# Summer courses in the United States in 2027 with UIC

International Relations Service
Updated October 2026

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## 1. Presentation and objectives

The Department of International Relations is pleased to announce the opening of **applications for the following summer programmes**, aimed at undergraduate students[1] interested in enhancing their academic, linguistic and cultural skills.

- University of California, Berkeley (UC Berkeley) Summer Sessions: summer programme in one of the best public universities in the world.
- Boston University – Summer Term: An intensive summer programme offering university-level courses and academic opportunities at one of Boston's most prestigious institutions and one of the largest private universities in the United States.
- University of Pennsylvania – UPenn Summer: An Ivy League university offering a range of summer programmes that allow both domestic and international students to take university-level courses and experience academic life at UPenn:
    a. English Language Programs: for students who wish to improve their English
        i. IP (Intensive Program)
        ii. IAPS (Institute for Academic & Professional Studies)
    b. PSGI (Penn Summer Global Institute): for students with a high level of English

These programmes offer a unique opportunity to take courses, participate in specialised workshops and develop intercultural skills within a prestigious international academic environment.

Objectives:

- To promote **international mobility** and **cultural exchange** among students.
- To support the **improvement of English language skills** in academic and social contexts.
- To foster the **holistic education** of students through experiences at renowned higher education institutions.
- To strengthen **global competencies** and the **international outlook** of the university community.

## 2. Benefits for UIC students

[1] Master's students can apply for the grant, but priority will be given to undergraduate students. In general, there is no credit recognition for master's programmes.

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Students from UIC selected to participate in these programmes will have the opportunity to:

- **Apply for a UIC grant** (see the Grants section for further details).
- **Transfer credits** to their UIC undergraduate programme (see the Credit Recognition section for further details).
- Receive **guidance and support** throughout the application and enrolment process.
- Benefit from **priority enrolment** in **UC Berkeley Summer Sessions** before registration opens to the general public.
- Enrolments **discounts** for **Boston University Summer Term** and **UPenn Summer**.

**Important:** The grants and credit recognition protocol described in this call apply exclusively to the summer programmes specified in this document. Any other summer programme must be reviewed and assessed independently by the relevant faculty and does not guarantee the availability of scholarships or credit recognition.

## 3. Grants

UIC will offer **seven grants of €2,000**, distributed as follows:

- **3 grants of €2,000** for UC Berkeley Summer Sessions
- **2 grants of €2,000** for Boston University Summer Term
- **2 grants of €2,000** for UPenn Summer

Grants will be awarded to the top candidates based on the destination selected in their application, respecting the stated order of preference. Grants cannot be transferred between destinations under any circumstances.

These grants are intended exclusively to support international student mobility **and cannot be applied to online courses**.

The grants are a financial contribution designed to partially cover expenses related to the stay abroad, such as travel, visa, living expenses and tuition fees.

The total cost of tuition will depend on the number of credits the student chooses to take at the host institution.

Any additional expenses not covered by the scholarship – including the remaining tuition fees, accommodation and personal costs – must be borne by the student.

For up-to-date pricing information for each programme, please consult the following links:

- UC Berkeley Summer Sessions 2026

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- UPenn Summer IP: https://www.elp.upenn.edu/programs/intensive-program/dates-prices
- UPenn Summer IAPS: https://www.elp.upenn.edu/programs/iaps/dates-and-prices
- UPenn Summer PSGI: https://summer.sas.upenn.edu/programs/international-students/psgi/application
- Boston University Summer Term: https://www.bu.edu/summer/international-partner-students/

## 4. Recognition of credits

Students can participate in the programme with or without a grant, and in both cases credit transfer is possible (see Annex 1).

However, it will always be **mandatory** to pass the selection process described in this call.

It is mandatory to prepare and sign a Learning Agreement prior to the start of the mobility period and before finalising course selection, in order to ensure proper validation of subjects (where applicable).

If any changes occur to the selected subjects or study plan after the agreement has been signed, the student must immediately inform the academic coordinator and the International Relations Service for review and approval.

If changes are made without proper communication and authorisation, the validation of those subjects may be denied.

Upon completion of the summer sessions, students will receive an official academic transcript and the credits will be transferred to their UIC undergraduate programme, in accordance with the previously agreed Learning Agreement.

