

# Master in Institutions and Political Economy



UNIVERSITAT DE  
BARCELONA

Informative session  
February 17, 2022



- The University of Barcelona (UB) is the leading university in Spain.
  - **Among the top 100 universities in the world** according to the Ranking Web of Universities.
  - The only Spanish university in the League of European Research Universities (LERU).
- UB is home to a community of **over 60,000 students**.
  - More than 150 official Master programs.
  - A dynamic research hub, with 17 research institutes, over 500 research groups and nearly 6,000 researchers.



- The Master in Institutions and Political Economy (MIPE) is a collaborative project by **three internationally recognized research groups** based at University of Barcelona.
  - **Political Science** (IPERG). Principal investigator: Carles Boix.
  - **Political Economy** (IEB). Principal investigator: Albert Solé-Ollé.
  - **Economic History and Development**. Principal investigator: Alfonso Herranz-Loncán.
- These research groups are home to **over 100 senior and junior researchers** graduated from leading universities such as Harvard, Oxford, LSE, Caltech, Boston, EUI, Warwick, York, Bonn, UPF, etc.
- Together, they form a vibrant hub of Social Science research, which assures a continued presence of seminars, workshops and visiting scholars.

- The Master in Institutions and Political Economy (MIPE) is **a research-oriented program at the intersection of Political Science, Economics and Economic History**, focused on the analysis of political institutions and political change.
- MIPE responds to the gradual convergence between the fields of Political Science, Political Economy and Economic History, both in research and policymaking.
- Therefore, it combines:
  - Rigorous formal and quantitative training
  - Empirical applications and a deep understanding of current social science debates.
  - Strong emphasis on research.

# What can you expect?

- MIPE's main goal is providing a comprehensive knowledge of Social Science topics & training students to design their own research.
- Students will also develop their skills at:
  - Analyzing public policies & preparing reports,
  - understanding & communicating new research,
  - processing & analyzing Big Data with statistical software,
  - preparing lectures & designing their own class materials,
  - ...



- Thanks to their advanced training, MIPE graduates will be perfectly equipped to competitively **apply to the top international PhD programs** and research centers in the various fields covered by the program, including those at University of Barcelona.
  - The multidisciplinary nature of MIPE will allow students to access programs with different academic profiles.
- Their skills will be also highly sought **outside academia**:
  - Economics and Political Science are inherently linked in the analysis of the most pressing current debates, from globalization and inequality to environmental protection and digital rights.
  - MIPE graduates will be able to transition to jobs focused on these fields in **public administration & policymaking, international agencies, regulatory authorities, consulting firms**, etc.

# Endorsements



Branko Milanovic  
CUNY, LSE

"I find the program extremely interesting, well thought-out and timely. It reflects a movement in the social sciences towards more multidisciplinary. The combination of political science, political economy and economic history is indeed one of such new combinations that, I believe, would be valued by students. The advantage is that it does not sacrifice rigor but adds flexibility [which will] allow them later to do a PhD either in a similar program or to specialize into one of the three, with very good perception of what they can expect and very thorough preparation for it."



Pablo Beramendi  
Duke University

"There is a large need for a rigorous graduate program in political economy, able to prepare graduates to pursue a career in public policy and applied development, areas in which the need for rigorous evaluation designs is only increasing, or to pursue a doctoral degree in either positive political science, economics or economic history. The space in common across the three disciplines is large, and the synergies between them when it comes to institutional analysis a largely unexploited terrain in both teaching and research. The current proposal fills this gap, and would place the UB in rare company within the European Union and, indeed, advanced research programs in North America."

MIPE is a full-time **2-year program (120 ECTS)**. Part-time enrolment is also allowed.

**60  
ECTS**

## **Compulsory Courses (3 terms)**

- Analytical and methodological foundations.
- Advanced knowledge of Political Economy, Political Science & Economic History.

**30  
ECTS**

## **Elective Courses (1.5 terms)**

- More specialized topics related to students' specific research interests.

**30  
ECTS**

## **Research Dissertation (1.5 terms)**

- Foundation of their PhD project and/or a first peer-review article.
- Research design & contact with supervisor begin earlier.

