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I would like to present the University of Barcelona’s Report for academic year 2019-2020, an academic year that was clearly marked by the COVID-19 pandemic.

As in previous editions, here you will find a summary of the most relevant projects, initiatives, data and activities that have been carried out in the areas of teaching, research, knowledge transfer, internationalization and social action. This year, we have included a specific section that summarizes the various actions undertaken by the university community in response to the health crisis that exploded in the second semester of the academic year.

As an institution, the University of Barcelona assumes the responsibility that comes with the scale of its social impact. It has therefore participated in a range of COVID-19 research and innovation projects and has maintained fluid communication with the media to contribute knowledge and rigour to public information about the pandemic and its effects.

The Report reflects the University’s commitment to wider society, to which we are ultimately accountable. It is through this commitment and, most importantly, through our core values that we address the challenges in our path, channelling all of our effort and resources, transmitting knowledge and striving for excellence through continuous improvement.

I invite you, then, to read this report and explore the results achieved over this most difficult of years, thanks to the hard work and rigour for which we have become known.

Joan Elias
Rector of the University of Barcelona
The University of Barcelona

UB Identity
Structure and basic figures
Geographical distribution: campuses and faculties
A year marked by COVID-19
UB identity

Public. The University of Barcelona is the foremost public university in Catalonia. Its results are conveyed to society through teaching, research and knowledge transfer, contributing to social progress and the advancement of science.

Historic and urban. Founded in 1450, the UB is woven into the urban fabric of Barcelona. Its six campuses spread across the city generate extensive activity in the surrounding areas. The Historic Building, designed by the architect Elias Rogent, was given historical and artistic heritage status in 1970.

Universally renowned. The University of Barcelona is renowned throughout Spain and across the world as a leader in education, research and thought, as reflected by its position in the foremost international rankings. Its dynamic, critical, constructive and human spirit is placed at the service of society, where it strives to defend values of freedom, democracy, justice, equality and solidarity.

Anchored by good governance and transparency. The UB implements a comprehensive, efficient management model for the allocation of resources, which bolsters its accountability and underpins its institutional and social leadership.

Generalist and multidisciplinary. The University offers a broad selection of bachelor’s and master’s degrees covering the many disciplines that make up the principal branches of knowledge: arts and humanities, social sciences, health sciences, experimental sciences and engineering. Traditional and modern disciplines are combined in the UB’s daily activities.

Socially engaged. The University of Barcelona has adopted the UN’s 17 Sustainable Development Goals and works towards materializing this broad-reaching effort to eradicate poverty, protect the planet and achieve worldwide respect for human rights.

Committed to quality teaching. The UB’s community of 5,000 lecturers pursues the shared goals of improvement and innovation. Each year, the demand for places exceeds availability by 30%, and student performance rates are currently 89% for bachelor’s degrees and 93% for master’s degrees.

Research-intensive. The UB is the only Spanish member of the League of European Research Universities (LERU) and its researchers are cited in the most prestigious scientific publications. Through the Barcelona Science Park and the Bosch i Gimpera Foundation, the research generated at the UB and its affiliated centres is carried out in close collaboration with the most innovative sectors of the science, business and technology communities.

International. The University of Barcelona promotes international activity among its students and staff, offering mobility options to all members of the university community, building strategic alliances with international institutions and participat- ing in leading international and multidisciplinary consortia. It is the highest-placed Spanish public university in the major international rankings.

Entrepreneurial and innovative. The University of Barcelona actively promotes entrepreneurship, advising on and supporting business creation and providing funding, guidance and training resources for entrepreneurs. The UB’s innovative activities and projects create value for society.
Structure and basic figures

- **Structure**
  - 16 faculties
  - 9 affiliated centres
  - 60 departments
  - 1 training and research unit
  - 36 UB research structures
  - 17 research structures with UB participation
  - 682,107 sq m of constructed area

- **Course offering**
  - 73 bachelor’s degrees
  - 13 dual study pathways
  - 157 university master’s degrees
  - 48 doctoral programmes
  - 902 postgraduate courses
  - 616 lifelong learning courses (IL3)

- **Students**
  - 41,750 bachelor’s degree students
  - 5,337 university master’s degree students
  - 9,450 postgraduate students
  - 7,504 bachelor’s degree graduates
  - 3,068 university master’s degree graduates
  - 14,945 company placements

- **Research**
  - €144,634,109 research funding secured
  - 932 active research projects
  - 61 projects awarded by the European Research Council
  - 6,305 scientific publications
  - 575 trainee predoctoral researchers
  - 219 junior, senior and post-doctoral researchers
  - 455 research technicians and assistants

- **Transfer activities**
  - 826 Bosch i Gimpera Foundation contracts
  - 113 patent applications
  - 2 new technology-based spin-offs
  - 412 Bosch i Gimpera Foundation researchers
  - 160 Bosch i Gimpera Foundation research technicians and assistants

- **Internationalization**
  - 1,392 UB students abroad as part of mobility programmes
  - 1,705 international students at the UB as part of mobility programmes
  - 3,754 agreements with foreign universities and other institutions
  - 68 active Erasmus+ programmes

- **People**
  - 5,825 teaching and research staff
  - 3,884 full-time-equivalent teaching and research staff
  - 2,409 administrative and service staff
  - 794 grant holders in UB services and faculties

- **Budget**
  - €408,191,474 total budget
  - 66% of total income from public transfers
  - 34% of total income from self-finance
  - 91% current costs

- **Services**
  - 16 libraries
  - 1,862,644 monographs
  - 5,659 UB Sports users
  - 7,834 UB Alumni members
  - 959 job offers registered in the Job Bank

- **Doctoral studies**
  - 4,582 trainee researchers
  - 630 doctoral theses read
  - 13 industrial doctorate programmes
  - 23 joint supervision agreements signed

- **Society**
  - 1,248 UB Volunteers participants
  - 28% reduction in water consumption (2015-2019)
  - 45 participants in the UB’s support programme for refugees and people fleeing conflict zones
  - 6 international cooperation projects
  - 15 University of Experience programmes

- **Culture**
  - 1,653 visitors attending guided tours of the Historic Building
  - 18 concerts in the Season of Music at the UB
  - 13 temporary exhibitions in the Virtual Museum
THE UNIVERSITY OF BARCELONA, RANKED 182, IS THE HIGHEST-PLACED SPANISH INSTITUTION.

A total of 26 Spanish universities are among the global top 1,000, as listed in the QS World University Rankings.

According to the Catalán University Quality Assurance Agency’s (AQU) seventh graduate employment study, compiled in 2020, for the University of Barcelona, the employment rate for graduates three years after earning their degree is 88.8% in the case of bachelor’s degrees, 88.7% in the case of master’s degrees, and 93.3% in the case of doctorates.
A year marked by COVID-19

The second semester of the academic year 2019-2020 was marked by the major health crisis triggered by COVID-19. In February 2020, in response to the activation of the SARS-CoV-2 health alert, the crisis committee of the University of Barcelona met to draw up an action protocol. Following the declaration of the state of alarm, the entire UB community worked to adapt to the new circumstances and address needs stemming from the crisis.

A rapid succession of exceptional circumstances made it necessary to take extraordinary decisions in an agile manner and undertake actions aimed at adapting the activity of the University of Barcelona to the new situation in an effective and responsible way. On 14 March, UB buildings had to be closed, face-to-face teaching was suspended, and practically all the University’s activity had to be adapted to the online environment. Administrative procedures under way and the defence of doctoral theses also had to be suspended. Research activity was interrupted, and the University had to identify critical services that needed to be kept in operation. Another immediate priority was to deal with the situation of students that needed to be kept in operation. Another immediate priority was to deal with the situation of students completing a period of mobility abroad and foreign students at the UB.

Following the declaration of the state of alarm, a series of documents related to the lockdown and its easing were produced, including the Action Plan, the Lockdown Easing Plan and the Contingency Plan. The UB also collaborated on the drafting of the Sectoral Plan for Universities, presented by the Ministry of Business and Knowledge and approved by the Inter-University Council of Catalonia (CIC). The Committee for Monitoring Lockdown Easing was established to keep the UB community informed and receive information concerning this process. Chaired by the general manager, the Committee included 15 employee representatives and 15 from the management team, the General Manager’s Office, dean’s offices, administrative services, and the Office for Health, Safety and Environmental Issues (OSSMA).

In February, the University launched the COVID-19 website, which has eight sections, including one for frequently asked questions (#FaqsUBcovid19) and two focusing on teaching activity: “Information, recommendations and resources for remote teaching” and “Recommendations and resources for remote assessment”. Students were positive about the new tools incorporated into the Virtual Campus during the COVID-19 health crisis, giving them an approval rating of 6.6, and about the option to present the doctoral thesis online, which they gave a rating of 7.5.

Work was also done to improve access control for UB buildings, and suitable protective equipment was purchased based on the requirements set out in health regulations and the UB’s Contingency Plan. Protective screens and gel dispensers were installed, maximum occupancy of spaces was reduced, and face masks were provided to staff and students.

At the organizational level, various processes were adapted to the online mode, including the preparation of payslips and payment of salaries to UB staff, and digital signing of documents associated with tender dossiers by the rector and the general manager. Steps were also taken to re-engineer processes related to e-administration, with the introduction of a signature system based on the UB card. Advanced security protocols for infrastructure and technological elements were also developed. A significant investment in technology was made to ensure that the UB was better prepared for the first semester of the academic year 2020-2021. Near-
ly 2,000 laptops were purchased (at a cost of 1.8 million euros) to meet the needs of UB staff and facilitate remote work. Also, at the initiative of the Vice-Rector for Academic Organization and Quality, 500,000 euros was allocated for the technological adaptation of classrooms and teaching materials.

At the request of the Spanish Ministry of Universities, a document detailing all technological adaptation and training needs for the academic year 2020-2021 for academic, administrative and service staff was prepared. The cost of meeting these needs is estimated at 5.5 million euros.

Teaching had to be adapted from face-to-face to a mixed approach, and this needed to be done quickly, precisely, effectively, and in a way that ensured operational reliability and quality. In April, the Governing Council approved two documents: General Guidelines for Teaching and Assessment for the Academic Year 2019-2020 in the Context of the COVID-19 Crisis and Recommendations and Resources for Remote Assessment. Another document entitled Guidelines for Planning Teaching Activity for the Academic Year 2020-2021 was also produced to prepare for and organize the new academic year, and the RIMDA-Mixed Teaching project (with 40,000 euros in funding) was launched to offer support and advice to UB teaching staff.

The Academic-Teaching Support Area, the Learning and Research Resources Centre (CRAI), the Postgraduate Agency, and the Institute for Lifelong Learning (IL3) provided guidance materials and information on available resources to teaching staff and offered training on new technological tools designed to facilitate remote teaching and assessment.

The CRAI also provided teaching staff with continuous assistance, offering tools and resources for remote teaching and for managing the Virtual Campus. The Centre also supported research through the institutional repository and responded to queries through the User Support Service (S@U), both online and via social media. In June, the CRAI launched its own lockdown easing plan, which charted a course for the opening of 16 UB libraries with restricted hours and an appointment-only loan service.

With respect to information and orientation for prospective students, the UB participated in the Online Fair for Bachelor's Degrees via the CRUE's UNIFERIA platform and organized online Open Days, in which 6,000 students participated.

In the area of projection and internationalization, a document setting out international mobility scenarios for the academic year 2020-2021 was presented at an extraordinary plenary of the CRUE. With regard to student financial aid, an effort was made to address needs arising from the crisis triggered by COVID-19. The Connecta UB programme was established with an initial allocation of 110,000 euros, and this initiative was later supplemented by the Fons Supera COVID-19 (supported by Banco Santander and the CRUE), which benefited 317 students. As for the University's bkUB programme, the period for submitting applications was extended and 336 grants were awarded.

In the area of research, the UB also had to take rapid decisions and adopt measures to ensure the continuity and viability of activities and projects that could not be postponed. With respect to doctoral studies, a special procedure was established for online presentation of theses (and was very well received by trainee researchers), and the contracts of predoctoral trainee researchers were extended.

Also in the area of research, lists of essential services and staff were drawn up, with particular attention to Science and Technology Centres and their facilities for raising lab animals, which, given the nature of their activity, could not be shut down.

The manufacture and gift of a large amount of protective equipment (face masks, gowns, shoe covers, visors, gloves, etc.) was also coordinated at several hospitals, particularly Hospital Clinic and Bellvitge University Hospital. In addition, the procedure for producing hydrosoluble solution for hospitals was managed by the Centre for Research and Production of Experimental Medicines (Farmatec UB). An initiative aimed at creating a 3D printing centre in collaboration with the Faculties of Fine Arts, Physics, Chemistry, and Medicine and Health Sciences enabled groups at these four faculties to collaborate on the production of visors, systems for opening doors for remote work, etc.
The UB’s actions and collaborative initiatives with the Catalan Ministry of Health in the context of the COVID-19 health crisis include the transfer of 6 mechanical ventilators, 1 defibrillator, 33,874 face masks, 5,385 litres of disinfectant products and other healthcare materials, the production of 1,086 3D-printed protective visors and the development of 3 new models of emergency respirator.

Since the outbreak of the health crisis, the UB has had a strong media presence. Staff have responded to numerous queries concerning the UB’s adaptation to the new reality from an academic and teaching perspective, and the assessments and views of experts in various fields have been sought.

To the extent possible, activities aimed at generating a societal return, including cultural and solidarity initiatives, were maintained. For instance, a space entitled “From Home: The UB Collections” was opened on the Culture website so that members of the public could continue to visit exhibitions such as Badia and Margarit, 100 Years. The UB made appeals to encourage participation in various solidarity initiatives, including activities carried out by the Coronavirus Makers movement and neighbourhood-based solidarity networks. Channels were also provided for the recruitment of student volunteers from disciplines related to the health situation.

The University of Barcelona continues to work to adapt to situations arising from the crisis triggered by COVID-19 and tackle its consequences, including the adverse economic effects. Though estimates vary over time, it is currently estimated that the crisis will have a negative impact on the UB of around 25 million euros. The situation we face is complex and unprecedented, but with the collaboration of the entire UB community, and thanks to the initiatives undertaken and its ability to adapt, the UB has demonstrated that it is and will remain a leader in higher education and research and a model for society.

As for collaboration with other institutions, in late April the Government of Catalonia’s Directorate-General for Research urgently requested that the UB participate in Phase 2 of the Orfeu mass screening programme, though ultimately the project did not move forward. The UB also participated in the Government of Catalonia’s CORECO Research group (a committee to develop an economic recovery and social protection plan) with the aim of quantifying the impact of the health crisis on research carried out by Catalan universities.

The University also tracked the activity of all UB groups working in the field of virology, which led to the public presentation of a crowdfunding project. Particularly noteworthy is the UB-COVID project, which received a contribution from the Barcelona Chamber of Commerce and will conduct a 10-week study of SARS-CoV-2 prevalence using PCR and serological tests.