## 5. Insurance

Before undertaking a mobility placement, the student must provide proof of insurance for the duration of their stay. It is compulsory[2] to take out insurance with OnCampus, leader in travel assistance insurance for students undertaking study placements abroad. This policy offers

[2] Exemption from taking out this insurance will only be accepted in cases of force majeure. E.g.: if the host university or company where the mobility placement is carried out requires the student to take out its own insurance policy. In this case, to adequately assess the situation, students must complete and send a formal request along with a copy of their policy.

one of the most competitive prices on the market and meets all the minimum requirements stipulated by UIC.

- Accidents
- Travel assistance
- Medical assistance
- Civil liability

# 6. Participation requirements

Students who meet the following criteria may apply for this call:

- **Strong academic record**
    a. A minimum average of 7/10 is recommended.[3]
- During the application process, the student must be **at least in the 2nd year** of their degree[4], or at most in their final year of study[5].
- Comply with faculty's academic regulations for this programme.
- Proof of **English proficiency**:
    - Minimum B2 level or equivalent for: UC Berkeley Summer Sessions, Boston University Summer Term and PSGI (Penn Summer Global Institute)
    - Below B2: only applicable for UPenn IP and UPenn IAPS
- If the student is pursuing two degrees simultaneously (e.g., Business Administration and Law), the average of both grades will be considered, and evaluation will be requested from both faculties involved.
- A proactive profile, motivation and communication skills will be viewed positively.
- Compliance with all deadlines and administrative requirements set by both UIC International Relations and the host university.

# 7. Application process

Applications must be submitted by **10 December 2026** via the following **application form**:

The following documents should be enclosed:

[3] If the student is studying a double degree, the highest average will be taken into account, provided that they have completed at least 30 ECTS in that degree.
[4] Except for exceptions indicated in the regulations of each faculty.
[5] Master's students can apply for the grant, but priority will be given to undergraduate students. In general, there is no credit recognition for master's programmes.

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1. Official English language certificate[6]
2. Academic record (CAP), with the grade point average out of 10[7]
3. Motivation letter and CV
4. Supporting documents of the following cases, if applicable:
    a. Large family
    b. Single-parent families
    c. Disability of 33% or more
    d. Ministry grant holder

In the application, students must indicate their preferred destination(s) in order of priority.

## 8. Selection process and criteria

- International Relations will review application forms to ensure all required documents have been submitted within the established deadlines.
- Each faculty will carry out the initial selection process and assess applicants according to the following categories:
    - **Standard student**
    - **Very good student**
    - **Exceptional student**
    - **Rejected:** if the candidate does not meet the academic requirements set by faculty regulations. In this case, the candidate **will not proceed to the next stage of selection**.
- The International Relations Service will calculate the overall weighted score based on the following criteria (see detailed breakdown in Annex 2):
    a. Academic record **50%**[8]
    b. Certified English level **20%**

[6] Failure to provide a certificate meeting the destination's requirements will not automatically disqualify the application, but it will affect the evaluation according to the weighting assigned to language certification, reducing the chances of obtaining a grant. In any case, before undertaking mobility, all students must meet the English certificate requirement established by each destination.
[7] Document called "CAP", available from the secretariat of your faculty, at no additional cost when requested for this application.
[8] For double-degree students, the average of both grades will be used.

c. Faculty/lecturer recommendation **10%**

d. Financial need (official accreditation required): **10%**.[9]

e. Profile and motivation: **10%**[10].

# 9. Decision

The final decision regarding this call will rest with the **International Relations Service**, which reserves the right to approve or reject the applications submitted. It may also **invite candidates to a personal interview** or **request additional documentation** if deemed necessary to complete the evaluation process.

The International Relations Service will publish the final resolution in accordance with the established deadlines.

Under this call, a total of seven international mobility grants will be awarded. These will be allocated as follows, based on the destination selected by the student:

- **3 grants for the UC Berkeley – Summer Sessions**
- **2 grants for the University of Pennsylvania – Penn Summer**
- **2 grants for the Boston University – Summer Term**

Grants will be awarded according to the destination requested and cannot, under any circumstances, be transferred between programmes or reassigned to a different destination from that indicated in the call.

In the event of a tie, the academic transcript will be considered.