## Compulsory Courses

### *First term*

**Introduction to Political Economy**

**Comparative Politics I:** Political behaviour.

**Economic History I:** Long-term economic growth.

**Microeconomics**

### *Second term*

**Comparative Politics II:** Institutions.

**Economic History II:** Institutions and state capacity.

**Game theory**

**Data science I:** Fundamentals.

### *Third term*

**Comparative Politics III:** Advanced topics.

**Political Economy of Public Policy.**

**Data science II:** Causal inference.

**Research design**

## Elective Courses

### *Fourth & Fifth terms*

Students must choose 6 from:

**Advanced research methods**

**Topics in Political Economy**

**Advanced analysis of institutions**

**Federalism and decentralization**

**Poverty and inequality: concepts, measurement, policies**

**Welfare Economics**

**Political Ecology**

**Economic History topics I:** Economic history of developing regions.

**Economic History topics II:** Market formation in history.

**Macroeconomics**

# Exchange opportunities

In their second year, our students will be able to spend a semester abroad. We currently have exchange agreements with the following universities:

- Toulouse School of Economics (France)
- University of Copenhagen (Denmark)
- University of Göttingen (Germany)
- Aix-Marseille School of Economics (France)
- ENSAE (France)
- University of Amsterdam (Netherlands)
- Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore (Italy)
- University of Bologna (Italy)
- Kyoto University (Japan)



**International Mobility Programmes**  
MSc in Economics & MSc in Institutions and Political Economy

**Welcome!**

**Mobility call 2022-23**  
International Relations Office, Faculty of Economics and Business  
Universitat de Barcelona

With the exception of Kyoto University, all the agreements are part of the Erasmus+ program.

- **Lectures.** You can expect to have around 16 hours of lectures per week (8 2-hour sessions).
- **Course work and assessment.** Students have continuous assessment options in most courses (writing an individual assignment, presenting a paper, undertaking a group project...). Details of assessments, as well as their weighting, will be clearly stated in the course syllabus.
- **Independent study.** You should expect to spend a significant amount of time reading and working on your research interests.



- The 3 research groups involved have created a vibrant hub of Social Science research at University of Barcelona.
- MIPE students are invited to participate in weekly research seminars, PhD student seminars, workshops, conferences and other research activities.
- Check [www.ub.edu/mipe/activities](http://www.ub.edu/mipe/activities)

22

Feb. 2022  
14:30

The right to retire early and mortality

**Cristina Bellés-Obrero (University of Mannheim)**

Activity: IEB Seminar

Hybrid. Registration [here](#).

23

Feb. 2022  
17:00

Taxation in Africa from Colonial Times to the Present. Evidence from Former French Colonies 1900-2018

**Yannick Dupraz (University College Dublin)**

Activity: International Macro History Online Seminar (IMHOS)

Registration [here](#).

24

Feb. 2022  
14:30

La Comercialización y el Consumo Internacional de Café Orgánico (1960-2020)

**Albert Folch (Universitat de Barcelona)**

Activity: Economic History Graduate Seminar

Room 1033

2

March 2022  
17:00

The Rise of the Engineer: Inventing the Professional Inventor During the Industrial Revolution

**Walker Hanlon (Northwestern University)**

Activity: International Macro History Online Seminar (IMHOS)

Registration [here](#).

9

March 2022  
17:00

The Rise and Fall of Global Currencies Over Two Centuries

**Roger Vicquéry (LSE)**

Activity: International Macro History Online Seminar (IMHOS)

Registration [here](#).

10

TBA

**Gunes Gokmen (Lund University)**

# Who should apply



- We welcome students with good academic credentials, strong potential and motivation. Women, racial minorities and students from low and middle-income countries are specially encouraged to apply.
- Students with the following profiles are strongly encouraged to apply:
  - **Political Science & Social Science graduates** who want to develop the quantitative skills required to do research at the top of their fields.
  - **Economics graduates** motivated by empirical & applied research.
  - **STEM graduates** with strong quantitative skills who are interested in Social Science research.
  - Humanities graduates are welcomed to apply, but should have previous exposure to mathematical and statistical concepts.