The testimonies are taken from the video of the opening ceremony for the academic year 2020-2021 and address various aspects of the UB’s management of the COVID-19 health crisis.

“The effort and dedication of all staff members (PDI and PAS) are a great source of institutional pride.”
Rosa Maria Pintó, researcher

Universities identify 615 students who cannot continue their studies online. […] To address the problem, in April the University of Barcelona launched the “Connect UB” initiative, through which students without the necessary resources have been provided with computers or internet connections.

El País, 10 May 2020
A university engaged with society

Transparency, ethics and good governance
Sustainability and quality of life
Institutional and cultural activities
Culture and society
Entrepreneurship and transfer to society
A university engaged with society

Regulations on transparency and good governance

With a history that goes back over 500 years, the University of Barcelona is deeply committed to serving society. As a champion of free thought, critical thinking and progress in all its areas of activity, the UB is also a guarantor of quality and innovation.

The University’s regulations on ethics, integrity, transparency and good governance, which are regulated and updated, ensure open, accessible and participatory governance.

The Code is interpreted by the Ethics Committee, which provides members of the UB community with guidance on their rights and duties and the exercise of their freedom and responsibilities. All of the groups that make up the UB community are committed to these rules and recommendations, which promote excellence in the University’s areas of activity and ensure that integrity-related issues are avoided as staff perform their duties. The Code covers the areas of research, teaching, learning, publications, communication and management, among others.

With regard to participation, this year the Student Council was involved in the process of amending the General Regulations on Elections with the aim of ensuring proper representation of students at the UB and the defence of their rights.

In the area of equality, the UB’s Third Equality Plan was approved. Based on a diagnosis of the existing situation with respect to equal opportunities for women and men at the University, the Plan is built on seven key pillars, which are translated into specific actions that cover all areas where a gender perspective and the principle of gender mainstreaming should be applied. The UB also defined the equality actions that form part of its Strategic Plan and participated in the definition of equality actions linked to the 2030 Agenda.

Also worth noting in this context is the UB Debates: Feminism(s) series, which featured a lecture on the brain and gender by Dr Gina Rippon and courses organized with funding from the State Pact Against Gender Violence, including one entitled “Demons disfressats d’amor”, [Demons Disguised as Love], aimed at helping students identify and combat gender violence, and specific staff training on the Protocol for Prevention, Detection and Action against Sexual Harassment and Harassment Based on Gender, Gender Identity or Sexual Orientation, and Other Sexist Behaviour. The Equality Unit and the equality committees of schools and faculties continued to deal with cases of harassment and any sexist behaviour reported at the UB.

To increase the visibility of research with a gender perspective, the second edition of the Clara Campoamor and Rosalind Franklin Awards was held. The awards recognize the best bachelor’s and master’s degree final projects with a gender perspective. A campaign to name classrooms and spaces after illustrious women also continued in 2019-2020. In the Faculty of Chemistry, classroom 105 now bears the name of Margarita Wirsing Hordas, and the multipurpose laboratory, that of Montserrat Puig i Cardona.

The UB Senate approves the General Regulations on Elections.

Transparency, ethics and good governance

“Everyone has worked hard to do things as well as possible, in some cases in very difficult conditions due to their personal situations.”

Mercè Adell, PAI
Sustainability and quality of life

The UB remains fully committed to achieving the United Nations’ 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in order to build a better future. The University’s Sustainable Development Committee deals with issues related to both the environment and social responsibility. Its functions include drawing up an action plan to address the SDGs at the UB and proving the Social Responsibility Report. The ninth edition of the report, presented in 2019-2020, covers the social, economic and environmental impact of UB activities in the academic year 2017-2018 (or 2018). For the first time, the report was drafted in line with the standards of the Global Reporting Initiative, which were fully adapted to the university context. The adaptation was done together with the social responsibility team of Pompeu Fabra University, within the framework of a bilateral collaboration agreement signed in 2016.

In the area of occupational risk prevention and sustainability, the main lines of action have been the management of health and safety at work, the promotion of prevention across all areas of the university community, research support, emergency preparation and response, sustainability, and social assistance.

For the management of workplace safety and industrial hygiene, steps have been taken to minimize and eliminate risk factors in staff workplaces across all areas of prevention: workplace safety, industrial hygiene, ergonomics, psychosocial aspects and health monitoring. Staff and infrastructure were evaluated at the Faculty of Economics and Business, the School of Modern Languages, the University of Experience and the Hispanic Studies unit. As for ergonomics, a technical instruction manual for functional and ergonomic university furniture was produced, and the guidelines it contains are considered when making furniture purchases. A working group was also set up to review and improve the current psychosocial risk management protocol.

Events were also organized to mark International Women’s Day (8 March), International Day of Women and Girls in Science (25 November) and International LGBTI Pride Day (28 June). To facilitate the exchange of information and carry out joint activities, the UB continued to participate in networks such as the Women and Science Committee of the Inter-University Council of Catalonia, the Equality Committee of the League of European Research Universities, and the Ibero-American Union of Universities.

In the area of mediation, the UB reorganized the Support and Mediation Unit and continued to foster a culture of respect and humanization among its staff. The independent and autonomous Ombuds Office carried on with its task of ensuring the rights and freedoms of UB students and staff. In 2019-2020, the Ombuds-Office dealt with 117 cases and responded to 113 queries.
For the third year in a row, students taking the subject Sustainable Development as part of the bachelor’s degree in Environmental Sciences at the Faculty of Biology participated in a service-learning project to seek practical solutions to environmental problems identified in UB faculties and schools.

In the area of environment, a number of awareness-raising and communication campaigns were carried out over 2019: eco-tips were published; a campaign to promote energy saving and highlight UB actions aimed at reducing CO₂ emissions was launched; and information on the water and energy consumption of each faculty was published.

With regard to sustainable mobility, the UB undertook a series of actions to promote the use of efficient, healthy and environmentally friendly means of transport. In line with this goal, the University participated in various cooperative challenges, such as “30 Days by Bike” and the Urban Mobility Challenge.

A number of social care projects and actions were also undertaken. They included publishing information on public resources available to citizens; joining the Business Solidarity Programme of the Spanish Association Against Cancer in order to spread messages focusing on prevention and early detection of cancer; organizing a contest to come up with phrases to promote a better work environment (for the UB calendar); and a Christmas toy collection campaign organized in collaboration with Red Cross Youth, which resulted in the collection of 450 toys.

Through UB Saludable, the University promotes actions aimed at improving the physical and emotional health of members of the UB community and participates in initiatives that seek to improve the health of society as a whole. These projects, which are aligned with the SDGs, promote healthy habits, seek to create healthy, sustainable environments, establish collaborations with other institutions, and focus on outreach to the local community and society as a whole. A new website was created to share information related to these initiatives and promote actions that help people live healthier lives.

To encourage participation in sport and recreation, the UB offers 100,000 sq m of facilities dedicated to the promotion of a healthy lifestyle and the creation of social bonds within the university community; with up to 50 sports and activities available.
A university engaged with society

UB Sports focuses its actions on achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, where sports activity can have a significant impact. This objective is pursued by organizing healthy sports activities and sustainable sporting events, participating in projects aimed at improving education of vulnerable people and groups, developing programmes for groups with special needs, promoting women’s sport and sports training for girls and women, establishing sports cooperation programmes at the local and international level, and working with other entities to disseminate the SDGs.

UB Sports also manages Lligues Universitàries de Barcelona, an amateur university sports league in which seven of Catalonia’s 12 universities took part, with 988 athletes representing their schools in four team sports.

The UB is usually represented at various university competitions held in Catalonia, Spain and Europe, but in 2019-2020, UB athletes could only participate in those held in Catalonia; 407 athletes (187 men and 220 women) took part in these events. For the sixth consecutive year, the UB won the UNIRUN university road race, which drew over 5,000 participants, including 1,411 from the UB.

Two hundred and forty-four students participated in the UB Tutoresport programme, which aims to help high-level university athletes to balance their sports and academic activity by supporting access to, monitoring and completion of university studies.

Over the academic year, 700 students and 160 staff participated in specific health promotion activities through various programmes carried out with other institutions and UB units. Activities included ActivaT UB conferences and courses (organized with the administrative and service staff training unit) and the Sènior UB programme for over-55s (carried out in cooperation with the University of Experience).

An awards ceremony for the best athletes closes the 34th edition of the Catalan University Championships.

The University of Barcelona team is once again overall winner of the Unirun university road race.

1st SPANISH UNIVERSITY in the overall Catalan championship medal count*

* Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, the UB was only able to compete in the Catalan University Championships in the academic year 2019-2020.
Institutional and cultural activities

Within the framework of the UB’s institutional activities, the academic year 2019-2020 was kicked off with an inaugural lecture entitled “L’ètica com a factor essencial de la vida acadèmica” [Ethics as an essential factor in academic life], delivered by Dr Norbert Bilbeny, professor of Ethics in the Faculty of Philosophy.

The UB also hosted the 37th Rectors’ Assembly of the League of European Research Universities (LERU), a network of 23 research-intensive universities based in 12 European countries. (The UB is the only Spanish member.)

The University was visited by the Spanish Minister of Universities, and during the visit a workshop was held with the CRUE governance team and representatives of the university community.

With regard to the Conference of Rectors of Spanish Universities (CRUE), the conference of the Audiovisual and Multimedia Working Group of the Communication Committee was held.

The Doctors’ Senate, which currently has 1,208 members, awarded its 22nd Doctors’ Senate Award to Dr Marta Pibol Llorot of the Department of Art History (Faculty of Geography and History) for a paper entitled “Cine y movimientos migratorio: la representación del exilio y la emigración económica española hacia Europa (1939-2016)” [Cinema and migratory movements: the representation of exile and Spanish economic emigration to Europe, 1939-2016]. The 7th Doctors’ Senate and Board of Trustees Awards for best scientific and humanitarian dissemination activities went to Dr María del Carmen Llasat Botija, professor of Atmospheric Physics, and Dr Santiago Álvarez Reverter, professor of Inorganic Chemistry. The jury for 15th edition of the annual Board of Trustees Awards awarded the José Manuel Blecua Prize to Dr Maedeh Aghaei and the Ramon Margalef Trustees Awards for the 2019-2020 academic year.

Professor of Ethics Norbert Bilbeny delivers the inaugural lecture for the 2019-2020 academic year.

In the academic year 2019-2020, the UB’s University Extension Courses for Senior Citizens received the Creu de Sant Jordi 2020 award for the programme’s pioneering commitment, sustained over forty years, to facilitating access to university-level knowledge for thousands of people over the age of 55. Also, the University of Barcelona’s support programme for refugees and people from conflict areas received the Diversity Award from the Catalan Association for the Integration of Homosexual, Bisexual and Transgender Immigrants (ACATHI) for its inclusion of LGBTI+ refugees in the programme.

Institutional and cultural activities

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The University was visited by the Spanish Minister of Universities, and during the visit a workshop was held with the CRUE governance team and representatives of the university community.

With regard to the Conference of Rectors of Spanish Universities (CRUE), the conference of the Audiovisual and Multimedia Working Group of the Communication Committee was held.

The Doctors’ Senate, which currently has 1,208 members, awarded its 22nd Doctors’ Senate Award to Dr Marta Pibol Llorot of the Department of Art History (Faculty of Geography and History) for a paper entitled “Cine y movimientos migratorio: la representación del exilio y la emigración económica española hacia Europa (1939-2016)” [Cinema and migratory movements: the representation of exile and Spanish economic emigration to Europe, 1939-2016]. The 7th Doctors’ Senate and Board of Trustees Awards for best scientific and humanitarian dissemination activities went to Dr María del Carmen Llasat Botija, professor of Atmospheric Physics, and Dr Santiago Álvarez Reverter, professor of Inorganic Chemistry. The jury for 15th edition of the annual Board of Trustees Awards awarded the José Manuel Blecua Prize to Dr Maedeh Aghaei and the Ramon Margalef Trustees Awards for the 2019-2020 academic year.

Professor of Ethics Norbert Bilbeny delivers the inaugural lecture for the 2019-2020 academic year.

In the academic year 2019-2020, the UB’s University Extension Courses for Senior Citizens received the Creu de Sant Jordi 2020 award for the programme’s pioneering commitment, sustained over forty years, to facilitating access to university-level knowledge for thousands of people over the age of 55. Also, the University of Barcelona’s support programme for refugees and people from conflict areas received the Diversity Award from the Catalan Association for the Integration of Homosexual, Bisexual and Transgender Immigrants (ACATHI) for its inclusion of LGBTI+ refugees in the programme.

Notable awards and distinctions received by members of the University community include:

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<tr>
<th>Award or distinction</th>
<th>Recipients</th>
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<tr>
<td>Medal of Honour of the Generalitat de Catalunya for exceptional services to justice</td>
<td>Maria Elena Lauroba Llacsa</td>
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<tr>
<td>National History Award</td>
<td>Anna Caballé Masforroll</td>
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<tr>
<td>City of Barcelona Award in the category of Experimental Sciences and Technology</td>
<td>Antonella Consiglio and Àngel Raya</td>
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<td>Jaume Vicens Vives Honour</td>
<td>Patricia García-Duran Huet and Sònia Estrade Albiol</td>
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<td>Narcís Monturiol Medal for Scientific and Technological Merit</td>
<td>Manel Esteller and Josep Samitier</td>
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Award or distinction | Recipients |
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<tr>
<td>24th Nústor Luján Historical Novel Prize</td>
<td>Gloria Sabaté</td>
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<tr>
<td>Catalan Society of Biology Prize for best scientific paper</td>
<td>Maria Isabel Hernández Álvarez</td>
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<td>Ferrer Eguzkibai Prize for Law</td>
<td>Juli Ponce Solé</td>
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<tr>
<td>“Serra d’Or” Critics Prize for Research (Science)</td>
<td>Santiago Álvarez and Claudi Mars</td>
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<tr>
<td>Premi Joan Lluís Vives 2020 a la millor edició</td>
<td>Santiago Álvarez and Claudi Mars</td>
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The book 150 anys de taules periòdiques a la Universitat de Barcelona (150 years of periodic tables at the University of Barcelona), coordinated by UB lecturers Claudi Mans and Santiago Álvarez, won the Serra d’Or Critics Award, and the ICREA Acadèmica 2019 programme recognised nine UB researchers for their scientific careers.

The University continued its UB Debates: Catalonia and Spain series, a forum for discussion and analysis of the political and social process in which Catalonia is immersed. Three discussion sessions were organized in 2019-2020. In each case, a renowned academic participated as a speaker and a panel discussion was held. Two of the discussions were face-to-face events; the third (in June) was streamed on the UB YouTube channel with live chat. As mentioned above, the UB Debates: Feminism(s) series was also launched.

