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The International Relations Office would like to welcome you to the Faculty of Economics and Business of the University of Barcelona (UB). We are happy that you have chosen our institution to spend your academic exchange abroad!

In our Faculty you’ll have the opportunity to relate with local students and to understand better the Catalan traditions and culture, but also to meet students from all over the world. Barcelona has been always an open, dynamic and cosmopolitan city. You’ll be surprised by its rich and diverse cultural offer, its wide range of cultural activities, its architecture and its hospitable inhabitants.

Each year, our faculty receives about 400 international students and in the IRO we try hard to ease your stay in our centre; our goal is that you conclude successfully your stay abroad and enjoy as much as you can your international experience in Barcelona.

The majority of students find their arrival to a new country and to a different university a great experience, but sometimes complicated. We would like to do your transition as easy as possible, offering help and information about almost any question you may have before or during your stay.

Remember that in Catalonia we have our own language, which is Catalan. In the UB both Catalan and Spanish are official languages and everyone can communicate, write their tests or present their homework in both languages. The University offers Catalan and Spanish courses that may help you to better follow the classes from the beginning.

Please read carefully this International Students’ Guide that has been designed especially for you and pretends to guide you step by step while you set up your arrival to Barcelona and your stay at our faculty.

Remember that it is always better to always do things in advance! Do not leave any step for the last minute and ask to the personnel in the ORI if you have any doubt.
INFORMATION ABOUT THE FACULTY OF ECONOMICS AND BUSINESS, UB

Name of the Institution
Faculty of Economics and Business
University of Barcelona

Erasmus Code
E BARCELO01

Postal Address
Oficina de Relacions Internacionals
Facultat d’Economia i Empresa
Universitat de Barcelona
Avinguda Diagonal, 696
E-08034 Barcelona

Webpage for International Students
www.ub.edu/economiaempresa/relint/web/estudiants-estrangers?lang=en

Webpage of the Faculty
www.ub.edu/economiaempresa

Contact Details
CONTACT FOR INCOMING STUDENTS
Joel Cantó and Jordi Ventura
incoming.fee@ub.edu
+34 934 024 326

Ramon Ramon-Muñoz
Rector’s Delegate for International Relations and Quality

Miriam Castillo
International Relations Coordinator (INCOMING)

Montse Cervera
International Relations Coordinator (OUTGOING)
HALLMARKS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF BARCELONA

The University of Barcelona is the main public university in Catalonia, catering to the needs of a great number of students and delivering the broadest and most comprehensive offer of higher education courses.

University of Barcelona is also the oldest university in Catalonia and one of the oldest in Spain. The UB is linked to the history of Barcelona and Catalonia and combines its historical dimension with its status as a leading, innovative educational institution. Its roots lie in 1402, when King Martí the Humane establishes departments that will become the Estudi General of Medicine and the Arts. The foundation of the University of Barcelona is considered to be in 1450 when King Alphonse V unifies all university education into the Estudi General of Barcelona (General Study of Barcelona). These first studies included Theology, Cannons and Civil Law, Medicine, Philosophy and Arts. Due to the support of the city of Barcelona to the Archduke Charles of Austria during the Spanish succession war the university was moved to Cervera during the year 1717. The university came back to Barcelona 150 year later, in 1842.

The University of Barcelona is an urban university, open and cosmopolitan like it is Barcelona. The UB is integrated into the city of Barcelona, with faculties located in the centre of the city or very close to it. The UB plays a direct and active part in the urban fabric of Barcelona, the ties between the university and the city contribute to the human and cultural environment of Barcelona. The UB has become the centre of a wide range of cultural activities, and thanks to its location, it allows members of the university community to enjoy both the city’s services and those of the UB.
The University of Barcelona is one of the top ranked universities in Spain and it is a leading higher education institution in southern Europe and the Mediterranean arch. The UB is situated within the first, the second or the third position among all the Spanish universities in almost all the most prestigious international rankings. It is the first ranked university in Spain in the QS World University Ranking 2016 (being ranked the 160th among all universities in the world). The UB is the one only Spanish university in the exclusive A++ category of the 2016-2017 University Ranking by Academic Performance (URAP). According to URAP the UB is ranked the 1st university in Spain, the 10th in Europe and it rises to 45th in the world after having climbed 38 places over the last six years. The UB is also the principal centre of university research at a state level and has become an European benchmark for research activity, both in terms of the number of research programs it conducts and in terms of the excellence these programs have achieved.

Its work contributes to the creation, transmission and diffusion of culture and of scientific, technical and professional knowledge, as well as promoting critical thought, innovation and pluralism. The UB offers a comprehensive range of courses adapted to the educational and professional needs of contemporary society, and has one of the largest intakes of students, professors and researchers from all Spanish universities.
The Faculty of Economics and Business is the largest economics faculty in Catalonia and also one of the faculties in the Barcelona Knowledge Campus, the most active ‘Campus of Excellence’ in Spain.

The Faculty of Economics and Business of the University of Barcelona is a center of excellence in teaching Economics, Business, Sociology and Statistics. This Faculty brings together the tradition of the old School of Business and Economics, which formed the first group of economists in Catalonia (1954-1959) and the old University School of Business studies that has trained generations of mercantile and business graduates since 1850.