# Requirements

## Academic requirements

- A Bachelor degree in Political Science, Economics, Sociology or any subject –provided it has sufficient mathematical and statistical foundations– with a satisfactory average grade.

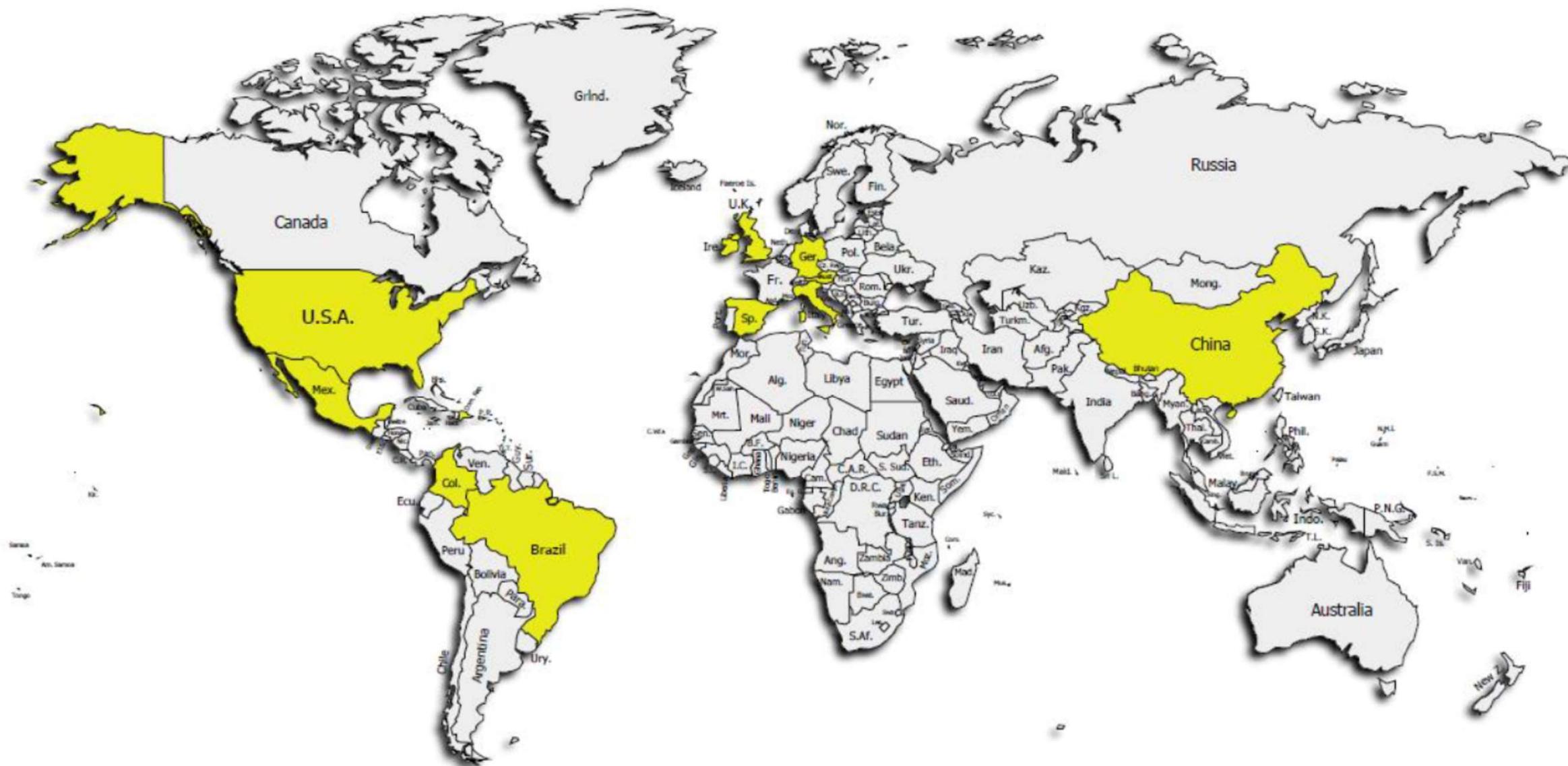
## Other requirements

- Proof of proficiency in English (B2 level). Unless you are a native English speaker or have undertaken a university degree in English.
- One or two letters of recommendation.
- Supporting documents: letter of motivation (2-pages maximum), CV, Transcript of grades (provisional or final version), passport/ID, Bachelor's project/thesis (optional).