Finally, the UB once again held its annual event in honour of administrative and service staff who have worked at the University for 25 years.

As for infrastructure, building safety was improved by adding or replacing fire detectors in the Historic Building, the Faculty of Pharmacy, the Florensa, Parcès and CRAI buildings (on the Diagonal Campus), and the Migdia 1 and Migdia 2 classrooms on the Mundet Campus. Significant steps were taken to replace large equipment, such as generators and cooling towers, and major repair work was done on the roofs of some buildings.

In October 2019, new names were approved for two faculties to better reflect the courses they deliver. The Faculty of Philology became the Faculty of Philology and Communication, and the Faculty of Library and Information Science was renamed the Faculty of Information and Audiovisual Media.

The health crisis also had an impact in this area and interrupted the execution of some works. One example is the Espinalb building, intended to house the Psychology Clinic, which will now be inaugurated in 2020-2021.

Last year was the 50th anniversary of the designation of the UB’s Historic Building, designed by architect Elias Rogent, as a national historical-artistic monument. To mark this milestone, the offer of guided tours was bolstered and expanded: the UB offered 55 guided tours of the building to a total of 1,653 visitors, including members of the general public, official visitors and representatives of diverse institutions.

In addition, combined tours of the Historic Building and the Conciliar Seminary of Barcelona are now available: four were offered in the past year, to a total of 114 visitors. The University also offered four tours of the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, to 81 visitors, and five tours of the Pedro Pons Estate, to 97 visitors. In 2019, the CRAI received a total of 1,366 visitors, including students (both UB and secondary school groups), alumni and professionals interested in learning about its collections and services. Visits also took place as part of organized tours along historical routes in Barcelona.

In addition, to showcase the extensive collection of manuscripts, incunabula and printed books in its reserve collection – the second largest collection of its type in Spain – the UB offered 47 tours of the CRAI Rare Book and Manuscript Library to a total of 746 visitors and organized 60 classes for 959 students. In collaboration with 12 different institutions, the Pavelló de la República CRAI Library organised a number of practical classes that were attended by 242 participants. The library received 826 visits over the year.

The Sponsor a Document project continued to run. Launched in 2013, the initiative has attracted 66 sponsors and facilitated the restoration of 39 books from the CRAI’s heritage collection.

Projects aimed at researching and disseminating the cultural heritage of the University of Barcelona included the following well-received exhibitions, which were held within the framework of Vallmitjana Year in the last term of 2019 and the early months of 2020: Redescobreix el Museu Frederic Marès [Rediscover the Frederic Marès Museum] at the Frederic Marès Museum. Els Vallmitjana de la col·lecció del Dr. Jesús Pérez-Rosales [Works by the Vallmitjana brothers from the collection of Dr Jesús Pérez-Rosales] at the Maricel Museum in Sitges; El bau gner Evarist Arnús de Venanci Vallmitjana [The banker Evarist Arnús de Venanci Vallmitjana] at the Maricel Museum, and Vallmitjana i la façana de la Catedral: Històries singulars al voltant de l’escultura [Vallmitjana and the façade of the Cathedral: Unique histories linked to sculpture] at the Diocesan Museum of Barcelona. Other activities for Vallmitjana Year included a lecture series entitled “Els Vallmitjana...”
In the area of heritage, the Governing Council approved the Regulations for Collections of Moveable Cultural Heritage, and in November a workshop on the implementation of a comprehensive cultural heritage plan was held with heads of collections.

The process of cataloguing and identifying pieces in the criminology collection was started with the aim of standardizing the cataloguing, dissemination, preservation and growth of UB collections.

A project involving standardized cataloguing of UB collections was also begun. The new system will provide agility and functionality when working with and disseminating the University’s cultural heritage. The new online publication manager (which replaces MuseumPlus) is being pilot-tested with the Fine Arts and Scientific Instruments collections of the Faculty of Physics. A new metadata schema is also being implemented for these collections.

In addition, the Committee for Integrated Management of the Ferran Soldevila Garden was established. The historic garden can be considered an open-air university museum with a collection of living plants, much like a botanical garden. The publicly accessible garden is an element of the University’s heritage and can be used for teaching, research, leisure and health purposes. The Committee is tasked with ensuring its sustainable use and contributing to its promotion as part of the UB’s cultural heritage.

Culture and society

Eighteen concerts were planned for the 33rd Season of Music at the University, which for the first time included a prelude—a concert of lyrical poetry in honour of the great Catalan poets and translators of German and English poetry into Catalan, many with links to the UB. However, due to the exceptional situation caused by COVID-19, only eight concerts went ahead, with the participation of the Catalonia College of Music (ES-MUC), the Ramon Llull Hall of Residence, the Liceu Conservatory, the Choir of the UB Faculty of Philology, and the Barcelona Municipal Conservatory of Music. Particularly noteworthy were three sessions of the traditional Christmas concert, where the University of Barcelona Orchestra, directed by Carles Gumí, performed a varied programme spanning everything from music for ballet and film to traditional opera pieces and carols. A total of 3,500 people attended the concerts.

Apart from the Season of Music, the UB collaborated with the Barcelona City Council and the UB Solidarity Foundation to organize a concert entitled “Música per a la vida i la dignitat” [Music for life and dignity] as part of an event intended to highlight the role of Barcelona and the UB in supporting refugees. The concert was performed by Orfeus XXI, an intercultural project conceived and directed by Maestro Jordi Savall.

Three dance sessions planned for the 10th Season of Contemporary Dance at the UB and scheduled to take place in March and April had to be cancelled due to the health situation.

The evening concert series Els Vespres de la UB, which aims to showcase emerging music groups and open the University up to the city, has become a fixture of Barcelona’s cultural offering. In February, the fifth winter edition was held at Paranyumph Hall. All the concerts were well attended and received extensive media coverage. The 15th summer edition could not be held as a live event due to the health situation, but on 16 July a concert by Ferran Palau was performed in the Ferran Soldevila Garden and streamed on YouTube.

The Theatre Workshop focused on its participation in the 2nd Xarxa Vives University Theatre Biennial, which was to be held in April on the campus of the University of Alicante in Sant Vicent del Raspeig. The group was preparing to perform La fiesta en paz by playwright Alexi Durarr, but the event had to be cancelled due to the COVID-19 outbreak.

Over the academic year 2019-2020, the Soc cultura [I am culture] website published over 300 news items on exhibitions, music events, guided tours and other cultural activities. The UB’s Virtual Museum also continued to disseminate the University’s main heritage collections.

As for exhibition programming, before the COVID-19 restrictions came into effect, six exhibitions...
were presented in spaces at the Historic Building, and two with complementary activities were held in the Josep Uclés exhibition space of the El Carme Cultural Centre in Badalona.

The University of Barcelona also collaborated on the exhibition *Artesans del Barroc: Cervera i l’art del seu temps* (*Artisans of the Baroque: Cervera and the art of its time*) by lending its ceremonial maces to the Cervera County Museum, which organized the show.

In March 2020, the Historic Building hosted the 4th Vives Forum Conference on Management of Culture at Universities. Participants engaged in discussions on the human heritage of universities. A meeting of the Cultural Management Working Group of the Vives Network of Universities was also held, and the participants agreed to proceed with drafting a Universities and Culture Charter.

The CRAI organized 62 **physical exhibitions** and 44 **virtual exhibitions**. It also collaborated in the organization of 94 exhibitions at other institutions.

Particularly noteworthy was the exhibition *Permès fixar cartells. Josep Artigas (1919-1991) cartellista i dissenyador gràfic* (*Posters allowed: Josep Artigas (1919-1991), poster artist and graphic designer*), held in the Josep Uclés exhibition space. The show featured 130 works from the Josep Artigas Collection, held by the CRAI Library of Fine Arts, and the collection of the Artigas de Quadras family. The show was accompanied by two lectures: “Els personatges publicitaris de Josep Artigas” (*The advertising characters of Josep Artigas*) and “Artigas y el cartel de su tiempo” (*Artigas and the posters of his time*). The UB also collaborated with the Barcelona History Museum to organize the exhibition *L’art de la ciència: Jordi Sabater Pi* (*The art of science: Jordi Sabater Pi*), which focused on the Catalan primatologist’s artistic work and was curated by the UB’s Heritage Didactics Research Group. To mark International Women’s Day, the CRAI libraries organized thematic exhibitions on women of particular significance to the UB and women of international significance.

To ensure consistency in the projection of the University’s public image, a review of the institutional **Graphic style guide** was conducted and work continued to oversee the proper use of the UB brand in internal and external media. Work was done on managing the assignment of the trademark to companies and entities linked to the UB, and work is also under way to establish criteria for the creation of trademarks for UB institutes, services and faculties and to define trademark application and management processes in a manner that takes into account the need for harmonization and consistency with the UB brand.

The official UB Shop, located in the lobby of the Historic Building, has become the main sales outlet for University of Barcelona merchandise. As for the network of external retailers, a new outlet was added (bringing the total to five), and the website for the shop received over 19,760 visits. In 2019-2020, the product range was expanded: new designs for textile items were added, and custom designs were created for organizations and conferences linked to the UB.

Throughout 2019, the UB continued to strengthen the website of its **Advantages Programme**, which presents the variety of discounts and promotions offered to the University community by partner businesses and institutions. The website, which is adapted for mobile devices, contains over 120 offers and receives approximately 4,000 visits a month.

Edicions de la Universitat de Barcelona has published, in print and digital format, more than 200 works, including institutional books, textbooks, popular sci-
The UB Solidarity Foundation has continued to focus on social action, development cooperation, volunteering and the promotion of human rights and a culture of peace, sometimes in collaboration with other institutions.

The UB Volunteering programme bolstered existing activities and added new ones. In 2019, UB volunteers collaborated with 39 third-sector organizations that carry out activities, projects and campaigns aimed at children, adolescents, the elderly, people with disabilities or illnesses, newcomers to Catalonia and groups in situations of vulnerability or at risk of social exclusion. UB Volunteering handled over 90 calls for volunteers, and 1,248 individuals participated in these initiatives.

In line with the Foundation’s decision to focus on pursuing the Sustainable Development Goals, it has joined the UB’s Sustainable Development Committee.

As part of its efforts to promote human rights and a culture of peace, the UB worked with the Institute of Professional Development to organize the 15th Award for Peace Research for high school research projects and carried out a variety of activities for the Tardor Solidària (Autumn for Solidarity) initiative.

In the area of International cooperation for peace and development, work continued in countries around the world. A wastewater treatment plant that carries out activities, projects and campaigns aimed at children, adolescents, the elderly, people with disabilities or illnesses, newcomers to Catalonia and groups in situations of vulnerability or at risk of social exclusion. UB Volunteering handled over 90 calls for volunteers, and 1,248 individuals participated in these initiatives.

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Xavierian University in Cali, hosting cross-cutting dialogue groups with participants from various sectors of Colombian civil society. In addition, within the framework of the RESCUE project, led by the Mediterranean Universities Union (UNIMED), the UB continued to work on setting up R-SOS units – support, reception and orientation offices for refugee students and academics. These offices, which also serve the local population, will be located at six universities in countries bordering Syria (Lebanon, Jordan and Iraqi Kurdistan). Activities to promote a culture of peace were also organized with young people from different communities in Bosnia in collaboration with the Catalan Ministry of Justice on projects to benefit the community: nine people took part in these projects in 2019. Also, in collaboration with the UB Solidarity Foundation, the University participated in the Recycle Culture campaign and actively collaborated with 15 social organizations, including the Vincent Ferrer Foundation and Doctors Without Borders.

The UB’s support programme for refugees and people from conflict areas continued to carry out its activities, which included launching the third edition of a course entitled Transition to Bachelor’s Degree Studies and Training in Human Rights and Culture of Peace. Forty-five young people have taken part in the programme since it was first offered in 2015. Most have been from Syria, but there have also been participants from Iraq, Afghanistan and the Congo. The amount raised in the fifth edition of the Solidarity Hamper programme (3,496 euros) will be used for the reception of students participating in the programme.

Also this year, the University organized an activity related to the integration of refugees and support services for unaccompanied minors: inclusive physical activity days on the Greek island of Lesbos, aimed at both this group and local youth.

In addition, the CRAI continues to collaborate with the Catalan Ministry of Justice on projects to benefit the community: nine people took part in these projects in 2019. Also, in collaboration with the UB Entrepreneurship and transfer to society

In the area of entrepreneurship, the Entrepreneurship Plan, based on LERU recommendations, aims to develop the entrepreneurial spirit of students and provide mentoring and incubation services for their projects, which must be linked to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The goal is for the plan to be applied intensively in a different faculty each semester. In the autumn semester of 2019-2020, it was carried out in the Faculty of Biology.

The StartUB! Lab, formerly the Barcelona Entrepreneurship Institute, supports and promotes entrepreneurship in the university community. This is done by fostering links and synergies between projects being developed and offering tools to help orient and create business plans, as well as concept validation on exercises. Located at the Aleu University Residence, in a space of over 400 sq m, it is designed to accommodate entrepreneurial teams of up to 80 people.

The StartUB! Sprint Prizes aim to support entrepreneurship and are open to UB bachelor’s degree and postgraduate students. The prizes are awarded to the best recently launched business initiatives that have a positive impact on society. In this year’s edition, 28 projects were submitted. In March 2020, the prizes were presented by videoconference. The first prize, a cash award of 3,000 euros, went to the Luci project, a platform that uses a voice-user interface to

1,248 VOLUNTEERING volunteers from the UB community

The European Observatory on Memories continued its work, organizing or participating in some thirty activities throughout Europe, including a Memory Projects meeting held in Paris in collaboration with the European Commission, and the production of a show to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall, held simultaneously in Berlin and Barcelona.

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Service-learning projects offer an approach to teaching and research that integrates service to the community and academic learning in a single project where students learn about the real needs in the environment in order to make improvements. Service-learning projects seek to respond to social needs identified by social organizations, educational centres and other institutions and to enable students to take part in the response through their own educational activities.

Since 2013, the Service-Learning (ApS) Group at the UB has been working to consolidate, publicize and spread the service-learning approach at the University of Barcelona. The interdisciplinary working group includes teaching staff from several faculties and areas of knowledge. The Sharing Ideas project offers secondary students a series of lecture-workshops led by UB undergraduate and master’s students on topics of general interest that are relevant to their studies. In 2019-2020, the lecture-workshops had to be adapted to the online format due to the health crisis. Over 130 UB students from 15 faculties participated, leading more than 70 lecture-workshops at 31 schools.

A COMMITMENT TO THE COMMUNITY service-learning conference-workshops

70

Entrepreneurship and transfer to society

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detect early-stage dementia and continuously monitors users while providing cognitive stimulation. The second prize, a cash award of 1,000 euros, went to Guidertrack, an app that allows museum visitors to listen to information on the main works on display (free of charge). Benesit, a start-up that is working on a device to correct the posture of users when they are sitting, received a special mention. Winners must use the cash prizes to develop their business projects.