The Faculty of Economics and Business of the University of Barcelona is committed to excellence in research and teaching and is one of the world’s leading faculties in the field of economics, according to the I-UGR Rankings 2009-2013 (by subject: Economics) it is in the top 3 universities in Spain. It is also in the top 100 universities of the QS World University Ranking 2017 for Statistics and in the top 100-150 for Sociology and Economics.

All our Programmes and courses combine a solid grounding in business theory with a consistent commitment to practical application. Apart from teaching and researching, our academic staff actively participates in the administration and advisory board of both, private and public sector organisations. Our staff and research centres are often used by the media as a resource to comment on topical issues.
There are many things you must consider before moving to a new city, but we hope that this unique experience that you are about to start helps you to improve your organization abilities and constitutes a major step in your personal growth.

Arrival check-in: Registration procedures at the Faculty of Economics and Business of the UB

It is mandatory to do the arrival check-in when you arrive to Barcelona. The Arrival check-in for first semester students must be done at the International Relations Office of the Faculty of Economics and Business from the 4th to the 8th of September.

IMPORTANT

Please note that the arrival check in is a mandatory and essential step to be a student at our Faculty. To do the check in it is mandatory to bring to the office:

- 2 copies of the insurances covering you for Health, Accidents and Repatriation
- Photocopy of your passport of official ID
- One passport-size photo
- List of courses (printed from the online applicative)

Remember that in order to be able to successfully enroll at our institution you will need valid insurance with medical, accidents and repatriation coverage, covering you for the full period of your stay in Barcelona. Without proof of insurance coverage, you will not be able to complete the check in process at our institution.

We send by email the information about the insurance certificates accepted. Please make sure your insurance satisfies the requirements specified or you WILL NOT be able to do the check in at our institution.

Once the process of registration has been realized successfully, the students will get their UB student’s card that will give access to all services of the University of Barcelona. The International Relations Office will provide all students with a folder containing some material specially prepared for them, with information related to the university and the city.
Welcome Session
Before the beginning of the classes, the International Relations Office realizes a Welcome Session.

Assistance is mandatory, since we provide essential information for the success of your exchange in our centre.

Check the calendar we have already sent you and make sure that you know all important dates: registration period, welcome meeting, starting of classes, etc.

The day of the Welcome Session we will organize activities to promote the contact between incoming and regular students.
ENROLLMENT FOR COURSES

During the month of July all accepted students will receive an e-mail with precise instructions on how to enrol courses in the faculty. Students coming on exchange the Second Term will receive the email in December.

Courses in the Faculty of Economics and Business of the UB have limited space and some of them are very demanded, so it is utterly important that you are flexible with the course selection.

In the e-mail you will receive a link to the applicative on-line where you must enrol in the courses. Attached to the e-mail you will also receive the list of courses with the schedules, semester in which each course is programmed and timetables of the courses (with this information you must fix your own schedule). Places in the courses are limited and thus is important not to leave the on-line enrolment for the last minute.

You must be very careful regarding the schedule of all your courses (check that your courses do not clash) and regarding the language of teaching of the courses you choose. When choosing courses make sure that you have sufficient knowledge to follow the course, for example do not enrol in Microeconomics 3 without having any knowledge in Microeconomics. After the enrolment of courses we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do changes due to limited places of groups.

We strongly recommend all exchange students to do all possible changes on-line and while the applicative is active.

At your arrival you must bring the printed copy of the course online registration and bring it to the office during the check-in period.

Finally, after the beginning of classes there will be a small period for changes in the enrolment. However, as already said, you must take into account the space in courses is very limited and therefore there will be very few course available.

The information above is not applied to students coming to a Master at the Faculty. Students accepted to do the exchange in a Master have to contact directly with the IRO Office.
Spanish and Catalan courses
The University of Barcelona offers courses of Spanish and Catalan for those students willing to improve their language knowledge and follow easily the classes offered in our centre.

Catalan in the UB and Catalan courses
The University of Barcelona offers a wide range of Catalan courses to international students. Courses are organized during the whole duration of an academic course, in different dates and schedules in order to allow all students to enrich their knowledge of the Catalan language. Please consult the course offer in the following link:


The unit in charge of all the aspects related to Catalan courses is Language Services (Serveis Lingüístics). Besides the organization of Catalan courses, Language Services offers as well a wide range of other related services and activities, for instance and exchange language programme with local students and cultural visits to Barcelona and Catalonia. Students can find more about this complete and detailed offer by clicking “complementary activities” in the the link above. In the following webpage you can find more resources to learn Catalan:


From the International Relations Office, we want to encourage you to explore and experiment all the activities offered by Language Services!

The twofold mission of the UB’s Language Services is to promote the study of Catalan and to provide the university community’s academic, technical and administrative bodies with multilingual language advisory services, as well as contributing to the standardized use of the Catalan language.
The Catalan language in the University of Barcelona

Students coming on exchange at the University of Barcelona, or who have recently arrived from a non-Catalan-speaking area will doubtlessly want to know more about the language and culture they will find here. These sites (http://www.ub.edu/sl/en/socio/dades/ & http://www.ub.edu/enllaca/direccio.php?branca=344) will give students a general introduction to the use of languages at the UB.