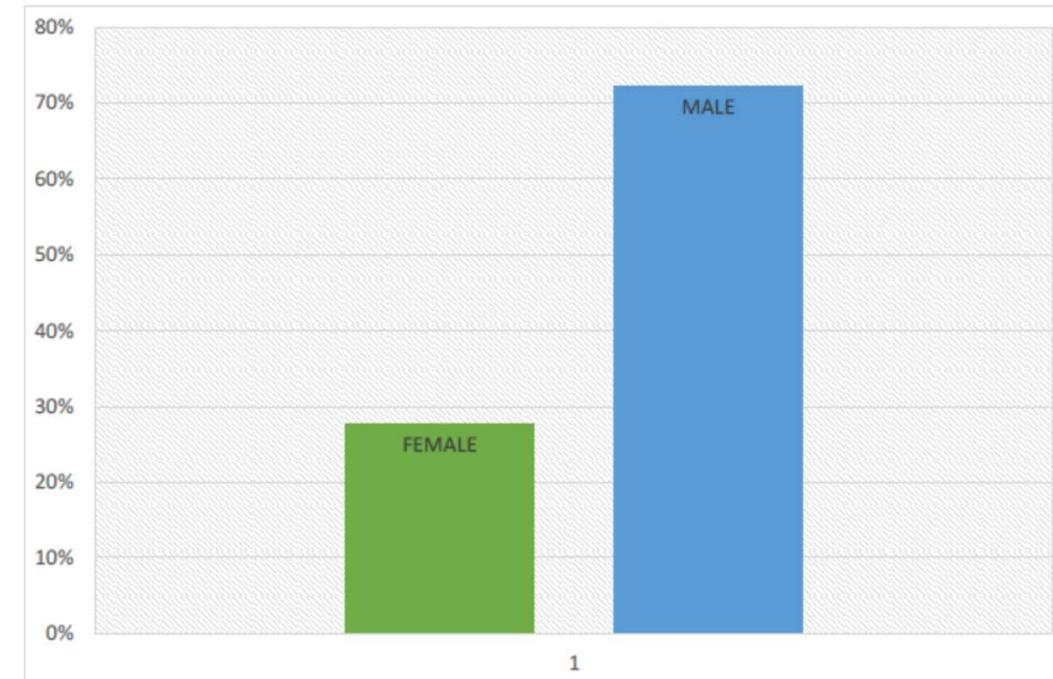
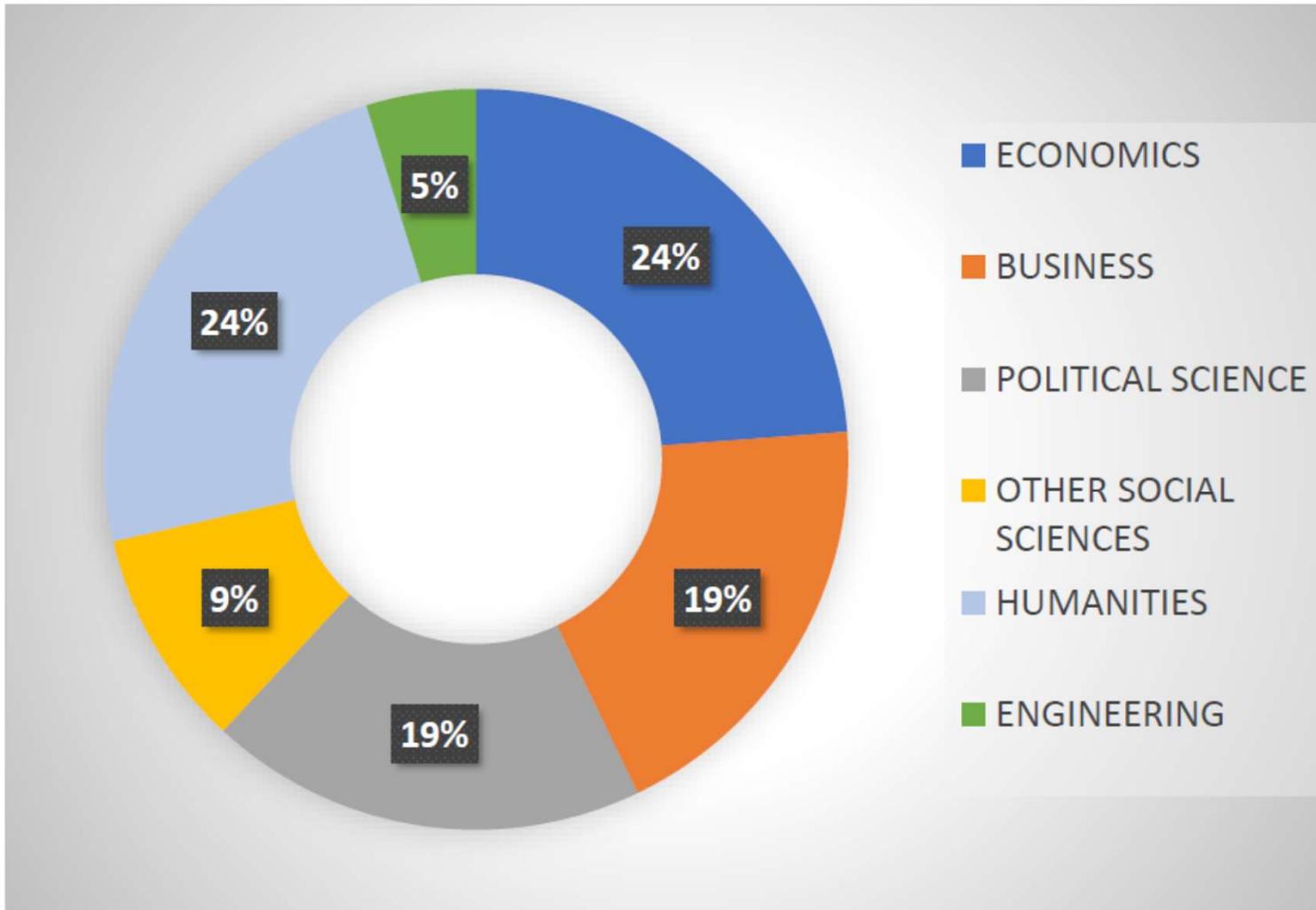