On Innovation Day, a Europe-wide event, university students are invited to form multidisciplinary groups to come up with solutions to the main health challenges facing society. Organized by EIT Health, the largest European body for innovation related to healthy living and active ageing, the event aims to promote innovation and entrepreneurship in the health field among university students. This year, 31 Innovation Days were organized across Europe. The UB event was the only one carried out in Catalonia. In this edition, held in November 2019 in the StartUB! Lab space, participants worked on one of three proposed areas among university students. This year, 31 Innovation Days were organized across Europe. The UB event was the only one carried out in Catalonia. In this edition, held in November 2019 in the StartUB! Lab space, participants worked on one of three proposed areas. The UB currently has 23 active chairs (two UNESCO and two Jean Monnet) and two sponsored classrooms, spread across 12 faculties. In 2019, the total revenue associated with UB chairs and minor chairs was 1,050,000 euros.

The UB also fosters social and business collaboration with the aim of increasing funding from philanthropic sources and strengthening its ties to society. To this end, a fundraising plan is being designed and work is being done in the area of sponsorship. To boost its response capability in knowledge, research and transfer activities while also building a sense of community, the University offers opportunities to provide funding for specific projects with a high social profile.

With the aim of fostering its relationship with society and strengthening ties with alumni, through UB Alumni, the University offers a shared space for services, knowledge sharing, professional relations, opportunities, professional growth and membership benefits. In 2019–2020, UB Alumni, which currently has 7,834 members, organized 75 activities related to various areas of knowledge. These events drew 1,718 participants (1,220 of whom were UB Alumni members). Twelve career activities were held, and 2,347 recent graduates benefited from the professional development service. In the area of job offers, 1,085 companies used the UB Alumni platform, posting 2,161 positions. Once again, UB Alumni ran the “Enhorabona! Ja ets Alumni!” [Congratulations! You’re an alumni!] campaign to raise awareness of its activities among recent graduates.

Renewal of the UB-SEMI-Menarini Internal Medicine Chair.

The UB and educational entity Edu1st launch the first Chair on Neuroeducation in Spain.
A university at the forefront of education

Course offering

Other academic opportunities

Student support

Teaching innovation, assessment and improvement
Course offering

In the academic year 2019-2020, the UB offered 73 bachelor's degrees and received 14,897 first-preference applications for 10,798 places, putting the demand ratio for places at 1.4. The highest numbers of first-preference applications were received for Medicine at the Medicine Campus–Hospital Clínic August Pi i Sunyer (1,260), Business Administration and Management (1,028), Psychology (784) and Law (613). A total of 41,750 bachelor's degree students enrolled at UB faculties and schools (including the UB-specific degree in Private Investigation). This total includes 10,255 new students and 4,455 enrollments at UB-affiliated centres.

A total of 157 university master's degrees were offered to 5,337 students at UB faculties and an additional 1,814 at UB-affiliated centres. The most popular master's degrees were Teacher Training in Compulsory Secondary and Upper Secondary School Education, Vocational Training and Languages (506), Legal Practice (334), Women, Gender and Citizenship (171), General Health Psychology (352) and Advanced Medical Skills (116). Of the total number of students enrolled (including those at affiliated schools), 2,978 (42%) are international students, mainly from Latin America, China and (within Europe) Italy. Teaching in foreign languages was also strengthened, particularly at master's degree level, where 18% of instruction was in English.

A total of 7,471 bachelor's degree students and 33 UB-specific degree students graduated from UB faculties, while 3,068 university master's degrees were awarded. Special academic achievement awards for courses completed in the academic year 2018-2019 were given to bachelor's students (141) and university master's students (98).

Accreditation of UB degrees began in 2014-2015. In 2019, two bachelor's degrees and 22 university master's degrees were evaluated. Special academic achievement awards for courses completed in the academic year 2018-2019 were given to bachelor's students (141) and university master's students (98).

Accreditation of UB degrees began in 2014-2015. In 2019, two bachelor's degrees and 22 university master's degrees were evaluated. The two bachelor's degrees and 12 of the master's degrees have now completed the accreditation process, and all of these programmes have achieved the level required for accreditation. In all, 79.5% of the bachelor's degrees currently offered at the UB (58 of 73) have been accredited, 14 of which have been acknowledged for their excellence.
In the case of master’s degrees, 81% (102 of 126) have completed the accreditation process. Twenty-nine were recognized for their excellence.

The accreditation process entails an internal evaluation (a self-report prepared by the heads of each faculty), a site visit by an external evaluation committee appointed by AQU Catalunya, and final accreditation by the Spanish Universities Council.

External accreditation visits to 13 faculties were arranged or took place in 2020 (some in virtual format due to the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic). In addition, in the academic year 2019-2020, the Faculty of Economics and Business and the Faculty of Chemistry applied for certification of their internal quality assurance systems (IQAS), which are aligned with the standards established by AQU Catalunya. With this certification, the faculties will obtain institutional accreditation, which entails the accreditation of all their bachelor’s and university master’s degrees for a renewable period of five years. It is anticipated that other UB faculties will apply for certification of their IQAS over the course of 2021.

In the area of lifelong learning, the UB also offered 223 specialization courses and postgraduate programmes, 975 master’s programmes, 342 expert courses, and 86 advanced university courses, which were taken by 2,086, 5,455, 563 and 418 students, respectively. The high number of international students (29% of the total) underscores the strong degree of internationalization that continues to characterize postgraduate studies. The UB’s university extension programme offered 76 courses, with 928 students enrolled.

A total of one master’s programme, eight specialization diplomas, three expert courses and one university extension diploma were taught abroad.

Over the course of the academic year, several marketing campaigns were run to promote the UB’s course offering and increase the visibility and presence of its brand. Campaigns were carried out to attract students to university master’s degrees and publicize courses offered by the School of Modern Languages and the Hispanic Studies unit. The campaigns focused particularly on online channels and had a direct impact in terms of attracting students. Thanks to collaboration agreements signed with various media outlets, advertisements were placed in a variety of general and specialist educational media (written press, digital media, etc.) at no cost to the University, enabling the campaigns to reach a wide audience.

The UB has also continued to support the deployment of the UB Virtual Campus, which enables students to use a variety of services on their mobile devices.

The University of Barcelona strengthened its institutional welcome messages at the start of the academic year with an email addressed to incoming secondary school graduates and a face-to-face welcome action at the faculties consisting of a photocall in which students shared images of their start to the year with the hashtag #SocUB.
A university at the forefront of education

To encourage students to participate in university life, in November, the University launched a marketing campaign for the 14th UB Folder Design Contest. A total of 76 designs were submitted. The winning entry was Barcelona icònica, by Carla Ayza.

The situation caused by COVID-19 presented an opportunity to innovate and change course delivery modes. During the academic year, teaching was adapted to a mixed format and levels of student satisfaction were high. The spring and summer course offering included nine courses delivered by videconference. The UB, through the EIM, was the only Catalan university to offer a fully online accreditation test.

A total of 3,354 students and 57 teachers participated in the courses offered in six languages (English, French, German, Italian, Persian and Portuguese). Over the year, 17 language accreditation calls were held and 908 students registered for official examinations.

Students enrolled in courses at the EIM

With a tradition that dates back over 60 years, the Institute of Hispanic Studies provides courses in Spanish language and culture to visiting students. Over the course of the academic year, a 20-strong team taught courses in language, culture and specific practical skills (conversation, writing, pronunciation) leading to the award of diplomas and certifications. The Institute also offered intensive Spanish courses for students taking part in the Erasmus programme and through an agreement with the Polytechnic University of Catalonia.

In 2019-2020, all academic activity was disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic. As a result, both language and culture courses ended up being delivered by remote means via the UB Virtual Campus. Given that the Institute may face similar situations in 2020-2021, work was done on designing videocourse courses and on level tests that can be taken via the Virtual Campus, which were pilot-tested from May to July.

In conjunction with the Cervantes Institute, the Institute of Hispanic Studies also oversaw nine sittings of the official examination on Spanish constitutional and sociocultural knowledge (CCSE), which is required to obtain Spanish nationality, and six sittings of the official examination to obtain the Diploma in Spanish as a Foreign Language (DELE), for which it offers preparatory courses at levels B1, B2, C1 and C2. This year, a total of 1,582 students enrolled in Spanish language and culture courses, 822 students sat DELE examinations and 720 people took the CCSE exam.

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face-to-face and virtual – were held to improve the quality of writing in bachelor’s and master’s degree final projects. For the third year in a row, training towards certification of competence in Catalan legal language was offered by the Catalan Interuniversity Commission for Language Training and Certification (CIFALC). Fifteen students took part. Also, members of the UB community were for the first time offered the option of signing up to take the C1 or C2 test without taking a course (exam-only option), a possibility that has long been requested.

At the initiative of the Catalan Ministry of Education, the offering of courses aimed at improving the oral and written Catalan language skills of students enrolled in the bachelor’s degree in Teacher in Early Childhood Education and the bachelor’s degree in Teacher in Primary Education was maintained for the third consecutive year. Personalized advice and guidance was offered to students, and 45 workshops on written and oral Catalan were offered (27 face-to-face and 18 in virtual format).

To support language learning among UB staff, administrative and service staff were offered specific language courses and a variety of focused training units. Two specific courses were organized for teaching and research staff, and 74 staff members registered for language accreditation for access to civil servant and contract positions.

Under the Plan for Languages, UB students and staff were again able to use Rosetta Stone computer-aided language learning software, a self-access language-learning tool offered via the Virtual Campus. A total of 1,702 language learners made use of the offer. One notable action in 2019-2020 was an initiative to offer UB staff and their families free licenses to use this software during the lockdown period.

The UB’s self-access language centres promoted a variety of informal learning activities, such as peer conversation groups, with 565 participants in face-to-face groups and 91 in online groups during the lockdown period caused by the COVID-19 pandemic; online self-learning groups, with 113 students, and the Enjoy English activity, in which English is used in recreation and research contexts, which attracted 65 participants. The pandemic enhanced the appeal of these online activities.

With regard to language exchanges, 123 international students and 197 local students registered with the Language Exchange Service, which facilitated the matching of students for exchanges between Catalan speakers and speakers of German, English, French, Italian, Portuguese, Basque, Arabic, Chinese, Polish, Danish, Greek and Japanese. The formation of language pairs was halted following the closure of buildings due to the COVID-19 pandemic but later resumed through three virtual activities: a virtual meeting space for all students registered with the Language Exchange Service and two projects involving Catalan-language assistantships abroad (linked to the Ramon Llull Institute), which facilitated the formation of 12 exchange pairs between Catalan and English speakers and 26 between Catalan/Spanish and German speakers. These exchanges were with participants at the University of Sheffield in the UK and the Ruhr-University Bochum in Germany. Cultural welcome activities this year took on a new format through the CATClub, which, with 80 registered students, organized 14 weekly meetings up until the point when UB buildings were closed, after which gatherings could no longer be held. Finally, 26 information sessions for language welcome programmes were held at various UB facilities to coincide with the arrival of international students.

In 2019-2020, the Institute for Lifelong Learning (IL3) managed Els Juliols and Gaudir UB courses; however, due to COVID-19, Els Juliols and the third term of the Gaudir UB programme could not go ahead. In the case of the Gaudir UB programme, the courses drew a total of 2,553 students in the first two terms. Work was also done to plan upcoming editions of Gaudir UB and Els Juliols, including contingency planning for exceptional situations that may arise.

IL3 expanded its course catalogue with new programmes in health, marketing and culture, including an interdisciplinary master’s degree in Integrated Care for Chronic Conditions; and postgraduate courses in Psychology of Emergencies and Disasters, Pharmaceutical Care in Paediatrics, Business Data Analytics and Marketing Intelligence, and Professional Management in the Music Industry. From the Artist to the Audience. A course in Data Analysis for Cultural Management was also added. Of particular note is a specialization course in Prevention and Control of Infections of Residential and Social Health Care. COVID-19, which was designed during the pandemic months and will start in the academic year 2020-2021.
Information and orientation activities

The Student Support Service (SAE) has planned and coordinated several information and orientation activities to facilitate the transition to university for prospective students of varying backgrounds, and to provide new students with the tools they need to integrate and adapt to the university environment.

To publicize its course offering, the University of Barcelona, together with other Catalan universities, gave new impetus to the UNIferia virtual fair. Over 15,000 people visited the UB stand, where 92 information assistants provided an individual chat service organized by UB faculties. Via the same platform, and with the support of the Conference of Rectors of Spanish Universities (CRUE), the UB also participated in the second edition of a state-level virtual fair for bachelor’s degrees (drawing 20,000 visits) and the first state-level virtual fair for official master’s degrees (over 15,000 visits). As for face-to-face activities, the University participated in Aula de Madrid and 15 other information and university orientation fairs held in various cities.

Orientation and information on the transition from secondary education to university and on the range of courses offered is provided through targeted initiatives such as Apropa’t a la UB (“Come to the UB”) and La UB s’apropa (“The UB comes to you”). Through the Apropa’t a la UB programme, 11 talks were given to 603 secondary school students, and within the framework of La UB s’ap-

Student support

Student support programmes and actions in 2019-2020 were disrupted by the declaration of the state of alarm and the COVID-19 health crisis. Many of the activities that were to be held face-to-face ended up taking place in virtual format, and some had to be cancelled.

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Information on the various faculties, services and bachelor’s degrees on offer was also provided to 7,748 visiting secondary school students at UB Online Open Days. Information on the academic program of UB faculties was also provided through 17 on-site activities: workshops, laboratory practicals, geological excursions and talks.

The first edition of the UB-Santander Awards for Best Upper Secondary Research Projects was held in 2019-2020, with 16 categories (one for each faculty). Five hundred and eighty-six projects were submitted and 79 prizes were awarded. The University also collaborated in the promotion and management of various contests and prizes related to secondary school research projects that were organized or offered by UB faculties, such as the Crystallization at School Contest, organized by the Faculty of Earth Sciences, and the Xavier Domingo Prize, offered by the Faculty of Chemistry (for which five submissions were received).

This year saw the fifth edition of the Secondary and Upper-Secondary Debating League, coordinated by the Vives University Network. Twenty-four secondary schools registered to participate.

With regard to accommodation, a new version of the website was launched. The updated site provides information on various accommodation options, including UB residences, affiliated halls of residence, and several private residences with which the UB has agreements. In the area of accommodation, the UB once again collaborated with the Catalunya-La Pedrera Foundation’s Viure i Conviure accommodation programme (the UB is the public university with the highest number of students enrolled in the programme) and with Barcelona Centre Universitari.