Students probably know that, the UB, like Catalonia as a whole, has two official languages: Catalan and Spanish. In general terms, this means that people speak both languages and choose the one in which they wish to express themselves. This matter makes it likely to hear both in and outside class.

Catalan is the institutional language of the University of Barcelona, and is therefore used in all the University’s institutional and administrative affairs. Teaching is conducted in both Catalan and Spanish, which are Catalonia’s official languages. But while it seeks to guarantee its students the standardised use of Catalan, the University’s increasingly international involvement and its participation in interuniversity mobility programs have led it to adopt language policies that also foster the study and use of other languages, specially English, to consolidate the UB’s presence as a multilingual institution.
Catalan, like Spanish, is a Roman language. Given the close proximity between languages in this group, students which have previously learned one are well equipped to take on another! The simultaneous learning tool Romanica Intercom (http://www.romanicaintercom.com/) gives a good illustration of the relative ease with which speakers of one Romance language can understand another.

So, as Catalan belongs to the family of Romance languages, and the common ground between these languages makes it easier for visiting students and non-Catalan-speaking students who can speak a Romance language to begin to understand those classes taught in Catalan. In practice, it also helps that the kind of language being used in class is typically scientific or technical, rather than non-academic and informal.

Finally and apart from this, the UB’s Language Services also offers visiting and non-Catalan-speaking students a wide range of opportunities to learn Catalan. We invite you to discover more about Catalan and about the services offered by Serveis Lingüistics, including the Catalan courses for beginners or the chance to sign up at the Services’ Language Exchange Program and participate in different cultural events. Taking part in the Program is a particularly effective way to become involved in the University’s academic, social and cultural life; and of course it also makes it easier for students to get to know other students!

To help students make the most of their time in Barcelona, we recommend them to try to learn at least a little Catalan. Students can start their learning process before their arrival in Barcelona! Serveis Lingüistics has updated a webpage (http://www.ub.edu/sl/en/acollida/) which provides information and links to a range of resources for learning the language outside Catalonia. Many universities offer introductory courses, and students can also learn on the Internet with the Speakc@t Catalan survival course for university students or the multimedia resources at Parla.cat (http://www.parla.cat/). Students which wish to learn phrases and expressions commonly used in university life, can consult the online versions of the UB’s multilingual university phrase books.

Students will find these resources and many more by visiting this website: (http://www.ub.edu/sl/en/acollida/recursos.html) which gathers all the activities and services that the Language Services offers!
Catalan Courses: Practical Information

The “Serveis Lingüístics” (Language Services) of the University of Barcelona organizes Catalan courses for exchange students. You can recognize 3 or 4 ECTS credits (depending on each course) if you follow and succeed in these courses. These courses are addressed to students with poor or any knowledge of Catalan; you can do the following levels: Basic 1, Basic 2 and Elementary.

The language certificates issued by the Language Services are also equivalent to the official certificates awarded by the Catalan Government.

Catalan Course Basic 1 (A1)
This is a 4 hour-a-day course for students who come from outside Catalonia and who are starting a degree course or exchange period at the University of Barcelona during the first semester of 2017-2018. The course includes 30 hours of language classes and an optional cultural visit.

The enrolment fee is 60 euros. The course can be validated for academic credits (ECTS).

To check more schedules and how to enrol one of this courses, please visit the following links:

Information about second term courses not available yet.

For any doubt you may have about this Catalan courses or in order to request further information about them, please contact to the following address:

formacio.sl@ub.edu

Serveis Lingüístics Office Address

Language Services
Melcior de Palau, 140
08014 Barcelona
SPANISH COURSES
Spanish courses are offered by the unit of “Estudios Hispánicos”. You can check all the information about Estudios Hispánicos in the following web-page (http://www.eh.ub.edu/home/).

The Estudios Hispánicos department organizes and teaches specific courses in Spanish language for students who belong to the Erasmus exchange programmes. These courses are organized three times a year. They amount to 40 hours and are organized in two levels of language knowledge: elementary (A2) and intermediate (B2), with a certificate of attendance and final evaluation included.

All courses consist of 40 hours of classes and worth 5 ECTS. Price of the courses may depend on the program in which the exchange student participates; Erasmus students will pay subsidized price (fees to be confirmed for academic course 17/18), while students of all other exchange programs (Bilateral Agreements, CINDA, COIMBA, etc.) must pay the standard price (fees to be confirmed for academic course 17/18).

For general information about the Spanish Courses, please visit this link: http://www.eh.ub.edu/general-information/

There are different courses programmed so far; you can consult the wider offer in the Estudios Hispanicos webpage http://www.eh.ub.edu/spanish-language-culture-courses/

For specific requests or further details, please contact directly to eh.informacion@ub.edu
Spanish Courses 2017/18:

In order to take part in these courses it is necessary:

- To be accepted at the UB as an Exchange Student
- Take the Placement Test on the day it is offered.
- Students that are not part of the Erasmus programme may need the provisional credential for exchange students; you can ask for it in the International Relations Office.

