



Handbook for international students



Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona
www.uab.cat

UAB
Universitat Autònoma
de Barcelona

UABCEI
CAMPUS OF INTERNATIONAL
EXCELLENCE



Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona

The UAB is renowned for its research excellence and the quality of its teaching, and it is a benchmark centre in Europe. The UAB is located just 25 minutes by public transport from the centre of **Barcelona**, a cosmopolitan metropolis on the Mediterranean coast. The main campus is in Bellaterra, at the heart of one of the main technological and industrial hubs of Mediterranean Europe.

The UAB caters to all aspects of **university life**. The campus is a true city of knowledge, with a population of almost 50,000: students, teaching staff, researchers and administrative staff. It has all the services a university community needs.

The UAB promotes **innovation, employability and entrepreneurship**. It strives to promote research and transfer in all branches of knowledge and works side-by-side with the surrounding business and industrial community, and with scientific centres such as the ALBA Synchrotron Light Laboratory.

The international dimension of the UAB can be seen in the number of foreign students, especially on master's degree and PhD programmes. Over 45 master's degrees are taught 100% in English.

The UAB leads the way in sustainability, working to improve the health of the university community, promoting healthy environments and lifestyles and upholding responsible consumption.

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[See the UAB in the main international rankings](#) ➔

[About the UAB](#) ➔

[Further information](#) ➔

Barcelona, a university city

Barcelona is among the world's top cities in rankings of quality of life, safety and equality.

Barcelona has established itself as a prestigious brand identified with features like creativity, talent, quality of life, modernity and economic, technical and social progress.

According to the **Barcelona City Brand Programme** survey, it is the world's fourth **most creative** city.

According to the **QS ranking of the world's 50 best student cities** (2015), Barcelona is in 19th position. This ranking assesses such criteria as reputation of the centres, price, quality of life in the city, employment prospects and the characteristics of the student community.

With five public and three private universities, Barcelona welcomes **over 25,000 foreign students and researchers** each year: a unique opportunity to experience different cultures and enrich your personal and professional relations.

40% of master's degree and graduate diploma students and 30% of PhD students in Barcelona come from abroad.

Barcelona, a university city →

Barcelona: culture →

Studying at the UAB

University studies are divided into three cycles: **bachelor's degree, master's degree** and **PhD** degree.

The UAB divides the academic year into **two semesters**. The first semester tends to begin in the middle of September and finish at the end of February, and the second semester begins at the end of February and finishes at the end of June.

Registration is carried out just once a year, at the beginning of the academic year.

The assessment system in Spain uses a scale of marks from 0 to 10, with 10 being the highest mark.

If you wish to access bachelor's degree, master's degree, graduate diploma and/or PhD studies, do not forget to find out whether you need to follow the official recognition or legalization process

The best option before beginning official recognition or legalization proceedings is to consult the corresponding consulate

Information on the official recognition of qualifications →

Information on the legalization of documents →



Bachelor's degree

The UAB offers over 80 bachelor's degrees in all spheres of knowledge. Our bachelor's degrees are recognized for their quality, their commitment to internationalization and their practical focus.

Some bachelor's degrees are offered 100% in English.

[Consult all the bachelor's degrees on offer](#) ➔

[Consult all the bachelor's degrees on offer in English](#) ➔

How to apply for admission

You need to carry out the following formalities:

- Official recognition of the access qualification.
- Verification of the access requirements and/or tests **with the National Distance Education University (UNED)** *
- Process the pre-registration with the **Oficina de Orientación para el Acceso a la Universidad**.

* Some bachelor's degrees can be accessed directly without taking the entrance tests, just with the official recognition of your upper secondary-school leaving certificate.

[Further information](#) ➔

When to apply for admission

The application for admission (pre-registration) to bachelor's degree studies is carried out online in June, and some bachelor's degrees also accept applications in September.

[How to apply for admission to bachelor's degrees](#) ➔



Master's degree

There are official university master's degrees and UAB-specific master's degrees. Their purpose is for students to acquire advanced education of a specialized and multidisciplinary nature, geared toward both professional specialization and initiation into research.

[See all the master's degrees on offer](#) →

How to apply for admission

Applications for admission are made directly with the UAB. The applications are submitted online, attaching your personal and academic details.

When to apply for admission

From January for official master's degrees and from April/May for UAB-specific master's degrees.

[How to apply for admission to UAB-specific master's degrees](#) →

[How to apply for admission to official master's degrees](#) →

PhD

PhD programmes offer advanced training in research techniques, culminating in a doctoral thesis. They usually last three years, and consist of preparing and defending a thesis.

International PhDs and **industrial PhDs** stand out among the PhD programmes on offer at the UAB.

