Postgraduate Programmes

MSc Economics

PhD Economics
The Universitat de Barcelona School of Economics is the centre for research and postgraduate education in economics at the Faculty of Economics and Business at the University of Barcelona.

The University of Barcelona’s Graduate Programme in Economics has been developed for students who intend to pursue a professional or research career in the international arena. The programme comprises a two-year master’s degree, MSc in Economics, and a research programme leading to the PhD in Economics. However, these two stages can be coursed separately if the student meets the entry requirements.

The Graduate Programme has received outstanding results in the teaching and research quality reviews. The MSc in Economics programme has obtained the quality label ‘accreditation with excellence’ and the ‘additional dimension of internationalisation’ with the maximum overall score. Both were awarded by the Universities Council after an evaluation by the Catalan University Quality Assurance Agency (AQU). The PhD in Economics is one of only a handful of programmes in Spain to have received the Ministry of Education’s quality award for research excellence.

The UB’s Faculty of Economics and Business is one of the largest in south west Europe and also one of the faculties on the Barcelona Knowledge Campus, the most active ‘Campus of Excellence’ in Spain. In fact, the University of Barcelona is the leading Southern European University in the QS World University Rankings and the third-best university for Economics in Spain based on the IDEAS ranking. Students enrolled on the programme are able to attend frequently-held seminars and talks delivered by some of the world’s most prestigious academics and professionals in the heart of the vibrant city of Barcelona.

Ramon Alemany
DEAN OF THE FACULTY OF ECONOMICS AND BUSINESS
UNIVERSITY OF BARCELONA
Economics at the University of Barcelona

Established in 1450, the University of Barcelona is the main public university in Catalonia, offering the widest and most complete range of subjects. Moreover, it is one of the largest research centres in Europe, both in terms of the research programmes offered and the level of excellence achieved.

The UB is involved in various international university networks, including the Coimbra Group and the League of European Research Universities (LERU), in which the UB is the only Spanish institution.

Today, the University offers programmes to some 65,000 students and employs more than 5,000 lecturers and researchers on six university campuses. The UB’s Faculty of Economics and Business is home to around 8,000 students and 400 full-time lecturers and researchers and it publishes some 400 journal articles each year. The Faculty is a leading centre for teaching and research and forms part of an internationally recognised hub of economics research in the Barcelona area.

The Universitat de Barcelona School of Economics encompasses a long tradition of high-quality education and of excellence in its research activities at an international level in the field of economics. With more than 100 researchers, the UB School of Economics boasts experts in many disciplines of both economics and econometrics. Specifically, the centre is committed to research excellence in three areas: Growth, Trade and Spatial Economics; Public Economics and Policy Analysis; Behaviour, Games and Risk.

According to QS World University Rankings 2018

1st
University in Southern Europe

According to IDEAS Top Economics Departments

3rd
University for Economics in Spain

According to QS Best Student Cities 2017

8th
Student city in Europe

MSc accredited with excellence and additional dimension of internationalisation

PhD quality award for research excellence
In the 1st and 2nd terms, students attend the compulsory courses (40 credits) to acquire a solid foundation in economics and quantitative techniques.

In the 3rd, 4th and 5th terms, students have to choose two options from the list below according to their elective courses choice (60 credits), enabling them to specialise in areas of interest for their future profession or research:

* Public Economics
* Regional and Urban Economics
* Growth and Trade
* Government and Markets
* Games, Behaviour and Incentives

During the 6th term, students must plan and write the Master thesis (20 credits), employing the concepts and methods acquired during the programme.

Programme content

Career opportunities

The MSc in Economics is intended to equip students with the tools needed by a professional economist to conduct economic research and analysis.

On successfully completing the programme, students can expect to find employment in a broad range of sectors, including higher education and economic consulting, in institutions such as Stanford University, Inter-American Development Bank, Bloomberg and Deloitte. The strongest candidates are encouraged to undertake advanced research in the PhD programme at the University of Barcelona or abroad (NOVA Lisboa, Lund University, University of Luxembourg...).

The Career Services Office organises a vast number of events, some of them specially designed for the master’s students in Economics.
PhD in Economics

The University of Barcelona offers the opportunity to undertake research in a wide range of fields of economics, taking part in an international PhD programme in the vibrant city of Barcelona. Moreover, the PhD in Economics is one of only a handful of programmes in Spain to have received the Ministry of Education’s quality award for research excellence.

We provide a dynamic and stimulating environment offering weekly research seminars, PhD seminars, workshops, conferences, courses and research activities in which students are invited to participate.

International programme

PhD students are encouraged to conduct research as a visiting student at other universities or research centers throughout the world. Research stays longer than three months may be recognised with the International doctoral certification in the doctoral degree.

Recent host institutions are University of Melbourne, Northwestern University, University of Southern California, University of Copenhagen, University of Groningen, Paris School of Economics, Centre for European Economic Research – ZEW, Brown University, London School of Economics, University of British Columbia...

Career opportunities

The programme is specifically intended for students seeking to embark on an international career in research. Former PhD students have found employment at leading academic research institutions in the US and Europe (LSE, Yale University, Universidad Carlos III, Institute of Economics – Hungarian Academy of Sciences, University of Sussex, Haute Ecole de Gestion, World Intellectual Property Organization WIPO) and major international organisations and governments.

Research Areas

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Student geographic distribution

- 55% Europe
- 38% Americas
- 5% Middle East | Africa
- 2% Asia

* Academic year 2017-2018

Visit the website for most up-to-date information.
Study in Barcelona

Barcelona is one of the most prosperous cities in Europe and a fantastic place to live, with a sunny climate and a cosmopolitan cultural life. It is also affordable, particularly when compared to cities such as London and Paris, offering an excellent quality of life and a diverse student mix.

The University of Barcelona offers students the chance to study and undertake research at an institution that is fully integrated into the city around it. Lying on the Mediterranean coast, and with a population of over 1.5 million, Barcelona is one of the most economically, socially and culturally important cities in Europe and is characterised by its extraordinary diversity.

Graduates of the UB enjoy an excellent reputation among international employers. Barcelona is currently the 8th best city to live in Europe according to QS Best Student Cities 2017, which combines data on universities, student population, affordability, quality of life and reputation with employers.

Accommodation booking & advisory service
Barcelona Centre Universitari (BCU) offers students admitted to courses at the UB a wide and varied range of accommodation options:

* Halls of residence, rooms in shared flats, home stays, rental apartments and more.

* A free information service is available to all students looking to rent an apartment in Barcelona.

Campus

Located in the Faculty of Economics and Business at Pedralbes, in the Diagonal Knowledge Gateway Campus, the UB School of Economics offers the opportunity to receive excellent training, provided by academics who are experts in their fields. A wide range of university services are available to students:

Career Service provides career guidance and organises talks, workshops and other events with major employers and a wide range of organisations of interest to every possible student profile.

International Relations Office oversees the management of international mobility programmes in which the Faculty is involved and actively pursues the on-going internationalisation of the Faculty and its student community.

Languages

* The UB’s Language Services are responsible for promoting the Catalan language and for building a multilingual university community.

* The School of Modern Languages offers training in 11 languages to the university community. Courses can be taken as semester-long modules or full-year programmes, with face-to-face, blended and distance learning options available.

Two libraries provide comprehensive materials for teaching and research, computer rooms, group work rooms, self-service photocopiers and other services. Study rooms are available for Master and PhD students.

UB Sports provides 100,000 sq m of facilities for a wide range of directed activities and offers members of the university community a range of installations – swimming pools, tennis and padel courts, a football pitch and rugby pitch, etc. – that are only five minutes away from the Faculty!