**Estudios Hispánicos Office Address**
Universidad de Barcelona
Gran Via de les Corts Catalanes, 585
08007 BARCELONA (España)
e-mail: eh.informacion@ub.edu
web: [http://www.eh.ub.es](http://www.eh.ub.es)

In Spanish, **ÉXITO**
sounds like **EXIT**
but it actually means **SUCCESS**!

**NEED SPANISH CLASSES?**
LEARN SPANISH LANGUAGE AND CULTURE IN A PRESTIGIOUS UNIVERSITY
[www.eh.ub.es](http://www.eh.ub.es)
# ACADEMIC CALENDAR 2017-2018

**2017**

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Check-In at the IRO (1st Term and Annual students: 4 - 8 September // 2nd Term: 5 - 9 February)
Welcome Session (1st Term: September 6th // 2nd Term: February 8th)
Lectures (1st Term: September 13th - December 22nd // 2nd Term: February 12th - May 31st)
Start of lectures (1st Term: September 13th // 2nd Term: February 12th)
No class: bank holidays, weekends and significant days
Exams
Re-sit exams
How the University is organized?

The University of Barcelona is organized in 19 faculties and some attached centres. Each faculty offers different studies, thus the UB possess a wide offer of subjects and studies that fits the specific needs of each student.

International Exchange Students of the Faculty of Economics and Business can follow courses in other faculties of the University of Barcelona. Nevertheless, the student must do at our Faculty at least the 51% of the total number of credits enrolled. Students must also issue an authorization from the other faculty in which the course they want to follow is taught.

In order to enrol courses in other faculties you will have to contact the International Office of the faculty in which you are interested:

http://www.ub.edu/uri/comu/professo.htm

For Example:
Michael is an exchange student in the Faculty of Economics and Business. He wants to follow the subject “International Law” offered in the Faculty of Law of the University of Barcelona. He will be able to do so if he obtain the authorization from the International Relations Office of the Faculty of Law.
Workload

The Workload of each subject depends at a higher extent of each professor and of his/her vision about how the subject must be organized. Each professor has the right to implement his/her own evaluation method far as he/she follows the pre-established program of the subject. Given that the Faculty of Economics and Business gives a great importance to the practical application of the subjects it is quite probable that you will have to do some reports and practices related with the contents explained the master classes of the course. The majority of the professors offers the possibility of following a continuous evaluation and accumulate a percentage of the final grade during the semester. This way the students will have less workload during the finals period and increase the possibilities of obtaining a better grade.

Language of the courses

Subjects in the Faculty of Economics and Business are generally offered in Catalan and Spanish. Even though, there is an increasing offer of subjects offered in English. Each subject has more than one group. Students can choose the group that better fits their interests regarding the language in which it is taught, the professor, the schedule, etc.

The Language of each course depends only of the professor’s preferences. But it is announced with enough anticipation in the webpage of the Faculty. When doing the online registration to courses make sure you have checked the language of instruction of the course and group you are choosing! Change in September will be very difficult therefore it is very important you make sure you are doing correctly your online enrolment.

Exams and punctuation system

Each semester has an exam period. You can check the dates in the academic calendar of this guide. It is very important to attend the exam of the course AND GROUP you are enrolled. In case of attending other group’s exam, you will miss your mark.

Make sure you are attending the class of the group you are enrolled and you attend the correct group exam.
By the end of your stay you will receive an official certificate in which the grades obtained for the courses enrolled will be stated.

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* Distinction given to one student among at least 25 for outstanding results.

After the end of the exchange, the International Relations Office will send to each partner university the official transcripts of their students. We send two copies of each certificate, so you can pick up yours at the international office of your school. Individual applicant (Free-mover), will receive two copies in the address stated in their application form and they will have to handle the certificate to their universities.
Libraries
The Faculty has two libraries located within his premises and also offers the possibility of using study rooms:

Research Library: In the Building of Diagonal Av. 690
M-F 8:30 to 20:30
From July until August:
M-F 8:30 to 19:30

Undergraduate Library: Also in the Building of Diagonal Av 690 but with an independent entrance.
Diagonal Av. 690
M-F 8:30 to 20:30

On weekends and holidays:
10:00 to 21:00 Except for July 27th until August 25th.

During the finals period the undergraduate library offers a special Schedule with wither opening hours including weekends.

Photocopy services
With this service you can make photocopies and order bindings. You can also by the programs and materials that the professors may consider relevant for the correct development of the course.

FOTOCÒPIES REY
Faculty of Economics and Business (Building 690)
St. Tinent Coronel Valenzuela, 1-11
08034 Barcelona
Tel. 93 402 43 21
reycenters@yahoo.com

Cooperative “el Economista”
This cooperative sells and supplies books on demand, stationery material, computer material, printed press, etc. Prices are cheaper for their associates.
Any student, former student, professor or staff can be an associated previous payment of a fee. Being an associate gives you also the right to choose and been choose for the government of the association, participate in the general assemblies and receive information about the development of the cooperative. The management staff of the cooperative aims also to improve the services of the cooperative. There is also the possibility to work in the cooperative by succeeding in a selection process. The cooperative contributes, following their statutes, to the co-financing all sorts of cultural activities in the Faculty.