The CRAI libraries provided the UB community with the resources needed to facilitate learning and research. The libraries lent out 463,582 documents (278,120 to bachelor’s students) and organized 862 courses, which drew a total of 11,324 participants, 9,102 of whom were students enrolled in regulated education programmes.
To encourage users to consult the catalogue, bibliographic collections and CRAI services, the CRAI library of the Mundet Campus organized an escape game called “Misters a Mundet” (Mystery at Mundet).

Over the year, the CRAI promoted virtual training by making a series of online courses (with tutoring) available to its users via the Virtual Campus, and the UB Digital Repository increased the number of self-learning documents available to 771.

The User Support Service (S@U) responded to 6,179 queries (1,095 of which were from students) and S@U-Docència handled another 4,066. In 92% of cases, responses were provided within 24 hours.

Fifteen campaigns to publicize events were carried out via traditional media, digital channels and social media. The latter tool played an important role in publicizing CRAI activities, collections, services and new items, boosting user participation, and identifying trends and possible needs.

Careers advice and employment

A number of university orientation programmes were offered, both on-site and in virtual format. A total of 8,881 students were advised on matters such as decision-making, career design and skills development. Most activities were framed within the sixth collaboration agreement between the Catalan Ministry of Economy and Knowledge and the Catalan universities to promote better labour market outcomes for young students and university graduates.

Actions aimed at students and new graduates were also carried out. These included skills training courses, which drew 1,339 participants: 384 in 20 face-to-face courses and 955 in 22 online courses.

The UB Job Club offers personalized advice, resources and activities to assist students and recent graduates in defining their career goals, building self-knowledge and designing a planning and professional project. A total of 1,131 students took part: 324 received advice (face-to-face or online), 220 attended one of 10 face-to-face thematic sessions held, and 587 took part in one of 20 face-to-face and 21 online workshops on how to put together a CV and prepare for a job interview.

The UB’s team of advisors carried out a total of 177 personal interviews with students and new graduates, providing advice on career prospects, options for continuing their education or changing their studies, and guidance for secondary school students on their choice of university degrees. Support was also given to students participating in integration programmes.

The Student Support Service (SAE) ran the seventh edition of its programme of personalized advice to students at the faculties of Education and Psychology, under the name El SAE s’apropa a Mundet [The SAE comes to Mundet Campus]. Sessions were held with 35 students. In addition, the second edition of El SAE s’apropa al Campus de l’Alimentació [The SAE comes to the Food and Nutrition Campus] was held on the Torribera Food and Nutrition Campus. Twenty-seven students took part.

One hundred and eighty-six orientation actions at UB faculties were also carried out. Specific needs were addressed through career guidance programmes delivered over bachelor’s degree courses and within the framework of business fairs. Participation of 6,372 students.

For the fifth year in a row, the UB has also played an active role in the working group on Guidelines and Tools for University Orientation, which is part of University Information and Orientation Services.

Through the Feina UB programme, the University collaborated in the organization of various fairs and business forums, including the Social and Entrepreneurship Forum and the Employment Forum of the Faculty of Economics and Business, the Business Fair of the Faculty of Law, and the Forum of Pharmaceutical-Health Companies of the Faculty of Pharmacy and Food Sciences.

In the academic year 2018-2019, 12,352 students completed 14,945 external academic placements at companies and institutions. Of these, 10,652 were curricular placements and 4,293 were extra-curricular. Development continued on the new GIPE application for the integrated management of placements.

“What has really made me feel proud of the UB has been to see how many students put forward their own ideas, offer their help to find solutions to the problems that have emerged and how they listen to each other and help each other to overcome difficulties.”

Genís Vives, student
In the field of employment promotion, students continued to benefit from the ONCE Foundation-CRUE Placement Grants programme, under which financial aid was awarded to five students with a certified degree of disability equal to or greater than 33%, and from the Catalan government’s Odysseus programme, which funded 11 UB students taking up work placements in companies based in rural areas. In addition, more than 100 students from Spanish and international schools and universities completed a placement at a UB centre.

With regard to participation in interuniversity working groups, the University of Barcelona continued to collaborate with various CRUE groups working on employability. The UB also coordinated a working group on job placement as part of a project aimed at creating a self-assessment framework for Spanish universities (under the auspices of the National Agency for Quality Assessment and Accreditation of Spain, ANECA) in order to improve actions related to employability. At the European level, the University is also an active member of the Coimbra Group’s Employability Working Group.

Support for diversity

The Integration Programmes Unit supports students with specific educational needs and carries out a variety of actions to make the UB an increasingly inclusive university. It has given support to 798 students with disabilities enrolled in a course of study at the UB and to 245 students who, despite not having a certified disability, qualify for the UB’s programmes.

Over the academic year, the University undertook 2,105 advisory actions and/or interventions (1,305 with students, 696 with teaching and research or administrative staff, and 204 externally) and has designed or revised 157 personalized study plans.

With respect to material aid, the UB loaned support devices to 44 students and provided libraries with 22 licenses for software designed to improve reading and writing.

In the area of personal support, it has coordinated the collaboration of 21 support students, offered 837 hours of sign language interpreting to three students with hearing impairments, and renewed its financial support programme for students with reduced mobility requiring physical assistance.

One highlight of the year was the first edition of the Meetup workshops. Aimed at students with autism spectrum disorder, the activity involves regular meetings under the guidance of members of the UB and the Asperger Association of Catalonia. Eighteen students from 13 different courses took part.

Steps were also taken to enhance the employability of students with disabilities by collaborating with the placement services of various entities and managing work placement grants provided by the ONCE-CRUE Foundation (in collaboration with Feina UB).

Apart from direct actions aimed at students with special educational needs, the University continued working to improve inclusion of this group by providing training to members of the UB community. Such activities included a workshop aimed at providing teaching staff with guidance on disabilities and developmental disorders (offered in collaboration with the Faculty of Economics and Business) and the publication of a document on remote teaching and students with special educational needs. The UB also participated in initiatives undertaken in association with other entities, such as the 5th Universities and Disability Study (carried out by the ONCE Foundation) and working groups on diversity set up by interuniversity networks (Universities and Disability in Catalonia, and Support Services for People with Disabilities at Universities).

Grants and financial aid

Over the past academic year, 19,375 applications were received for general grants for bachelor’s degrees and university master’s degrees. A total of 11,369 grants were awarded with a combined value of 26,963,816 euros.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Number of Grants</th>
<th>Total Value (euros)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exemption from tuition fees</td>
<td>30,594,103</td>
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<tr>
<td>Minimum variable amount</td>
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<td>1,841,250</td>
<td>1,841,250</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fixed amount (income-based)</td>
<td>4,225,600</td>
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<td>Variable amount</td>
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<tr>
<td>Excellence grant</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
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<th>Category</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Study grants for extraordinary circumstances</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grants for repeat subject enrolment</td>
<td>147</td>
<td>147</td>
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<tr>
<td>University master’s degree grants</td>
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<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foreign-language study grants</td>
<td>105</td>
<td>105</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>336</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Additionally, 16,081 applications for means-tested equity grants were received and 10,484 grants were awarded. These grants subsidise between 10% and 80% of students’ enrolment fees, across six means-based categories.

The Becas Santander Equality programme, promoted by the Santander Group, is aimed at women enrolled in the first year of a bachelor’s degree who have a strong academic record and have been awarded a general grant for the academic year 2019-2020. The grant is for 5,000 euros in the first two years. A minimum of two grants and a maximum of 20 are awarded among all the universities that are members of CRUE. At the UB, 58 applications were processed, but in the draw no UB students were awarded a grant.

In the Becas Santander Progreso programme, which provides and promotes grants for bachelor’s and master’s degree students, 707 applications were processed and 31 grants were awarded, each for 1,000 euros.

This year, to guarantee equal opportunities to all students in the second semester of the academic year (due to suspension of face-to-face teaching in response to the COVID-19 health crisis), the University of Barcelona has launched its own programme, Connecta UB. Three extraordinary calls have been organised, which received 411 applications. Of these, 317 were accepted in one of the three modes: temporary provision of a laptop; provision of an internet connection; provision of both a laptop and internet connection.

To ensure that financial difficulties are not an obstacle to study, the University has established the bkUB programme. In the framework of this programme, over 13,000 bachelor’s degree students have taken advantage of flexible payment options. A total of 1336 grants were awarded.

In addition, a new grant programme, Máster+ UB, has been created to attract talent and encourage scientific careers among research groups. In total, 38 grants were awarded with a total value of 145,118 euros.

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Teaching innovation, assessment and improvement

The Research, Innovation and Improvement of Teaching and Learning (RIMDA) programme contributes to achieving the quality teaching that is one of the University of Barcelona’s priority objectives. With 52,000 euros allocated to fund the programme, it supports continuous improvement in teaching by fostering teaching innovation and stimulating activities that allow teaching staff to share their experiences. During the past academic year, 22 new teaching innovation proposals were submitted, of which 19 received approval and 10 received direct funding. All of the proposals have had access to financial assistance to publicize their results and have received support for the creation of learning materials. In total, there are 101 active teaching innovation projects, in which 991 members of the UB have been engaged (including PDI, PAS and support staff).

In the area of institutional projects for the promotion of teaching quality, in addition to the needs and concerns detected by the teaching staff of the Faculty of Economics and Business, the Faculty of Chemistry and the Faculty of Medicine of the Clinic August Pi i Sunyer Campus, several specific lines of teaching innovation were established: Flipped Classroom (Just-In-Time Teaching and Team-Based Learning), Gamification, Problem-Based Learning, Project-Based Learning, Case Studies, Business Simulators, Skills-Based Assessment, e-Portfolio, Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE), Formative Simulation, Role Play and Mini. CEX.

Accreditation was renewed for all of the UB’s recognized teaching innovation groups and maintained by the 79 consolidated groups and the 24 groups not yet designated as consolidated. Specific financial assistance and support staff were again allocated to the consolidated groups with the highest scores, while funds also continued to be made available for the dissemination of innovation actions by all groups. In total, 1,468 members of the university community (PDI, PAS and support staff) were engaged in the various activities of recognized teaching innovation groups.

In the sixth annual awards, the Board of Trustees granted recognition of the Distinction in Teaching Quality in the group category, to the Teaching Innovation Group in Audiovisual Communication, led by Marina Romeo Delgado, and to the RIMDA teaching quality project at the Faculty of Economics and Business, coordinated by Alexandra Stoyanova, in the individual category, to lecturer Patricia Garcia-Duran Huef, from the Department of Economic History, Institutions and Policy and World Economy of the Faculty of Economics and Business, and the professor of physical geography, Javier Martín Vide. The UB reaffirmed its commitment to massive open online courses (MOOC) through the Coursera platform. In total, the University offered 12 courses to over 60,000 students, with some 1,200 certificates awarded.

Over the past academic year, the seventeenth assessment of teaching activity has been carried out, which was affected by the suspension of administrative deadlines due to COVID-19. In total, 80.8% of eligible teaching staff participated and 96.2% of participants received positive evaluations. Participating teachers managed the process via a specific teacher assessment app (ADP) accessible through their Carpeta Docent (“Teacher’s Folder”). As in previous editions, a satisfaction survey on the assessment process was carried out once it had been completed.

In addition, the procedure to renew the accreditation of assessment handbooks has begun. In the first phase determined by the Catalan University Quality Assurance Agency (AQU), a self-report was prepared to assess the application of the current handbook over the last five years. This report was approved by the Governing Council.

Students are encouraged to take part in opinion surveys from their first day on campus right up to graduation. In the past year, surveys of incoming students achieved a participation rate of 35.8% among bachelor’s degree students and 33.6% among university master’s degree students of these, 83% and 67%, respectively, stated that they would not prefer to be studying at another Catalan university. In surveys on bachelor’s and university master’s degree subjects and teaching staff, actions were continued to encourage student participation. In the second semester, some questions were added to gather opinions on the face-to-face teaching required because of COVID-19. Over the two semesters, the participation rates were 26.7% for bachelor’s degrees and 33.5% for university master’s degrees 216,115 responses were submitted online, and 16,969 reports were written. The average score for the statement “In general, I am satisfied with the teaching activity carried out by the lecturer in this subject” was 7.28 among bachelor’s degree students and 7.93 among university master’s degree students.

Satisfaction and opinion surveys

• New bachelor’s degree students
• New university master’s degree students
• Student satisfaction with bachelor’s and master’s degrees
• Student satisfaction with services and facilities
• Graduates
• Master’s degree graduates
• Doctoral graduates
• Students at the School of Modern Languages
• Gaudir UB students
• University of Experience students
• Postgraduate students
• Teaching staff satisfaction with the teaching assessment process
• Teaching staff satisfaction with bachelor’s and master’s degrees
Students also responded to a survey on UB services and facilities. The participation rate was 31.9% and an average overall score of 7.10 out of 10 was given. In this edition, a specific section was included on the management of the COVID-19 health crisis. The general satisfaction rating was 8.46 out of 10 for how the UB has dealt with the COVID-19 crisis. By areas, communication and information in the UB community was rated 6.02, actions focused on students 6.14, and online teaching 6.35. The opportunity to submit feedback about teaching staff. Similarly, to compile the material required for the accreditation of bachelor’s degree and university master’s degree studies, surveys were also completed by the teaching staff delivering the instruction for each programme.

The Institute for Professional Development (ICE), founded in 1969 as the Institute of Education Scientists, is responsible for a number of tasks that include analysing the training needs of teaching staff and designing proposals for action, promoting and fostering educational innovation, providing guidance and advice on research, disseminating best practices, and developing training materials for a range of media. In total, 331 educators participated in training activities organized by the ICE and 8,545 students enrolled (67.89% women).

The Learning and Research Resources Centre (CRAI) comprises 16 libraries, the Centre for Research on Plant Biodiversity, the Digitization Centre, the Restoration Workshop, the Cervera Warehouse and seven cross-university units that collaborate in learning and knowledge creation and facilitate access to and knowledge of a variety of information resources. After successfully becoming the first Catalan university library to obtain the EFQM 500+ European Seal of Excellence in March 2018, which was valid in 2019. This commitment to quality has been included in the new strategic plan ITER 2022, which continues with the areas of action of the previous plan and is aligned with the UB 2030 strategic plan. It includes management of processes through a scorecard based on indicators. In addition, the CRAI has collaborated with 116 institutions in the professional environment, such as the Official Catalan Association of Librarians and Documentalists (COBDC), the League of European Research Universities (LERU) and SPARC Europe.

In the area of teaching, a change in the UB Virtual Campus portal has been coordinated to create one window with information on all the projects associated with the Virtual Campus. New content has been incorporated, such as a Frequently asked questions (FAQs) section, which includes links to updated handbooks, guides and video tutorials on the new teaching platform based on Open LMS, as well as news and updates relating to the platform. Google Analytics has shown a significant increase in use of the Virtual Campus this year, with a higher number of visits and greater loyalty of users.