International Doctoral Research Component

This involves a stay in various European countries by the PhD student and the participation of teaching staff from international universities.

Industrial PhD

The doctoral thesis is carried out in the framework of a collaboration agreement between the university and a company.

[See all the PhDs on offer](#) →

How to apply for admission

Applications must be made by contacting the department/institute responsible for the corresponding PhD programme.

When to apply for admission

there is no specific calendar to apply for admission to PhDs: applications can be made at any time during the academic year.

[How to apply for admission to PhD programmes](#) →



Courses and programmes for international students

Specific programmes for international students

The UAB offers several programmes for international students who wish to study for a semester or a complete academic year in Barcelona.

[Selected Course](#)

[Pre-established Programme](#)

[Tailor Made Programmes](#)

[International Summer term](#)

[See the programmes for international students](#) →

Exchange programmes

The UAB has student exchange agreements with universities worldwide, especially in Europe, Latin America and Asia. [See map of all the programmes.](#)

There are currently three exchange programmes, each covering different geographical areas.

[See the exchange programmes](#) →

Language courses

Intensive and extensive beginners' and advanced Catalan and Spanish courses during the academic year.

The courses provide the student with the basic knowledge necessary to understand the language and be able to communicate from the first day of class.

[Language courses](#) →



Legal formalities in your country of origin

The UAB provides its students with admission documentation with which they should begin **the visa application in the Spanish consulate office** of their country of origin or the country in which they have legal residence.

Depending on the duration of the studies, the visas can be:

- Stay of up to 90 days (type C).
- Visa for stay of up to 6 months (type D code SSU).
- Visa for stay longer than 6 months (type D code SLU). In this case it is necessary to apply for a **foreigner's ID card (TIE)**, within one month from entering Spain.

Non-EU citizens who reside in a European country at the time of admission can regularize their situation in the **Oficina de Extranjeros of Barcelona** within one month from entering Spain. For this it is essential that the card from the European country is still valid and that there is an entry stamp for Spain. This can be obtained at the police stations: Comisaría de Policía Nacional of the airport or Comisaría of Rambla Guipúzcoa, 74 (Barcelona), within 72 hours from entering.

The law on foreigners is constantly being amended, and it is therefore very important for future students of the UAB to contact the UAB [International Welcome Point \(IWP\)](#) before their arrival so that they can be informed about possible changes to the law.

Legal formalities for citizens from EU 
countries

Legal formalities for citizens from 
non-EU countries



Planning your stay in Barcelona

Accommodation

On campus: Vila Universitaria is a residential complex of **812 apartments** located on the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona campus.

Off campus: we have a support service to contact different accommodation options off the UAB campus.

[Application for reservation with Vila Universitaria](#) →

[Application for accommodation off campus](#) →

Calculating accommodation and living expenses

In general, you should assume the following monthly expenses:

- Food: €250 to €350
- Personal and leisure expenses: €160 to €220
- Transport: €60 to €80
- Accommodation: €250 to €500

TOTAL: €720 to €1,200 per month for accommodation and living expenses

Tuition expenses

All academic expenses are included under “registration”. In public universities this is a separate expense from accommodation and living expenses. The prices are calculated in accordance with the credits for which you have registered. You can consult the approximate cost of your registration at the following link:

[Enrollment simulator](#) →



Grants, other financial aid, work placements and working as a student

Grants and other financial aid

The UAB web portal has a grant search engine: www.uab.cat/grants-financial-aids. The search engine includes not only all the financial aid offered by the UAB but also some calls for applications from other institutions which may be of interest.

[Information on grants and financial aid](#) ➔

UAB Employment Portal

UAB students have a set of resources at their disposal geared toward to help them find employment and/or work placements related to their studies. All these resources are available at **Treball Campus**.

The main aim of **Treball Campus** is to help UAB undergraduates and graduates to access the labour market through companies and institutions seeking persons with the right talents or professional skills at the University.

[Treball Campus](#) ➔

How to apply for a work permit

Non-EU students who wish to work in Spain and have a job offer can do so by applying for a work permit. This permit only allows you to work for a maximum of three months, whether part-time or full-time, provided this is compatible with your academic timetable. Its expiry is subject to the contract termination date and/or to the expiry date of the TIE (foreigner ID card), though it can be renewed.

[Application for work permit](#) ➔

Getting here

To plan your arrival on campus we recommend that you visit the mobility and transport web page.

There you will find maps, different options to access the campus, fares, and other information of interest related to mobility.

[UAB mobility and transport website](#) →

The UAB campus in Bellaterra is the University's main campus. You can explore the campus at the following links:

[UAB Services](#) →

[Schools](#) →

First steps

On arriving on the **UAB** campus, **the first step is to visit the International Welcome Point office**, specifically for students, teaching staff and administrative staff from other countries.