Phone: 93 402 43 17 - 93 280 43 83
Opening hours: de 9:30 to 14:00 h and from 15:45 to 20:00 h.

**Restaurant Service- Bar**
Students and professors have at their disposition two Restaurant-Bars, one in each of the Faculties’ buildings. These are open until the 20.00hrs every day. In the midday a daily menu is offered at affordable prices.

**Computer rooms**
There are 13 computer rooms in the Faculty in which any student can work or surf on the internet. Access to such rooms may be subject to availability. There is also an available WI-FI network in all the Faculty premises.

**Study Rooms**
The Faculty also offers some study rooms that can be reserved to realize team-projects or to study in group. To reserve the rooms you can do here: http://www.ub.edu/economiaempresa/reservaespais/

**Other Language courses**
Besides of the Catalan and Spanish courses as an exchange student you can also follow other language courses (French, English, Portuguese, Chinese, Dutch, German, Hebrew, Greek, and Japanese, among many other). These courses are offered by the “Escolad’Idiomes Moderns” (ModernLanguagesSchool), you can find more information in their web page: www.eim.ub.edu
Mariëlle, Maastricht University, the Netherlands
“My Erasmus experience in Barcelona was unforgettable! Barcelona is a beautiful city and at every moment of the day there is something you can do: go to the beach, go out, eat some tapas, relax in the sun or go shopping. The challenge of Barcelona is to combine all of this with studying! I think studying at Universidad de Barcelona was a good decision. The teachers are nice to Erasmus students and also the International Relations Office helped a lot to get to know how the system works! I hope you will enjoy Barcelona to the fullest, just like I did!”

Anna, University of the West of England Bristol, Great Britain
“I would like to say that I have had an amazing Erasmus year in Barcelona. I would recommend it to anyone to come to Barcelona and study here! It is a great city to live and study in, and I am even looking into possibly returning to do a Masters here.”

Sergi, London Metropolitan University, Great Britain
“Mi estancia en Barcelona ha sido muy agradable. El buen tiempo, las fiestas, y el ambiente general han hecho que me vaya de Barcelona con muy buen recuerdo. La Universidad de Barcelona ha sido sorprendentemente diferente a mi universidad de origen. Es muy importante crear alguna amistad en cada clase que pueda aclararte algunos temas académicos. Es esencial asistir a las primeras clases de cada asignatura ya que en éstas normalmente se crean grupos para trabajar. Esto es más importante aún para un alumno Erasmus debido a que probablemente no conocerá a nadie en su clase y si no asiste las primeras clases probablemente acabara en un grupo con otros alumnos igual de confundidos que él.”
Incoming students can also develop valuable practical skills by undertaking internships in one of our wide range of leading organizations and industry sectors during their exchange period.

The extension of the internship cannot be longer than the Exchange Period.

**Curricular Internships**

An internship is “curricular” when it implies the recognition of ECTS’s. Once the student has found a firm that wants to hire him/her and has realize all related paperwork to start the internship, he or she can receive some ECTS’s for the internship. The Faculty offers the possibility of enrol in a course called “Practicas empresariales” through which students may obtain those ECTS’s. The recognition of those ECTS’s once the student is back in his/her country depends only of the home university.

**Non curricular internships**

If the student opts for this sort of internships, there is no option to receive ECTS’s for this activity in the selected firm, even though this can be also an interesting activity to improve the CV of the student.
To be able to realize the internships you must register in the database of the Internship Office of the Faculty. Registration is online, but you can ask information face-to-face. The internship office is just in front of the international Relations Office. Once you are registered you can submit in all the internship offers you are interested in. The faculty has a wide offer practices in the most relevant firms and official institutions.

You must have in mind that you can only subscribe once you have arrived to Barcelona and done the enrolment of courses.

Once you have submit for an offer are the firms the once that decide if they want to hire you. Regularly companies realize interviews to those candidates that have submitted and that fit the best in the offer. If you pass the selection process, you will have to sign an internship agreement between the student, the firm and the faculty. If the internships are curricular, the student must handle a photocopy of the signed agreement by all parts to be able to enrol the course “Prácticas empresariales”. The enrolment of this subject is done once the student has signed the agreement. The International Relations Office will enrol you in this course just after the agreement is signed and presented at our office.
**Notice for non-EU Students**

Students coming from non EU countries must consider that tax retentions may be greater than for EU students.

**Additional Information**

The Faculty also offer a possibility to participate in other activities, like the courses “Salidas Profesionales”, The Enterprises Forum organized in March – April, or visits to the Barcelona Stock-Exchange and other relevant firms or institutions.
The Buddy Programme was founded on the initiative of the International Relations Office of the Faculty of Economics and Business of the University of Barcelona in order to promote international relations and encourage the contact between the students of the Faculty and the international ones who are completing an exchange period at our institution.

Students, both local and international ones, will benefit from the opportunity to enrich their university experience, as well as have the chance to meet students who belong to different cultural environments. Interaction between both groups of students will help them achieve a better understanding of other cultures, thus improving their international experience and gaining personal intercultural knowledge.

If you are a student who will undertake an international academic stay at our institution, you will be able to contact several students of the Faculty who have decided to be the “buddies”. There is also a Facebook fan page where you can express your doubts, and the “buddies” will help you on them.