Throughout 2019, there was a considerable increase in the number of documents hosted in the teaching material collections RIDOC (information resources for teaching), OMADO (UB teaching objects and materials), INNOVADOC (teaching innovation) and Educational Technology.
A university at the vanguard of research

Promotion, funding and internationalization of research
Research and scientific output
Technology and knowledge transfer and innovation
Doctoral studies
Dissemination of scientific culture
A University in the vanguard of research

Promotion, funding and internationalization of research

The UB’s main research asset is its teaching and research staff, which is why, at a time of generational turnover, the UB seeks to incorporate the best possible talent, both from the University itself and beyond. The participation of UB teaching and research staff in research projects has undergone moderate growth since 2017. Alongside internal programmes to promote staff and stabilize its workforce, the UB continues to announce competition selection processes for new staff and, within the framework of the UB-100 Strategy, creates strategic positions to enable internal promotion in key areas. Over the past few years, the University has been facilitating the incorporation of teaching and research staff — especially Ramón y Cajal and ICREA researchers — from other institutions, both universities and research centres. This has allowed the University to offer more Ramón y Cajal places within the percentage allocated to researchers with I+D certification.

The University was responsible for 25 submissions in response to the call for proposals for the Ramón y Cajal programme in 2019 and, with the aim of making the programme more attractive, doubled its financial contribution and continued to link researchers to tenure-track lecturer positions. Thus, this year 19 researchers have joined the programme out of the 21 who had been selected in the previous call.

Through the ICREA Foundation, the University also hired one new lecturer, bringing the total number of researchers funded through the ICREA excellence programme to more than 40. Additionally, the University strives to ensure that other types of contract staff, such as researchers hired under projects managed by the Bosch i Gimpera Foundation or the European Research Council, are fully integrated into its departments.

Considerable progress was made in the implementation of the European requirements derived from the Horizon 2020 re-search programme with total funding of more than 12.5 million euros. Notably, the University received two Consolidator Grants with a total value of nearly 4 million euros. The University was also involved in Marie Curie actions, with five individual and eight network projects accepted. Some of the University’s more noteworthy collaborative projects include the Excellence in Research award, inspired by the European Charter for Researchers, and the creation of the Action Plan for the period 2017-2020 to implement good practices in the Human Resources Strategy for Research (HRS4R) continued to progress. One of the developments worth mentioning are the working sessions in which approximately 20 researchers came together to more closely examine certain aspects identified for improvement in the HRS4R survey conducted in the last quarter of 2018. The results of those sessions and of the survey will form the bases for the actions included in the 2017-2020 Plan. In addition, the HRS4R working group developed the proposed Open, Transparent and Merit-based Human Resources Recruitment Policy (OTM-R), and participated in all orientation sessions for pre-doctoral trainee researchers.

With regard to national calls for research funding, several proposals were submitted over the course of the year to the Spanish Ministry of Science, Universities and Innovation. The results of the 2018 calls for proposals (adjudicated in 2019) of the National Programme for Fostering Excellence in Scientific and Technical Research (National Sub-programme for the Knowledge Generation in the Knowledge Generation R&D&I Projects category) and the National Programme for Research Aimed at the Challenges of Society (in the Research Challenges category) were similar to those of previous years, with total funding of 13.5 million euros and a success rate of 56%. The number of projects presented by the UB has moderately increased in the past few years.

The 2018 TV3 and Catalunya Ràdio Marató charity drive for cancer research funded 14 projects involving members of the University. The UB also received other external funding for research, in particular thanks to the success of its researchers in applications to the ICREA Acadèmia programme. The research careers of nine researchers from the University of Barcelona received recognition in the 2019 call, resulting in the award of five-year research grants.

Over the course of 2019, the University of Barcelona obtained 33 projects from the Horizon 2020 research programme with total funding of more than 12.5 million euros. Notably, the University received two Consolidator Grants with a total value of nearly 4 million euros. The University was also involved in Marie Curie actions, with five individual and eight network projects accepted. Some of the University’s more noteworthy collaborative projects include the

“Our group was the first to monitor the presence of SARS-CoV-2 genomes in wastewater in Barcelona; we were able to confirm the impact of lockdown on the number of infections and to anticipate the July outbreak a month before cases began to rise.”

Rosa Maria Pintó, researcher
six projects obtained in the area of health, two of them led by the UB, for an amount of more than 2.7 million euros, as well as the three projects in future and emerging technologies, which are conducting high-stakes research into the development of breakthrough technologies. Lastly, UB researchers remained involved in three projects in the area of social sciences and humanities, one coordinated by the UB.

The Science and Technology Centres of the University of Barcelona (CCiTUB) continue to maintain their status as nationally and internationally renowned centres for research, innovation and knowledge transfer. The CCiTUB Commission delegated by the Governing Council was founded this year. It is chaired by the Vice-Rector for Research and is made up of several members of UB teaching and research staff, societal stakeholders, students and the director of the CCiTUB. It will consider CCiTUB user perspectives in the process of defining strategies and priorities for this structure.

In the area of research infrastructures, the Office of the Vice-Rector for Research adjudicated an internal call for proposals, co-funded by the University with a contribution of 500,000 euros, which has enabled the acquisition of equipment worth approximately 1.2 million euros, with additional contributions from research groups, centres and institutes.

Additionally, the University has continued to allocate additional funding to the Research Contract Programme for UB faculties and research institutes, which was launched with the target of increasing funding by 25% by 2020. Once again, this programme contract has enabled financial support to be awarded to UB documentation centres, research centres and observatories, with an increase of 4.2% over the previous year.

In 2019, the creation of a new UB observatory, the International Observatory on Hospital Pedagogy, was approved, and the process of external evaluation of three research institutes (the Geomodels Research Institute, the Institute for Nutrition and Food Safety and the Institute for Research on Biodiversity) was set in motion. These centres presented reports on their results of the last five years and a plan of action for the next three or four years. In all three cases, the outcome of the evaluation, which will have an impact on the distribution of the amount of the annual programme contract, was very satisfactory.

The University also received nearly 803,500 euros in European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) funding under a call for equipment and infrastructure funding closed by the Spanish Ministry of Science, Innovation and Universities (MICIU) in 2019. Under the terms of the allocation, the UB is required to provide the same amount from its own funds.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Horizon 2020</th>
<th>Projects</th>
<th>Amount (millions of euros)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total projects</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>12.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consolidator grants</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3.64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marie Curie actions (individual projects)</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marie Curie actions (network projects)</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>1.86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Collaborative projects:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Future and emerging technologies (FET)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research infrastructures (2 led by the UB)</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Space</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>2.73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health safety, sustainable agriculture, marine and maritime research and bioeconomics</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social sciences and humanities (1 led by the UB)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1.08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sciences with and for society (SWAFS) (1 led by the UB)</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0.48</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A plan for renewing and purchasing equipment for the CCiTUB was also drafted, involving an expenditure – to be spread over three years – of 2.6 million euros for the UB and the Fundació Bosch i Gimpera, with additional ERDF co-funding of approximately 2.4 million euros, which will come from both the aforementioned Ministry call and the Generalitat’s call for proposals for shared equipment.

In addition, two of the UB’s own research institutes (the Institute of Neurosciences and the Institute of Theoretical and Computational Chemistry) were awarded the María de Maeztu certificate of excellence. The award recognizes organizational structures with highly competitive research programmes that rank among the best in the world in their areas of scientific specialization. The distinction entails additional funding to implement their strategic research plans and for training, attracting and recruiting talented staff. It should be noted that the UB Institute of Neurosciences is the María de Maeztu Unit of Excellence that obtained the A festival of mathematics and computer science is held online today. The University of Barcelona prepares educational workshops led by its students [...], various talks and a virtual exhibition.
most La Caixa INPhINIT incoming PhD fellowships in Spain in the 2019 call for applications.

Advances have also been made in research involving animal experimentation. The technical and administrative structure of the Animal Experimentation Ethics Committee was strengthened, the new website was launched and all the commitments of the Transparency Agreement signed by the UB have been met. In addition, the committee's organization and operational guidelines have been updated to bring them in line with new formal requirements.

At the same time, in the third quarter of 2019, the final proposal for the UB's Code of Conduct for Research Integrity was presented, based on the UB's Code of Ethics on Integrity and Best Practices (approved in the previous year), which represents a significant update and expansion of the 2010 Code of Good Research Practices. Once the Research Committee approves this new code, the relevant procedures will be followed until it is definitively approved.

In order to contribute to better publicizing and disseminating the UB's research output, the Office of the Vice-Rectors for Research has produced a new edition of the UB's Research Data Management Policy was approved and the UB's Open Access Policy (consisting of important guidelines for the management of research and the dissemination of research results) was updated.

The UB is again the only Spanish member of the League of European Research Universities (LERU), an association of leading research-intensive universities from 12 European nations. In 2019, 27 UB representatives participated in the different expert groups that make up the LERU, attended 38 working meetings and collaborated in the preparation of six analytical publications and position papers, including Advanced Therapy Medicinal Products (co-authored by the UB), Universities and the future of Europe (in which the Rector of the UB was one of seven rectors chosen to participate in a specific interview) and Equality, diversity and inclusion at universities: the power of a systemic approach (with a significant contribution of data from the UB). The University also participated in the 2019 LERU Doctoral Summer School, entitled “Building the Road Ahead”, and in July, organized by the Leiden University Medical Centre and entitled “Immune modulation in human and animal infections: impact on health, disease and therapy”. Six UB researchers participated in these activities. In addition, all members of the network worked on the design and drafting of a joint project to be submitted to the next call of the Erasmus+ programme (Strategic Partnerships), aimed at students and young researchers from all member universities.

In 2019, work continued on the SIRA project, which will become the UB's future Research Information System. It will include new applications based on those currently included in GRIE, Curricular, the Research Projects Manager and the Research Opportunities Management System, and will allow the service to be comprehensively managed within a flexible, modular framework for users (managers, researchers and research groups).

In 2019, the Europlife network celebrated its 20th anniversary. The primary mission of this consortium of nine European institutions is to promote research and teaching in the field of medicine and bio-medicine. One of the more noteworthy initiatives developed was the call for mobility grants for undergraduate and master's degree students and for post-doctoral researchers between the universities of the network, as well as the organization of the Europlife Lecture Series, in which researchers from the network participate and which primarily targets a student audience. In addition, two editions of the Europlife Summer School were held in 2019: one in June, organized by Trinity College Dublin and entitled “Biology of Brain Disorders (BBD) 2019: Frontiers in Innovation”, and one in July, organized by the Leiden University Medical Centre and entitled “Immune modulation in human and animal infections: impact on health, disease and therapy”. Six UB researchers participated in these activities. In addition, all members of the network worked on the design and drafting of a joint project to be submitted to the next call of the Erasmus+ programme (Strategic Partnerships), aimed at students and young researchers from all member universities.

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The **competitive research funding** secured by the 16 UB faculties and 17 UB research institutes amounted to 59,726,136 euros, including national and European projects and grants, for a total of 628 research activities.

The UB signed 33 European projects as part of the 2020 Horizon Framework Programme of the **European Commission** for a total of 12,513,645.86 euros. The European Institute of Innovation and Technology has funded 27 projects for a total of 1,061,461.25 euros. The combined value of the UB’s other European projects was 3,032,558.56 euros.

Regarding **research structures** for the promotion and coordination of research, in 2019 the University operated 15 UB research institutes, two university institutes, five research centres, 11 observatories and three documentation centres. In addition, the UB is a participant with other institutions in ten joint research institutes, two joint observatories and five inter-university institutes.

Under the 2018 call for funding applications of the **National Agreement on Research and Innovation**, results of which were published in 2019, the map of **research groups** at the UB is made up of 249 consolidated research groups, ten pre-consolidated research groups and nine emerging groups. Additionally, 15 inter-institutional groups managed by the UB were recognized, and the University participates in another 12 recognized groups managed by other institutions.

According to data recorded in the Clarivate Analytics Web of Science (WoS) portal, the total **scientific output** of UB researchers was 6,305 scientific publi...
RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER

€144,634,108

secured for research and technology transfer
in competitive and non-competitive calls

Scientific publications indexed in the Clarivate Analytics Web of Science (WoS) portal

6,305

SCIENTIFIC OUTPUT

Type Amount (€)
Projects 37,058,282
Complementary actions 146,300
Grants for human resources 16,518,765
Other grants 5,151,485
FBG and other research contracts 10,944,356
Research agreements 1,056,099
Infrastructure projects 851,304
External CCiTUB services 2,920,550
Funding secured by UB researchers at institutions with UB participation* 69,986,969

Total 144,634,108

*This includes income generated by UB researchers in competitive and non-competitive research activities at CSIC, EMBL, UCL, UCLL, UNC, ICN, CRG, ICSB, Generalitat 102, CREATEN, CEIT and ICBF.

Research funding awarded and technology and knowledge transfer

The CRAI Research Unit works with the faculty libraries to validate the articles produced by UB researchers and publishes them in open-access format copies in the Digital Repository of the UB. Over the course of 2019, 27,343 documents were added to the research collection. These were mainly research papers but also included working papers, conference papers and book chapters. In addition, the CRAI Research Unit manages grants to support publishing in open-access journals, resulting in the publication of 53 papers in the past year.

The Research Unit contributes to the LERU Information & Open-Access Policy Group. During 2019, this group continued its focus on open science through the implementation of its roadmap and by turning its attention to Horizon Europe framework programme through work on the Plan S.

The CRAI participated in the initiative of the Network of Spanish University Libraries (REBIUN) to analyse the state of open access to Spanish universities, which is based on the methodology of the Open Access Observatory of Catalan universities.

Along the same lines, the CRAI Projects Unit manages the UB’s scientific journals portal, which hosts 86 UB journals (an increase of 42 from last year) and provides links to any other publications solely or jointly published by the University.

The Barcelona Science Park (PCB) promotes innovation and knowledge transfer by focusing on the relationship between the University, public research organizations and businesses. In 2019, the PCB served a total of 114 organizations. Of these, 86 were companies, six were research centres and 14 were not-for-profit organizations and eight were UB groups, units and services. Together, these organizations accounted for a total of 2,900 users.

The PCB has a total built area of 101,486 sq m and usable space of 59,687 sq m for clients and services. The total leased over the last year was 25,712 sq m, of which 16,848 sq m were laboratory facilities and 8,864 sq m offices.

Within the scope of the high added-value scientific and technological services they offer, and through technological platforms, about a thousand users have accessed the PCB’s Common Scientific Services. A variety of activities for the PCB community were held over the year, including 23 networking events, several conferences and social events. In total, 1,900 people took part.

