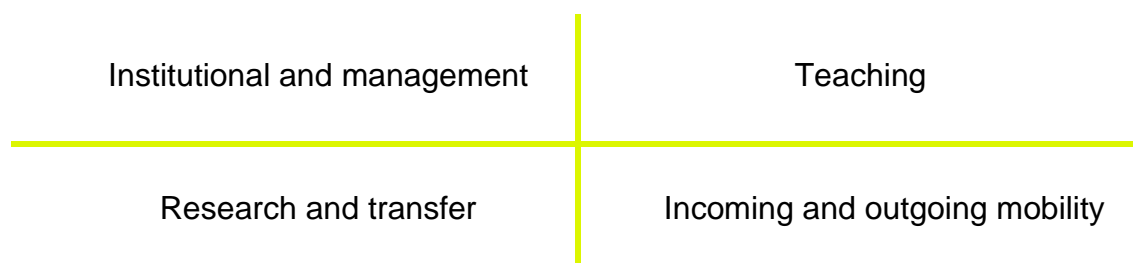
Increase the volume of research published in English, Catalan and Spanish, and other relevant languages in certain fields.

**5**

Optimise the impact of the university's actions through the guarantee of linguistic quality of the documents that it produces and circulates.

## 5.4. Lines of action

The Plan for Languages will work with the following four lines of action:



## 5.5. Actions

The nature of the actions is determined by the strategic objectives (see section 5.3). These actions have to be achievable within the period of the plan and may be of four different types:

- ▲ Language support (correction, translation, training),
- ▼ Diagnosis and accreditation,
- ▲ Regulation,
- ▼ Promote of the linguistic angle of academic and scientific activities.

An annual action plan is drawn up for each year of the plan, prioritising needs at any given time in accordance with budgetary availability.

## **6. Responsibility for monitoring**

The International Relations and Language Policy Committee, delegated by the Governing Council, will approve and monitor the Plan for Languages.

The Language Service of the UAB is responsible for offering technical and management support for the plan.

The language policy representative for each faculty or school, delegated by the dean or director, is the reference point for implementing the plan in the faculty or school and answering any questions with regard to languages in the centre.

## **7. Necessary resources**

Within the Plan for Languages there is an annual budget forecast for the actions to be carried out. These actions are prioritised so that in the case of insufficient budget, the most important can be carried out.

Disposar d'un marc estratègic per a la política lingüística de la UAB per al període 2021-2025 en els àmbits següents: docent, de mobilitat i acollida, de recerca i transferència, i institucional i de gestió.