Local buddies can guide and advise you on academic and university related issues during their stay at our faculty (using the library resources, contacting the lecturers of the Faculty, giving help and advice on courses, etc.) and other cultural and daily life issues related to your new city and country (for instance, cultural and linguistic immersion).

Buddies will also be present during the welcoming activities, so you will be able to meet them and start interacting with them from the very beginning.

We hope that thanks to this programme you will be able to learn and interact with the local students of our university and make the most of this international experience that you have decided to incorporate into your personal background.
TRAVELLING TO BARCELONA

Depending on the country or the continent you travel from, you can get to Barcelona using:

- Airport of Barcelona “El Prat”
- Airport of “Girona”
- El AVE (High speed trains)
- Buses - Estación del Norte

Airports

The Barcelona Airport, located in el Prat del Llobregat, is the biggest and the most important airport of Catalunya located 30 minutes by car or taxi from the city centre.

The airport offers a wide choice of international flights. In order to travel from the airport to the centre of Barcelona you have different options:

1) **Taxi:** The price varies from 40 to 60 euros, depending on the distance.

2) **Aerobus (Shuttle):** There is a bus service that enables you to travel fast to the centre of Barcelona. The buses leave every 5 minutes, everyday in a year.

3) **Train:** There is also a possibility to get to the city centre by train, Renfe which passes through the airport.

The Girona airport is located about 12 km from the centre of Girona and approximately 100 km from Barcelona. This airport is especially popular due to the fact that it offers low cost flights by 11 different airlines. From this airport you can take Renfe trains or some of the official buses which connect this airport with Barcelona.
Trains
Another way by which you can get to Barcelona is by train. The high speed trains (AVE) connect Barcelona with different cities of Spain. If you land in a different city, you should be able to get a direct connection till Barcelona.

Once you are in Barcelona you can move around easily by any public transport services available. To travel around Barcelona is one of the easiest things to do. The transport is designed to the necessities of the public, inhabitants and tourists, offering the connection of the whole area and its surroundings. Tourist buses, more than 10 lines of metro and tram, more than 80 bus lines and local trains make up the urban area transport map of Barcelona. The connection between all the lines is well explained using the signs at all the stations.

Finally, you can come by bus to Barcelona. The main bus station of long-distance buses is “Estació del Nord” (the North Station). It is located near the Barcelona center.
FORMALITIES TO BE DONE DURING YOUR STAY IN BARCELONA

Citizens of the European Union – obtain NIE (Identification Number for Foreigners)

Mandatory Inscription at the Central Registry Office for Foreigners:

If you stay in our country for more than three months you will also have to formalize your stay in the country at the Central Registry Office for Foreigners. Find all the information about this procedure in the following link:
http://www.ub.edu/uri/estudiantesNOUB/nie_en.htm

Citizens who reside outsider of the European Union are obligated to obtain visa and NIE.
The students whose permanent residence is outside of the European Union must apply for student visa at one of the Spanish consulates in the country of origin. In order to obtain the visa, the students have to present the documents which prove that have been accepted in one of the study or research programmes.

You can contact the office of the UB in charge of study permits at: nie@ub.edu

Fin more information about the Spanish Consulate of your country in Barcelona:

IMPORTANT
If your studies in Barcelona are equal or shorter than six months, it is possible the consulate or the embassy will give out the student visa with note “ESTUDIOS TOTAL 180 DÍAS” (Total time of studies 180 days). This kind of visa does not allow you to obtain the student residence permit later in Spain and only authorises a stay no longer than 6 months. After 180 days, the student has to return to his country and the residence permit cannot be prolonged. Neither it will be possible to apply for any student residence permit if the students comes to our country with a tourist visa.

The UB has the special office for you to help you with all the formalities. You will find all the information at the following link:
http://www.ub.edu/uri/estudiantesNOUB/nie_en.htm
INSURANCES AND ACOMMODATION

Medical, Accidents and Repatriation Insurance

It is mandatory to have an insurance which covers your whole period of studies. The insurance must include medical, accidents and repatriation policies.

The students who are citizens of the European Union can ask for the European Health Insurance Card. However, besides the European Health Insurance you will need to contract another private insurance which covers the ACCIDENTS and REPATRIATION. Students who do not have the European Health Insurance Card will have to get a private medical insurance which would cover them during their stay in Spain. Please, bear in mind that it’s mandatory to have an insurance during your whole stay in our centre!

Accommodation

The University of Barcelona cooperates with a net of organizations like Col·legis Majors (Halls of Residence) or BCU (Barcelona University Centre), which offers a great variety of accommodation especially oriented for students in a temporary study or research stay at our institution.