In the area of communication, the PCB produced 1,073 impacts in the general and specialized press and on websites in related sectors. It also generated 148 online news items about organizations in the
In the area of research dissemination, the 4th Festival of Nanoscience and Nanotechnology took place in April 2019, with CosmoCaixa serving as the main venue. In addition, in the framework of the 2018 National Research Awards, which took place at the end of 2019, the National Award for Scientific Communication went to NanoEduca, a programme developed by the CCiTUB together with the Catalan Institute of Nanoscience and Nanotechnology, the Centre for Specific Pedagogical Resources to Support Educational Innovation and Research of the Department of Education and the Autonomous University of Barcelona. The programme aims to familiarize secondary school teachers with the tools, language and processes of nanoscience and nanotechnology, and to create learning modules and workshops applicable in the classroom.

In the area of social engagement, this year the CCiTUB established an Equality and Social Action Committee and published guidelines on the Transparency Portal.

The Bioethics Committee continued to assess research projects and doctoral theses submitted by UB researchers and doctoral students for the purpose of issuing the necessary ethical approval. The Commit-
The mission of the Bosch i Gimpera Foundation (FBG) is to transfer the results of research conducted by UB researchers and to contribute through innovation to economic and social progress. The FBG is responsible for facilitating collaboration between the public and private sectors in order to increase the UB's impact on society, while giving support to researchers, businesspeople and investors at various levels.

In 2019, various companies and institutions contracted research, transfer and other services from the UB. In total, the FBG managed 826 research projects with a total value of 33.85 million euros and contracted 803 in a variety of roles. Through the Health and Safety Service, workplaces were assessed at 31 different companies.

In the area of business creation and support for entrepreneurs, in 2019, two spin-offs were created (NeurekaLab and Qilimanjaro Quantum Tech) and advice was provided for the development of 20 projects. At year-end 2019, the UB had 27 active spin-offs. In addition, Virtual Bodyworks and Enlighting Technologies, with the support of the FBG, have secured 1.1 million euros in private funding; Impetux Optics and Virtual Bodyworks were awarded an SME Instrument programme phase 1 grant of 50,000 euros; ColorSensing, Bluephage and Enlighting Technologies were awarded grants of 250,000 each from the NEOTEC programme, and ColorSensing received a grant from the EIT Health Headstart programme. Of particular note is Smalle Technologies, which won first prize in the SmartCatalonia Challenge, awarded by the Port of Barcelona.

The FBG also monitors spin-offs in which the University of Barcelona has a stake through the company Cultura Innovadora i Científica (CIC-UB), and actively participates in StartUB, which it co-founded with the UB.

In 2019, the fourth edition of the Fund to Foster Innovation (F2I) programme was held, offering grants to 55 invention proposals, which were evaluated by the Bosch i Gimpera Foundation. In addition, four software products were registered and ten joint ownership contracts were negotiated and signed with institutions involved in the development of the technology.

In the area of protection, valorization and patent licensing, 12 license agreements were signed. Over the year, income from new and existing license agreements amounted to 216,046 euros. Of 113 patents applications submitted, 12 were priority, 12 were international extensions and 89 entered the national phase in other countries. The leading sector was biotechnology and health sciences, which accounts for 44% of patent applications. Researchers submitted a total of 106 grants were obtained with a combined value of 19.42 million euros: 61 from public and private institutions (3.09 million euros) and 45 for research projects funded by the European Commission (16.33 million euros). Of the European Commission grants, 32 were from the Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development (13.38 million euros) and 13 were received from other directorates-general (2.95 million euros).

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A University in the vanguard of research...
with a combined value of 130,000 euros in two categories: Valorization Funds (FVal), with a total allocation of 100,000 euros for proof-of-concept grants, and the Mentor in Residence (MiR) programme, with 30,000 euros to support spin-off creation by appointing mentors to strengthen existing teams of entrepreneurs. Since the start of the project, the UB has granted 300,000 euros to 12 projects in the FVal category and 66,000 euros to 11 projects in the MiR category. During this time, this aid has contributed to the development of four spin-off companies, the licensing of three technologies, the creation of 19 jobs and the procurement of more than 2.8 million euros in funding.

In addition, the FBG hosted the fifth edition of Science + Partners, a meeting that brings together UB research staff with specialists from the business world and investors, and which focused on deep tech, highly sophisticated and high-impact technologies generally prioritizing major social and environmental challenges.

In the framework of the Social Innovation Laboratory, in 2019 work began on developing an image and a website, and the first edition of the Catalogue of Pre-Clinical Models in Biomedical Research was created, which will be regularly updated to expand the range of models available.

Several activities were organized with a view to fostering university-company partnerships and galvanizing the innovation environment, such as a seminar at which GlaxoSmithKline presented the Discovery Partnership with Academia programme, and an information session on The Collider innovation programme, promoted by Mobile World Capital Barcelona. In conjunction with the Office of the Vice-Rectors for Entrepreneurship, Innovation and Transfer, the conference “Knowledge transfer at the UB: From research to society” was held to promote and stimulate the transfer of knowledge among UB research staff.

In addition, more than fifty organizations and a hundred researchers from Catalan universities took part in the Open Innovation Forum in a concerted effort to find solutions to innovation challenges. As part of the fourth edition of Beauty Innovation Day, students of the Professional Design Project Laboratory, a subject in the UB’s bachelor’s degree in Design programme, presented a sustainable packaging line for the cosmetics of the future to a variety of companies.

The FBG maintained contact with ten clusters in Catalonia for the incorporation of UB research groups and the definition of new collaborative projects. It also continued efforts to promote the capabilities of TECNIO-UB centres at various fairs and through bilateral meetings with companies.

Moreover, in 2019 a catalogue of services was designed to publicize what the FBG has to offer companies and institutions as the organizing office for the transfer of UB research results.

The FBG manages six research networks for the Government of Catalonia, and during 2019 it submitted five proposals as the coordinating entity in response to the call for grant proposals for R&D&I networks and to implement programmes for the valorization and transfer of research results, which may be partially co-funded by the ERDF.

The year 2019 saw the 12th edition of the Board of Trustees Awards, granted jointly with the FBG. The Antoni Caparrós Award for the best knowledge transfer project went to Antonio Andrés Pueyo for the development of a preventive programme to evaluate and manage violent and criminal behaviour, and to Irene García Cano for 25 years of collaboration in the transformation of a precision mechanical workshop.

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into a benchmark in the field of new materials. The Senén Vilaró Award for the best innovative company went to Nostrum Biodiscovery, a spin-off that originated at the University of Barcelona, the Institute of Biomedical Research and the Barcelona Supercomputing Center.

In the area of dissemination and publicity, work continued on the project to interview researchers from the University of Barcelona for the purpose of improving the visibility and publication of their projects, publicity was generated on social networks and 68 news items were written and published in the media.

### Grants for predoctoral trainee researchers, by source of grant

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Grant</th>
<th>Number of contracts</th>
<th>Financial support for stays</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>University teaching staff training grants (FPU) (MECD)</td>
<td>124</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research staff training grants (FPI) (MECD)</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research staff training grants (FI) (GC)</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trainee research staff grants (PREDOCS) (UB)</td>
<td>138</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teaching and research grants (ADR) (UB)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants for Marie Skłodowska–Curie Actions</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants through La Caixa contracts</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project-specific, other calls or no grant</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>575</strong></td>
<td><strong>65</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Active at 31 December 2019.
# 13 INDUSTRIAL DOCTORATES

### Doctoral studies

Over the course of the academic year, the UB offered 48 doctoral programmes linked to the areas of experimental sciences and engineering, health sciences, social sciences, the arts and humanities, and education. The high level of cross-disciplinarity in the programmes, however, means that many were linked to more than one area. Thirteen of the programmes were run jointly with other Spanish universities, and two were Erasmus Mundus programmes. All doctoral programmes are currently available in English. A total of 4,582 trainee researchers (33% of whom were international students).

A total of 630 doctoral theses were defended, 127 of which received the international doctorate certification. In addition, the Governing Council awarded 46 extraordinary doctoral prizes and signed 23 joint supervision agreements for doctoral theses.

The APF programme which provides grants for predoctoral trainee researchers underwent a name change, and is now called PREDOCS-UB. The purpose of these calls is to regulate the procedure for the renewal of these grants, with the aim of promoting research in UB departments and research institutes and training qualified pre-doctoral staff in university research and teaching. This University of Barcelona programme joins other public predoctoral grant opportunities for the purpose of strengthening and increasing the prevalence of predoctoral staff at the UB. Calls for applications for a total of 45 grants have been held and one mobility grant has now been added, for a total amount of 2,949,317 euros over the period from 2020 to 2023.

### Doctoral School

During the course of this academic year, several doctoral processes were made available electronically, such as requests for research plan acceptance and follow-up reports. Given the situation arising from COVID-19, the UB Governing Council approved the procedure for the remote submission and defence of doctoral theses, and 97 theses had already been defended using this system as of July 2020.

The University increased the number of Training Capsules offered. These are cross-disciplinary training activities aimed at all trainee researchers enrolled in UB doctoral programmes. This year, due to the closure of the UB caused by the pandemic, the University began offering the capsules online. Other successful distance learning experiences include the webinar “COVID-19 and its effect on doctoral studies: online tutorials, training and thesis readings”, aimed at doctoral supervisors, thesis supervisors, teaching staff and doctoral students, with the goal of providing a space for reflection and resources for tutorials, training activities and the remote defence of theses.
Within the Industrial Doctorates Plan, in the 2019 call for proposals the University of Barcelona finalized 13 projects with several different companies, which have culminated in 13 collaboration agreements, all in the form of co-funding, and one agreement in collaboration with the Spanish National Research Council (CSIC).

Meanwhile, the 11th edition of the LERU Doctoral Summer School, entitled “Reasserting the Value of the Expert”, which would have taken place at Trinity College Dublin and in which the Doctoral School would have participated, was postponed until the summer of 2021 due to the situation associated with the health crisis caused by COVID-19.

During the academic year, the fifth call for grants was opened for UB doctoral students to carry out training periods in Spain and abroad, with funding from the Montcelimar Foundation and the University of Barcelona. However, due to the suspension of deadlines caused by the state of alarm, the call has not yet been adjudicated.

Over the course of the academic year, four student mobility exchanges took place within the framework of the Erasmus+ study grants: the UB welcomed two doctoral students from the Brandenburg University of Technology in Cottbus-Senftenberg and sent one doctoral student to that university and another to the University of Lisbon. Agreements have been reached with 30 universities for the 2020-2021 academic year.

During the health crisis caused by COVID-19, the Scientific Culture and Innovation Unit reinforced its online actions, began rethinking and reformulating many of its activities and continued on the course set with the celebration of the Science Festival.

The Camins infinis project connects schoolchildren and young researchers with the aim of stimulating wider interest in science and knowledge and to improve the communication skills of the participating doctoral students. At present, 20 researchers representing 11 faculties take part. Over the past academic year, they visited 16 primary and secondary schools, meeting more than 650 students.

The Toc-toc project features a series of talks by UB researchers. The aim is to encourage communication between the UB and various social actors who have an interest in the research being carried out at the UB. The project currently has 18 participants from nine faculties and one from the CCiTUB. Over the course of

In addition to the strategy of posting daily tweets in the days leading up to and following important events, this year a new strategy of weekly tweets was introduced that, under the hashtag #CiènciaDeLaFinestra, highlights the science that surrounds us in everyday objects. It is a way of showing how to look at things from a scientific perspective at home, revealing the science hidden in the most common objects or events, such as the passage of migratory birds during the summer, the use of cutlery or the fact that water comes out of the tap.

Dissemination of scientific culture

The Scientific Culture and Innovation Unit (UCC+i) carried out scientific dissemination activities in two overarching areas: support and publicity for the UB’s dissemination activities through the web portal and social media, and coordination and organization of the unit’s own projects.

To publicize the UB’s dissemination activities, the portal published information about 210 activities, which received 24,617 visits and an average of 83 visitors a day. In the area of social media, the profile “La UB Divulga” has reached 4,075 followers on Twitter and 1,425 on Facebook. The Instagram account, launched in May 2019, has 924 followers and 45 posts, and the new YouTube channel has 39 videos, 7,076 views and 76 subscribers.

Researchers from the Institute of Neurosciences of the University of Barcelona (UBNeuro) and the August Pi i Sunyer Institute for Biomedical Research (IDIBAPS) have described a mechanism […] that plays a role […] in Huntington’s disease.

Gaceta Médica, 25 November 2019

“I think we all have to work harder to ensure that the scientific activity of so many UB teachers and researchers reaches society more clearly. We need to make science approachable, understandable and attractive!”

Àlex Egea, PDI
the academic year, 27 informal talks were given at 18 different organizations and two were held online, reaching over 1,300 people across Catalonia.

The Camins infinits and Toc-toc projects, which are essentially face-to-face in their traditional version, began adapting their format to ensure that citizens would have access to quality scientific content during the pandemic as well. At the end of April, researchers were invited to record their talks in order to make them publicly available through the “La UB divulga” YouTube channel, which has already been viewed over 500 times.

The aim of Animated Science is to create a library of audiovisual resources on scientific subjects organized in self-contained chapters. The resources explain scientific concepts to children in an appealing and visual manner. Five chapters are currently available all in Catalan, Spanish and English: The Scientific Method, Shades, Nutrition, Sustainable Tourism, and Periodic Table. The number of YouTube views of the first episode is impressive: 275,078 in English, 1,032,189 in Spanish and 38,032 in Catalan. The project as a whole has reached 1,468,581 views to date.

In the area of activities specifically intended for trainee researchers, the University participated in the final round of the Tesis en 3 Minuts [Three-Minute Thesis, 3MT] contest, organized by the Coimbra Group, and in the final round of the Tesis en 4 Minuts [Four-Minute Thesis, 4MT] contest organized by the Catalan Foundation for Research and Innovation. Both projects are intended to challenge doctoral students to explain their research quickly and simply, in terms that are easy for the general public to understand, and to encourage them to talk about the research they are working on.

The UB Science Festival, a day of workshops and practical activities that takes place annually in the Historic Building, had to be cancelled this year. As an alternative, researchers were asked to record their workshops on video, and on 8 May, the day on which the on-site event would have taken place, all the resources were made available. A digital dissemination campaign was also launched on the Festival website and on the social networks of the Scientific Culture and Innovation Unit. Over 120 researchers from 19 faculties and research institutes participated in the virtual version of the 6th UB Science Festival, and recorded 34 videos in 17 different disciplines. On the opening day the videos registered 2,530 views, and one month later that number had risen to 6,311 views.
An international university

Participation in international university alliances and networks

International community at the UB

International academic cooperation projects
The international activity of the University of Barcelona has three key components: participation in alliances and international inter-university networks, participation in international projects, and coordination of student and staff mobility actions. The overall aim is for training, research and knowledge transfer to be carried out at the highest international standards.

Participation in international university alliances and networks

One particularly significant international alliance is CHARM-EU (Challenge-driven, Accessible, Research-based, Mobile European University), which was created in January 2019 and officially launched on 1 November of the same year. Led by the UB, the alliance also includes Trinity College Dublin, Utrecht University, Eötvös Loránd University in Budapest, and the University of Montpellier.