All candidates will receive an initial official resolution by email, informing them of the selection process results, the assigned destination, and the total score of their application, under the following categories:

- Candidates WITH A GRANT
- Candidates accepted to continue in the programme WITHOUT A GRANT
- Unsuccessful candidates
- Incomplete applications

[9] Students will be able to obtain points for the following concepts: Ministry of Education grant, “UIC Grants”, large family, single-parent family, disability over 33%.
[10] Students may be awarded points for: participation in UIC community activities such as volunteering, Buddy Programme, etc. The motivation letter will also be considered.

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Once the initial resolution has been published, candidates must, within the deadline set in the call calendar, indicate their choice from the following options:

- Acceptance of the assigned place (with or without a grant)
- Rejection of the assigned place and cancellation of the mobility application process.
- Rejection of the initially assigned place in order to request a place at another destination.
- Failure to respond within the deadline will be considered a withdrawal from the place.

**Waiting list for grants:** Candidates who are not awarded a grant will be placed on a waiting list. If additional places or grants become available, they will be contacted in order of the score obtained in the selection process. Grants cannot, under any circumstances, be transferred from one destination to another.

## 10. Denial or revocation of grants

- Grants will only be awarded to students undertaking in-person mobility. If a beneficiary opts to complete the programme in virtual or online mode, the grant will be automatically revoked and reassigned to the next candidate according to the established ranking.
- If the grant recipient changes the study mode or interrupts their mobility, they must immediately inform the International Relations Service and their academic coordinator, as both the grant and credit recognition may be affected.
- In duly justified cases of force majeure, situations will be assessed individually by the International Relations Service.

## 11. Call dates

- Publication of the call: **23 November 2026**
- Submission of applications: **until 10 December 2026**
- Publication of provisional results: **15 January 2027**
- Deadline for appeals and acceptance or rejection of offers (all applicants, with or without a grant): **22 January 2027**

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- **Waiting List:** applicants on the waiting list will be informed in order of ranking if a grant is available.
- Publication of final results: **26 January 2027**
- Meeting with selected students:
    - UC Berkeley Summer Sessions: **27 January 2027**
    - UPenn Summer: **28 January 2027**
    - Boston University Summer Term: **29 January 2027**
- The enrolment period at the host university will be communicated during the specific information session (see previous point).

## 12. Other regulations

- Students can only receive the grant once. The grant refers only to the summer of 2026.
- If an **application is received after the deadline**, it must be submitted to the International Relations Service and the candidate's acceptance to continue with the process will be subject to the approval of the relevant Faculty Board.
  If accepted by the Board, IR will inform the student of the next steps to be taken. Students who apply after the deadline will not be eligible for the grant and will only be able to participate without one. IR reserves the right to reject late applications if they cannot be processed within the deadlines set by the destination institution.

## 13. Payment of grants

UIC will pay the grant in two instalments:

- The **first instalment (70%)** will be paid when the student starts classes at the host university and sends the certificate of confirmation of arrival to IR.
- The **second instalment (30%)** will be paid once UIC receives the student's academic transcript and participation report for the mobility programmes.

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## 14. Contact

- International Relations Service, Barcelona Campus: exchange.bcn@uic.es
- International Relations Service, Sant Cugat Campus: exchange.scu@uic.es

# Annex 1: Credit recognition protocol and Learning Agreement

## What is the Learning Agreement (LA)?

The Learning Agreement (LA), or study agreement, is the document that establishes the relationship between the subjects you propose to take at the host university and their correspondence with subjects at UIC.

The final LA is prepared with the assistance of the faculty coordinator, who is responsible for assessing whether the subjects can be validated and their duration.

## Which programmes are covered by this protocol?

**This credit recognition protocol applies only to the summer programmes specified** below and previously approved by the UIC Board of Governors:

- University of California, Berkeley (UC Berkeley) Summer Sessions: A summer programme at one of the world's leading public universities according to the most prestigious rankings.
- Boston University – Summer Term: An intensive summer programme offering university-level courses and academic opportunities at one of Boston's most prestigious institutions and one of the largest private universities in the United States.
- University of Pennsylvania – UPenn Summer: An Ivy League university offering several summer programmes that allow domestic and international students to take university-level courses and experience academic life at UPenn:
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b. PSGI (Penn Summer Global Institute): for students with a high level of English

**Any other summer programme must be reviewed and assessed independently by the relevant faculty** and does not guarantee credit recognition.