**Monthly budget**

Below you will be able to find a monthly budget. We have prepared an upper and lower cost limit, however, they are both approximate and depending on your necessities and preferences both limits can vary. In the budget we have included solely the most usual expenses. Barcelona is a city full of activities, cultural events and diverse services which we did not bear in mind while elaborating this approximation.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Lower</th>
<th>Upper</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rent (Room)</td>
<td>250€</td>
<td>600€</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housing expenses (Light, water, other)</td>
<td>50€</td>
<td>100€</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mobile Phone</td>
<td>20€</td>
<td>60€</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public transport*</td>
<td>30€</td>
<td>50€</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food</td>
<td>150€</td>
<td>250€</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>500€</td>
<td>1060€</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*We considered public transport only. To have a better idea about the transport here you can visit the website of TMB where you will find current rates: [http://www.tmb.cat/es/bitlets-i-tarifes](http://www.tmb.cat/es/bitlets-i-tarifes)

**Weather conditions**

In general: considering the latitude where Barcelona and Catalonia are located, the climate is quite moderate during the whole year with hot summers. In the winter months, however, it is cold and thermometer can show between 0-5 degrees. Even though we understand, depending on the country where you come from, this temperature can seem pleasant, we recommend bringing warm clothes.

Nevertheless, the most common winter temperature is usually around 10 degrees. The enormous diversity of Catalan territory (which spreads from the sea to the high mountains), convert it to an exceptional mosaic of complex climates, meteorologically speaking. In the Pyrenees there are different ski slopes open from November till March and the Mediterranean coast invites you to have a bath in the hottest months.

In particular: The climate in Barcelona is Mediterranean. The rainiest seasons are spring and autumn. The summer is hot and the winter moderately cold. Thus you will need to bring various clothing in your suitcase.
Gastronomy

The gastronomy of Barcelona goes beyond the famous Mediterranean diet, which is essential to understand the quality of life of the region and the general welfare: the prestige of the Catalan cuisine is nowadays internationally recognized; however, in addition, you'll also find a variate gastronomic offer with restaurants and products from around the world.

With this kind of gastronomic heritage, it is easy to see why the city has more than 16 Michelin stars and why Catalonia is the home of three-star restaurants. Barcelona offers a wide range of places for eating out, suitable for all pockets and tastes. There are many restaurants that offer menus at affordable prices or bars that organize special events for students. The average price of a menu may vary between 7 and 15 euros depending on the area and the time of day. In the area of Faculty there is also a wide range of places to eat at affordable prices. Find more information here: www.es.barcelona.com

Where to go out?

Barcelona is a city which never sleeps nor rests and you will always find interesting activities to do here. The city has a wide variety of places to go and have a drink with friends or to dance. The Olympic Village, Poblenou or the city centre are known for going out at night where many young people are during the weekends. Barcelona is also the center of many events, exhibitions and concerts which take place every week.

For more information about all the cultural events we recommend "La Butxaca". It is a free magazine that collects monthly almost all cultural events of the city. You will find events to suit all budgets and tastes. See more information here: www.butxaca.com
Music and theatre
Barcelona has always been a meeting point of cultures, and this can be noted in the musical style originating from the city: the rumba catalana, a music that was born in the street, a fusion of Cuban music and gypsy music, according to one of its major representatives, the great Gato Perez.

Barcelona keeps the great tradition of the Sardana. Everyone is welcome to see or participate in the sardana dance that is organized each weekend by local associations and traditional groups. However, being a large city, you can find in Barcelona also large concert halls like the Liceu Opera House, home to some of the best opera houses in the world, the beautiful Palau de la Música Catalana, declared world heritage by the UNESCO for its impressive architecture, and the Palau Sant Jordi Stadium, the popular place often chosen for their concerts by the majority of singers of pop and rock stars who visit our city. Few cities in the world can boast of being a must stop during tours of the big international stars such as Madonna, Bruce Springsteen and the Rolling Stones.

For the jazz and blues lovers, in Barcelona there is a wide range of smaller music places, which host more alternative groups and jam sessions.

Barcelona also hosts large musical festivals. In September, you’ll find the BAM (Barcelona Acció Musical), a great festival of music open to all styles from folk to electronic, hip hop, rumba and rock.

In May there is the Barcelona Primavera Sound festival, with a musical program of great international prestige which brings together thousands of people in the city.

In June the Sonar also accounts for a large number of attendees to enjoy the advanced music and multimedia presentations with DJs and groups like Jeff Mills, Miss Kittin, Goldfrapp, Mandes and the Pinkertones, just to name a few. Summercase, the Young festival with 2 programs in the two biggest cities of Spain, Madrid and Barcelona, has become the main event of the month of July.

As you will see, Barcelona, offers you a wide and various cultural offer. From the classic one to the most alternative ones where there is place for all the tastes.
Shopping

In Barcelona you will find a wide range of products and services. The streets of the Gothic Quarter are perfect if you are looking for old clothes or parts of creative young local designers or you can visit the streets of Passeig de Gràcia and Diagonal Avenue with shops with higher prices. The historic neighbourhoods of Gràcia, Sants and the Born quarter are also centers of fashion thanks to the small designers and accessories shops that fill its streets and colour.

Loyal to her spirit, the Catalan capital maintains many neighbourhood markets like the Boqueria market, the Santa Caterina Market (recently restored) and the historical market of Sant Antoni, currently under partial restoration, there you can find old books, CDs, cloths food and much more. These places offer an endless set of possibilities in gastronomic products.