Each UAB faculty also has an **office to help international students**. This office will offer you information about the faculty or university school where you are going to study.

[International Welcome Point](#) →

[Offices for international students](#) →





International Welcome Point

The International Welcome Point (IWP), located in the Plaza Cívica of the UAB campus, provides information and assistance with immigration formalities for students, teaching staff and administrative staff from other countries.

Before arriving

- Information and assistance with practical issues (accommodation, medical insurance, cost of living, etc.)
- Information on study, research and work visas.
- Practical guide for international students.
- Assistance for international postgraduate grant holders

On arrival

- Assistance for all foreign students, teaching staff or administrative staff and information on the first steps to take.
- Arrival register for exchange students and guest students, teaching staff and administrative staff.
- Assistance with immigration procedures (obtaining the ID card for foreigners, register of EU citizens, etc.)
- Welcome pack with practical information.
- Information on UAB welcome days.
- Assistance for organized groups (Study Abroad Programme, international visits, etc...).

During the stay

- Problem solving and liaison between different units of the UAB.
- Handling renewals of study permits.
- Information and processing of work permits for students.
- Handling renewals of residence and work permits.
- Support for international postgraduate grant holders.

[International Welcome Point](#) 



Legal formalities on arrival

Obtaining the ID card for study purposes (TIE)

The TIE is a temporary-stay authorization card valid for the duration of the studies in Spain. This authorization is granted for a maximum of one academic year and is renewed annually, provided that the requirements stipulated in the law are fulfilled. This document regularizes the stay of those who are going to remain in Spain for more than six months and have previously obtained an open study visa.

On entering the European Union, you have a maximum of 30 calendar days to apply for the TIE.

[How to obtain the ID card for study purposes](#) →

Authorization of stay for holders of a permit to study in another EU country

Those non-EU citizens who reside in a European country at the time of admission can regularize their situation in the Oficina de Extranjeros of Barcelona within a period of one month from their entry in Spain. For this it is essential that the card from the European country is still valid and that there is an entry stamp for Spain. This stamp can be obtained in the police stations: Comisaría de Policía Nacional of the airport or Comisaría of Rambla Guipúzcoa, 74 (Barcelona), within a period of 72 hours from entering.

The regularization process can be carried out through the International Welcome Point, which files applications on a weekly basis with the Oficina de Extranjeros of Barcelona.

Medical insurance

All foreign students studying at a Catalan university must be covered by medical insurance. The formalities to obtain medical insurance vary in accordance with the country of origin.

[Medical insurance for EU students](#) →

[Medical insurance for non-EU students](#) →



Registration

Registration is carried out just once a year, at the beginning of the academic year. Registration is carried out in person in the **Academic Management Service** of the Faculty where you are carrying out your studies.

Payment of the registration is by **direct debit***. If, before leaving your country, you need to make an advance payment, check the payment methods with the Academic Management Service.

*All **banks in Spain** can open a **bank account** for you. Each bank has its own conditions, but one essential requirement is to present your passport or residence card.

You will be given a **university card** on registration. This is all you need to access the various University services. The card is valid throughout your studies.

With the **University ID number (NIU)** that appears on the card, and your password, you will be able to access the UAB intranet and use its services

[Bachelor's degree registration](#) →

[Official master's degree registration](#) →

[Information on the student card](#) →

[Academic Management Service](#) →



Activities intended for international students

The **International Welcome Days** are intended for the international students of the UAB. They consist of a week of activities, workshops and talks offering an initial introduction to the academic, social and cultural life of the campus for recently arrived students, and they are also a good way of getting to know other UAB students, both local and international. Two are held, one in September and the other in February, at the beginning of each semester.

Mentor (buddy programme) matches up international mobility students arriving at the UAB with local students to help them join in the academic, social and cultural world of the UAB.

Tandem offers you the chance to practise different languages and get to know other cultures and customs, by having a language partner and participating in the activities that are organized. It is a useful way to practise languages yourself and help other people to practise your language at the same time.

Various **trips** to different places in Catalonia are organized during the year, so that you can get to know Catalan society and culture better and meet up with other exchange students.

[See the activities of the International Welcome Days](#) ➔

Contact the UAB

If you have any questions you can contact us by phone, on the social media, using the enquiry forms on the website www.uab.cat or by e-mail.

For inquiries about legal formalities please contact the UAB [International Welcome Point \(IWP\)](#)

☎ Phone + 34 93 581 11 11

✉ e-mail: informacio@uab.cat

📄 Enquiry forms: www.uab.cat

📘 Facebook: [Facebook.com/uabbarcelona](https://www.facebook.com/uabbarcelona)

🐦 Twitter: [@uab_info](https://twitter.com/@uab_info)

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