The initiative is one of 17 European university projects selected by the European Commission in June 2019 from among proposals submitted following a December 2017 decision by the European Council to foster new networks of European universities in order to improve the international competitiveness of higher education institutions and strengthen the sense of belonging to a common European space.

CHARM-EU has received 5 million euros in funding and aims to become a global model of good practice. It was created with the aim of increasing quality, international competitiveness and the attractiveness of European higher education. The project also aims to innovate in education: students will design their own learning pathways based on their professional and educational ambitions, contributing to the production, development, application and evaluation of project curricula, which will offer a learning experience based on flexibility and accessibility, with mobility and inclusivity as core elements.

“In terms of the international situation, the CHARM-EU project has continued to run online and the first master’s degree is being introduced, to be taught over the next academic years.”
Genís Vives, student

The content of CHARM-EU programmes will focus on finding solutions to help achieve the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In line with this priority, a master’s programme in Global Challenges for Sustainability will be launched in September 2021.

Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, a summer school planned for July 2020 could not go ahead. A winter school is under consideration.

Within the framework of the European University Foundation (EUF), the University Internationalization Hub was launched with the aim of contributing to strategic, inclusive internationalization of European universities by supporting activities and projects oriented towards this goal. In addition to enhancing the visibility of the UB in the European university sphere, the actions carried out have a systemic and direct impact on the UB and other EUF universities, and by extension on the European Higher Education Area. The Hub focuses on two lines of action: first, training to enable staff of member universities to develop their skills and competences, thereby boosting practices conducive to internationalization in academic culture and opening up new avenues for cooperation; and second, co-creation aimed at designing, implementing, sharing, testing and evaluating projects with the overarching aim of modernizing approaches to internationalization at universities. As part of this line of action, a Workshop on Erasmus+ Project Preparation was organized and leadership of the international working group on mixed mobility was launched.

With regard to tasks arising from its chairmanship of the Sector Committee on Internationalization and Cooperation of the Conference of Spanish University Rectors (CRUE), the UB participated in the fourth Meeting of Rectors of Russian and Ibero-American Universities, drew up contingency plans related to the internationalization of the university system in the wake of Brexit, and was involved in producing several documents on the new Erasmus+ 2021-2027 programme. This year, as a result of the exceptional situation caused by COVID-19, actions focused on intensifying communication with the ministries involved, the Spanish Service for the Int...
Autonomous University of Madrid, a course on archaeology was offered at La Sapienza with the participation of UB teaching staff and students. The UB also successfully concluded a project known as European Project Design and Management in the South Mediterranean Region, aimed at increasing the international activity of higher education institutions in the region.

The UB strengthened its relations with universities in Latin America through the mobility grant programmes of the Carolina Foundation, Banco Santander and the Coimbra Group’s Latin America Working Group (which formally incorporated the UB in its Brazil-Europe Doctoral and Research Programme – REaDOC) and actions involving exchanges between UB and University of São Paulo (USP) researchers. The University of Barcelona collaborates with USP as an international strategic partner in the Print programme, run by the Coordinating Agency for Senior Staff Training (CAPES), linked to the Brazilian Ministry of Education. In addition, within the framework of the Ibero-American Union of Universities (made up of the University of Barcelona, the National Autonomous University of Mexico, the University of Buenos Aires, the University of São Paulo and the Complutense University of Madrid), UB teaching and technical staff participated in the sixth summer course, entitled “New Generations, New Technologies: Higher Education and Challenges of the Digital Landscape”.

In the area of international collaboration, the UB signed 81 agreements over the academic year, mainly with Brazil, Chile, Mexico, Italy, Argentina and the United States. By type, they included 20 framework agreements, 14 international mobility exchange agreements, six co-supervision agreements, 21 research agreements and three academic cooperation agreements.

As for the Mediterranean region, the UB continued to hold the vice-chairmanship of the Mediterranean Universities Union, which promoted international and inter-institutional projects linked to the Erasmus+ programme. The UB participated in new working groups on matters such as employment, sports and physical activity, and mobility and inter-cultural dialogue, supported the professional development of students as members of the jury for the Venice International Film Festival at the Venice Biennale 2019, and participated in an online seminar entitled “Beyond painting pictures and cultivating stereotypes: media narratives and foreign reporting for dialogue in the EuroMed”. Through the Alliance Montpellier-Barcelona Plus (AMB+), the UB has taken an active role in the work of the Montpellier University of Excellence (MUSE) International Advisory Board. Within the framework of the funding for MUSE, the UB and the University of Montpellier have launched short-term mobility exchanges for students and teaching and research staff as part of the Explore programme, as well as inter-institutional research projects in the areas of agriculture, the environment and health. As part of the Northern Mediterranean Transnational Campus, made up of the University of Barcelona, the University of Rome-La Sapienza, Aix-Marseille University and the Autonomous University of Madrid, a course on archaeology was offered at La Sapienza with the participation of UB teaching staff and students. The UB also successfully concluded a project known as European Project Design and Management in the South Mediterranean Region, aimed at increasing the international activity of higher education institutions in the region.

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The health situation led to the cancellation of many international higher education fairs, including those organized by the Asia-Pacific Association for International Education (APAIE) and by the Association of International Educators (NAFSA), both of which the UB regularly attends. The fair organized by the European Association for International Education (EAIE) in Helsinki went ahead and was held from 24 to 27 September 2019. The UB participated in the event, attending over 20 formal meetings and establishing contact with a number of universities around the world.

Erasmus Without Paper

The Erasmus Without Paper (EWP) project, linked to the Erasmus programme, aims to set up a European electronic network for higher education institutions to exchange student data. Initially, the project will handle only information related to international mobility under the Erasmus programme, but from 2021, when Erasmus+ 2021-2027 comes into effect, other tools will be added.

The University of Barcelona continued to support its Erasmus Without Paper project. In 2019-2020, the UB was home to an international community of nearly 12,000 students from 137 countries. They accounted for 33.2% of doctoral students, more than 41.6% of master’s degree students, 6.8% of bachelor’s degree students and 28.8% of postgraduate students.

English-language tuition was offered for six full bachelor’s degrees (Bioinformatics, Business Administration and Management, English Studies, International Business, Physiotherapy and Tourism), two of which are taught at UB-affiliated centres, and for 747 individual bachelor’s degree subjects. Also taught entirely in English were 19 university master’s degrees (including 6 Erasmus Mundus programmes) and 48 doctoral programmes (including two Erasmus Mundus programmes). In addition, 23 agreements have been signed for the joint supervision of doctoral theses.

Student mobility

The University of Barcelona manages a number of student mobility programmes and bilateral agreements with other institutions, including Erasmus+, which covers exchanges within and outside the European Union, specific and general agreements, and the Study Abroad programme.

Erasmus+ study exchanges and placements were once again the most significant framework for international mobility at the UB. Over the academic year, 1,088 UB students undertook periods of study in the EU and 124 completed traineeship mobility placements. The UB hosted 1,247 students, of whom 66 completed traineeship mobility placements. In 2019-2020, the UB also participated for the first time in the Erasmus+ programme for doctoral students, with one student in Germany and one in Portugal.

Apart from the Erasmus programme, exchanges were organized within the framework of two types of bilateral agreements. Under 148 specific agreements (between UB faculties/schools and their counterparts abroad), the University hosted 111 students and sent 173 abroad, while under general agreements (between the UB and foreign universities), the UB received 65 students and sent 63 abroad. The UB also hosted three students within the framework of the Comibra Group.

As a result of actions related to its internalization strategy, the UB signed five new general agreements (one with Costa Rica, one with Taiwan, one with South Korea, and two with Canada) and 23 new specific agreements (with Australia, Brazil, Canada, South Korea, Ecuador, the United States, Japan, Switzerland, Malaysia, Mexico, Chile and China).

UB students participating in a mobility programme may have access to additional grants. In the case of the Erasmus programme, in addition to funding pro-
A COMMITMENT TO INTERNATIONALIZATION

12,073 international students from 137 countries

Provided by the European Commission and overseen by the Spanish Service for the Internationalization of Education, the offices of the UB vice-rectors responsible for international policy and students have established a supplementary funding programme offering four types of support: 443 travel grants were awarded to Erasmus+ grant beneficiaries; 40 grants were provided to students undertaking periods of study in the Asia-Pacific region; 50 for periods of study at Latin American universities; and 22 for stays in other countries around the world. The new Santander Erasmus Grant Programme, launched in 2019-2020, benefited 124 students, and the Ibero-America Grant Programme (also a Banco Santander scheme) benefited 20 students who completed periods of study in Latin American countries under specific or general agreements. Through the Carolina Foundation, the University of Barcelona also awarded grants to six doctoral students from Latin American universities, four on short stays (pre- and postdoctoral), and nine master’s students from Ecuador, Brazil, Argentina, Mexico, Bolivia and Colombia.

The UB is involved in two non-reciprocal mobility programmes. In these cases, students are hosted for temporary study periods at the UB or sent to a partner institution but must pay the corresponding enrolment fees. One non-reciprocal scheme is Individual Applications. Under this arrangement, 51 students from around the world were hosted and two UB students undertook periods of study abroad. The other is the Study Abroad programme for agreements with university consortia, under which the UB hosted 258 students from universities in the United States, Latin America and China (Beijing Foreign Studies University). Under this programme, existing agreements with the University of California, the University of Illinois, Brethren Colleges Abroad, Dartmouth College, the Council on International Educational Exchange, Knox College, the Consortium for Advanced Studies Abroad and Beijing Normal University continued to operate, and a student mobility arrangement with the Monterrey Institute of Technology and Higher Education (Mexico) was initiated.

To publicize the different international mobility options open to students, the University of Barcelona organized its 1st International Mobility Fair. The event took place in the gardens of the Penyafort-Montserrat hall of residence and included a range of social activities for those attending. Four areas were set up for different purposes: one where students could meet the people presenting the different mobility options and ask questions; another providing information on the different partner universities involved in exchange programmes with the UB, organized by geographical area (Europe and rest-of-world); an area providing information about mobility support services at the UB, and a special area for representatives of institutions from the Fair’s guest country, China, which provided information about specific placements available in their country. Also represented in this last area was the Confucius Institute, whose staff were joined by delegates from the Chinese consular office.

The COVID-19 pandemic had a major impact on student mobility in 2019-2020. Though officially only...
5.99% of temporary periods of study by incoming students and 5.11% of those planned by outgoing students were cancelled, almost 100% of full-year and autumn semester stays were affected to one degree or another. In the case of periods of mobility already underway and those undertaken despite the pandemic, figures vary greatly depending on the impact of the virus in each country. However, it is estimated that broadly speaking two-thirds of students continued their studies at the host institution (the remainder returned to their country of origin). In the majority of cases, both students who stayed on and those who returned home had to continue their studies online.

Study permits processed for non-EU students

In the 2019-2020 academic year, the University repeated the application process for study permits for non-EU students seeking to complete a mobility stay in Spain through an intra-European programme or agreement. Over the academic year, 32 permits were processed.

Staff mobility

In total, 78 members of the UB’s teaching and research staff completed mobility periods abroad, mainly within the framework of the Erasmus+ programme. Four of these stays were completed outside the European Union (in Brazil).

Under a mobility programme for UB and international teaching staff overseen by the Office of the Vice-Rector for Outreach and Internationalization, funding was provided for six placements undertaken by UB teaching staff to initiate or consolidate projects involving international collaboration. Similarly, the Ibero-America research grants offered by Banco Santander funded three mobility periods at Latin American universities (in Argentina, Brazil and Chile).

In total, 139 teachers from abroad completed periods at the University of Barcelona. With the aim of attracting internationally renowned teaching staff, funding was provided for seven of these placements, which were the result of invitations extended by UB teachers. One researcher from Tanzania was hosted at the UB through a programme of the Coimbra Group, which organizes stays for young African teachers and researchers. Arrangements were formally completed for stays at the UB involving 17 teachers from abroad and four family members.

In the area of mobility actions for administrative and service staff, 38 UB staff members carried out placements under the Erasmus+ programme, while the UB hosted six staff members from other EU and non-EU universities. Arrangements were formally completed for 11 placements at the UB.

COVID-19 had a significant impact on staff mobility: 23.50% of the periods of mobility planned or undertaken by UB teaching and research staff were affected. In the case of visiting lecturers, the figure was 12.23%. As for administrative and service staff, 95.45% of periods of mobility were affected and Staff Week had to be cancelled.

International academic cooperation projects

The European Union funds highly competitive projects aimed at promoting internationalization, strategic alliances, international cooperation and knowledge transfer in the field of higher education. Apart from international mobility, Erasmus+ actions include KA2 projects (strategic partnerships, knowledge alliances, capacity building, etc.), KA3 projects (social inclusion, education, training and youth), Jean Monnet activities (chairs, networks, projects and centres of excellence), Sport actions (addressing threats to the integrity of sport, promoting voluntary activities in sport, focus on grassroots sport, etc.), and other initiatives and programmes (Creative Europe, Europe for Citizens, etc.).

In the 2019-2020 academic year, 23 new projects with UB participation were granted funding. Together,
er with the 45 projects already under way, that makes a total of 68 projects related to internationalization, international cooperation, strategic alliances and knowledge transfer in the field of higher education. Projects of this kind received over 63 million euros in direct EU funding, of which 6.5 million euros went to the UB. Highlights include 17 capacity-building projects, which seek to support the modernization, accessibility and internationalization of higher education in non-EU Partner Countries, and 27 strategic partnership projects, which are transnational efforts to develop and transfer innovative practices and to foster cooperation, peer learning and the exchange of experiences in the fields of education, training and youth at the European level.

Most of these projects involve European partners, including Italy, France, Belgium, Germany, Portugal, the United Kingdom, Greece and Sweden. As for international cooperation projects outside the EU, the most intense collaborations were with partners in the Middle East (Lebanon and Jordan), Latin America (Colombia, Argentina, Ecuador and Mexico), Asia (India, the Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam), and Armenia and Libya. Within the framework of these projects, the UB established collaborations with institutions in 69 countries.

### International academic cooperation projects

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Faculty/school</th>
<th>Number of projects</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Faculty of Biology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Faculty of Earth Sciences</td>
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<tr>
<td>Faculty of Law</td>
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<tr>
<td>Faculty of Economics and Business</td>
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<td>Faculty of Education</td>
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<tr>
<td>Faculty of Pharmacy and Food Sciences</td>
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<tr>
<td>Faculty of Physics</td>
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<td>Faculty of Geography and History</td>
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<td>Faculty of Information and Audiovisual Media</td>
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<td>Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences</td>
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<td>Bosch i Gimpera Foundation</td>
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<td>Cabinet at the Rector’s Office</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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Podeu consultar un recull de les dades estadístiques del curs 2019-2020 a:
www.ub.edu/estadistica_memoria