Museums

Like any other city renowned as a cultural centre, Barcelona is also home to an extensive network of museums and cultural foundations that expose and explore all areas of history, art, and human life. We recommend the modern art in the MACBA, MNAC, which has broad and relevant Romanesque art exhibition or the Museum of the history of Catalonia, to get to know the place which will be your new home for a few months.

Barcelona is also home to many exhibitions throughout the course of the year, so interested students have to check if they are open to the public at all times. Also, there are internationally recognized some museums that exhibit important collections of leading artists, as the Foundation Joan Miró, Fundació Antoni Tàpies or the Picasso Museum in Barcelona which is considered the center of reference for the formative years of Pablo Ruiz Picasso.

Finally, there are also thematic museums as CosmoCaixa, the textile Museum, the Chocolate Museum, and one of the most visited museums in the city, the Museum of FC Barcelona.
Barcelona Holidays
Shops and offices will be closed on the holiday and on Sundays as well. If you wish to go to a restaurant these days, we recommend you to call before and check if it’s open.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Holiday</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>01.01</td>
<td>New Year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>06.01</td>
<td>Reyes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25.03</td>
<td>Good Friday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28.03</td>
<td>Easter Monday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>01.05</td>
<td>Labour Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16.05</td>
<td>Second Eastern</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24.06</td>
<td>Sant Joan’s Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15.08</td>
<td>Assumption of Mary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.09</td>
<td>Catalonia National Holiday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24.09</td>
<td>La Mercè, the patron saint of Barcelona</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.10</td>
<td>Columbus Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>01.11</td>
<td>All Saints’ Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>06.12</td>
<td>Constitution Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>08.12</td>
<td>Day of the Blessed Virgin Concepcion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25.12</td>
<td>Christmas Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26.12</td>
<td>Saint Esteban</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Water and Electricity**
The voltage in Spain is 220. The electric socket is the European standard. The running water is drinkable and the Town hall certifies the quality.

**Currency**
The Euro is the official currency in Spain, and in almost no shops any other currencies are accepted for payment. You can easily change the usual currency (US dollars, pounds sterling, Japanese yen and other) in all bank offices and in the exchanges that are found in the downtown areas and tourist sites.

In order to obtain up-to-date information about the city of Barcelona, please visit the official web site of the city: [www.bcn.cat](http://www.bcn.cat)
The TMB (Transports Metropolitans de Barcelona) is the public company that is responsible for managing the major means of public transport for travelling within or outside of the city of Barcelona. The metropolitan transport of Barcelona has six zones and the price of a ticket depends on the area you want to reach. To circulate within the city you only need the ticket for the first zone, but if you want to visit the areas around the city, it is recommended to check tickets, prices and timetables.

A single ticket can be bought in the machines that you will find in all the metro and tram stations or the bus itself. Search the different ticket options to know which you are most interested in. In addition to the simple ticket there is simple, for example, T-10 ticket which allows you to make 10 trips per person with possibility of including the different transport services in the metropolitan area (commuter trains, metro, tram and buses) and it can be used by more than one person. There are also other options, such as T-Mes or T-Trimestre. Students under 25 can also purchase the special discount ticket, T- Jove. You will find more information about the T-Jove ticket: [www.tmb.cat](http://www.tmb.cat)

The official website of the TMB (Metropolitan Transport of Barcelona) has a routes searcher that gives you the easiest, faster and more comfortable way to get from a place to another, besides of all routes and maps.

### Travel by Subway (Metro)

The metro is one of the fastest transports to discover and move around the city. With a broad and highly developed structure, you can move to any point of Barcelona and the surrounding cities by these means of transport.

The metro runs from 5 a.m. to 12 p.m. each day, the Friday is available until 2 in the morning and Saturdays it stays open all night.

You can buy tickets in the regular ATMs at each station.

### Travelling by bus

Barcelona has more than 80 bus lines that connect the city and the metropolitan area. The night buses are also available with the same ticket. The bus network involves also the Aerobus, which connects the city centre with the airport of el Prat. Furthermore, there are buses for long-distance trips that allow you to reach different parts of Catalonia, Spain and Europe.

Buses are adjusted for people with disabilities. The night buses cost the same as daytime buses. Find more about the bus lines here: [www.tmb.cat](http://www.tmb.cat)
Travelling by tram

Barcelona has 6 tram lines that complement to the city's public transport. The price of a tram ticket is the same as the ticket of integrated TMB and can be purchased through the atms at tram stations with credit card. More information can be found in the official website of the Barcelona Tram System: www.tram.cat

Travelling by train

Catalonia has many beaches and cities that receive a large number of tourists every year. If you want to visit the Costa Brava, the Suburban Trains (www.renfe.com) together with the Ferrocarrils de la Generalitat (www.fgc.cat) are the two rail networks that let you travel through the different areas which include Barcelona and a much larger territory of Catalonia. Railways are managed by Generalitat de Catalunya, while the Suburban trains are managed by Renfe, the main Spanish railway company which provides transport throughout the country.

The Suburban trains of Renfe are the best option if you want to visit the coastal towns, rural areas and major cities such as Tarragona or Girona. The price of a ticket depends on the distance in order to reach their final destination. Renfe offers an online service that calculates the price of the ticket. Find out more about the services of Renfe here: www.renfe.com