# Class profile 2021-22

Master in  
Institutions and  
Political Economy



# Class profile 2021-22



**25**  
Average  
age



Isobel Kemp, UK

"I was drawn to MIPE in particular due to its interdisciplinary nature, which have allowed me to develop my theoretical and practical understanding of markets and economic forces. While I was initially concerned that due to coming from a different academic background I might find these subjects more difficult, I have received all the necessary support from the professors."

"The truly international nature of the cohort has meant that our class discussions are always stimulating and dynamic, as we are able to share and learn from one another's diverse experiences. The small course size has also allowed us to create a community among the students that extends outside of class hours."

"The opportunity to study in such a beautiful city as Barcelona has been an utter privilege. Its vibrant cultural scene and rich history mean that there has been a plethora of museums, galleries and events to keep me occupied during my study breaks."



David Cregg, US

"MIPE was an attractive option for me because of the design of the coursework, the research opportunities, and the diversity of backgrounds represented by the other students. MIPE has been able to attract a motivated cohort of students from across the globe which adds to the richness of discussion and diversity of thought in class. This diversity applies to the university's host city as well. "

"As someone considering a profession in academia, the opportunity to get graduate-level research experience at an internationally recognized institution was an important factor in my decision to come to the UB. I'm now working as a Research Assistant on Topics in Public Economics with two faculty members in the Department of Economics."

1. Fill out the [Pre-enrolment Form](#), uploading the required documents, and pay a 30.21 euro Application fee.
2. Applicants will receive a decision within 6 weeks.
3. If you are admitted, you will have to pay administrative fees and provided the required documentation in order to formalize the enrollment.

More information at: [www.ub.edu/mipe](http://www.ub.edu/mipe)

Let us help you at: [master.mipe@ub.edu](mailto:master.mipe@ub.edu)

# We look forward to having you here!

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