## How can I have my credits recognised for mobility in any of the summer programmes in the United States mentioned above?

Once a student has applied to participate in one of the summer programmes and wishes to have credits recognised during their stay, they must inform International Relations (IR) (exchange.bcn@uic.es / exchange.scu@uic.es) and the relevant academic coordinator (AMC).

The academic coordinator (AMC) will review the student's proposed courses and indicate which recognition option applies to each proposed course:

**1. Recognition for subjects in the UIC degree curriculum**

- The AMC will review the syllabus of the destination course the student wishes to validate and ensure that the content matches that of the UIC subject proposed for recognition and that the number of credits is equivalent.
- All courses to be recognised in any way must be included in the **LA template**. This document must be signed by the student and the AMC. The student must submit it to IR using the "before mobility" form:

**2. Recognition as university extension credits:**

- If the AMC considers that the content of the destination courses does not match the UIC curriculum, recognition will follow the protocol for university extension activities (such as football, theatre, etc.).
- The maximum number of ECTS that can be recognised is 6 ECTS.
- These courses must also be included in the **LA template**. This document must be signed by the student and the AMC. The student must submit it to IR using the "before mobility" form.

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**3. No credit recognition:**

- If the content and credits of the destination courses do not match UIC subjects and the student has exceeded the number of credits recognised as university extension, these courses will not be recognised.
- These courses must also be included in the **LA template**. This document must be signed by the student and the AMC. The student must submit it to IR using the "before mobility" form.

## How do I complete the Learning Agreement using the LA template?

- Complete your Learning Agreement using the LA template:
- In this template, you must include **all** courses, both those recognised (whether as UIC curriculum subjects or as university extension credits) and those without recognition.
- You must agree the LA with your academic coordinator. Failure to do so may result in problems with recognition.
- You must submit the signed LA template (signed by you and your academic coordinator) using the "before mobility" form.

**IMPORTANT:**

Remember that **you will have to pay 10% of the credits** in your enrolment for the subjects you are going to validate at UIC.

## Changes to the Learning Agreement

Once you reach the host university, you can make changes to the Learning Agreement.

**IMPORTANT:**

- You must inform your academic coordinator at UIC to obtain approval for the changes.
- You must inform International Relations, who will tell you how to proceed with the changes.

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- You must comply with the deadlines set and the instructions given by your academic coordinator and International Relations.

## Annex 2: Scoring system

Applications will be assessed based on the documentation submitted by each candidate. The total score will be obtained by applying the following scoring system:

| | |
|---|---|
| **Academic record – up to 10 points – 50%** | |
| **5.5–5.99** | **2** |
| **6–6.49** | **3** |
| **6.5–6.99** | **4** |
| **7–7.49** | **5** |
| **7.5–7.99** | **6** |
| **8–8.49** | **7** |
| **8.5–8.99** | **8** |
| **9–9.49** | **9** |
| **9.5** | **10** |
| **Accredited level of English (up to 10 points – 20%)** | |
| **B1** | **2.5** |
| **B2** | **5** |
| **C1** | **7.5** |
| **C2** | **10** |
| **Recommendation from the Faculty or teaching staff (up to 10 points – 10%)** | |
| **Normal** | **5** |
| **Very good student** | **7.5** |
| **Exceptional student** | **10** |

| **Financial needs (up to 10 points – 10%)**<br>(Ministry of Education grant, 'UIC Grants', large family, single-parent family, disability greater than 33%) | |
|---|---|
| **Normal**: if one criterion is met | **5** |

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| | |
|---|---|
| **High**: if two criteria are met | **7.5** |
| **Very high**: if three criteria are met | **10** |

| **Student profile and motivation (up to 10 points – 10%)** (participation in UIC community activities such as volunteering, Buddy Programme, etc. The motivation letter will also be considered.) | |
|---|---|
| **Normal:** motivation letter | **5** |
| **Highly motivated:** motivation letter + participation in 1 activity | **7.5** |
| **Exceptional motivation:** motivation letter + participation in 2 or more activities | **10** |