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1. UIC Barcelona

Presentation

With its sophisticated international communications, mild Mediterranean climate, wide array of recreational activities and cosmopolitan feel, it is no wonder that Barcelona currently attracts over 7 million tourists a year. Throughout its 2000-year history, Barcelona, the capital of Catalonia, has made significant contributions to architecture, art and culture. Traditionally open to foreign influences while maintaining its strong Catalan identity, Barcelona has adopted a modern and dynamic approach to the way it handles its commercial, industrial, creative and educational activities. Barcelona also boasts one of the largest university communities in Europe, made up of nearly 200.000 students and 12.500 professors. In its 500 years of university life, Barcelona has shown a strong commitment to providing quality education.

Within this community, the Universitat Internacional de Catalunya, UIC Barcelona, as its name suggests, has created a unique place for itself, thanks to its international perspective. It offers comprehensive approach to learning and provides professional training for today's globalized world, while maintaining humanistic values that respond to each individual's personal needs and to the community we conform. The international Relations team at UIC Barcelona coordinates the international exchange of incoming and outgoing students, professors and staff members at the university level through the Erasmus and bilateral exchange programs. We also offer support regarding a number of issues, such as legalizing foreign status in Spain, to of students who enrol in one of the Bachelor's or Postgraduate programs of studies offered by UIC. Many of these topics are addressed in this guide.

Campus Barcelona

The Barcelona campus is easily accessible. Students can reach the campus by bus (busses V9, H4, 66, 22, 75, 64, 30, 60) or trains from the Ferrocarrils de la Generalitat (lines S1, S2 and L6), Sarrià station. From Sarrià, the train ride to the city center (Plaça Catalunya) takes about 15 minutes. The Campus Barcelona consists of four buildings: Alpha and Beta (Carrer de la Immaculada) and Gamma and Delta (Carrer de Terré).

Buildings Alpha and Beta host students from:

The Faculties of Economics and Social Sciences, Communication Sciences, Law, Humanities and The School of Architecture.

Buildings Gamma and Delta host the Faculty of Education.

The Barcelona Campus boasts state-of-the-art facilities for theory and practical classes, including a lecture hall that can hold over 400 people, a television studio with production, editing and post-production rooms, a radio studio, and a model workshop in the School of Architecture. There are also self-learning language facilities, IT rooms, computer rooms, study rooms and several workshops among other facilities.



Aula Magna



Digital Media Studios



The Garden Hall



Assembly Hall

Campus Sant Cugat

The Sant Cugat campus is placed inside the grounds of Hospital General de Catalunya, in the city of Sant Cugat del Vallès. The campus is easily accessible from both Barcelona and the Vallès region. It has its own train station, Hospital General - Ferrocarrils de la Generalitat, which serves the line S1. The train ride from Barcelona to Sant Cugat takes about 20 minutes.

Students enrolling to:

The Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences (Degree in Medicine, degree in Nursing, degree in Physiotherapy, degree in Bioengineering, degree in Biomedical Sciences (Biomedicine), degree in Psychology).

The Faculty of Dentistry (Degree in Dentistry Spanish and English program).

have the opportunity to learn and train in a real functioning hospital. Practical experience, particularly on this campus, forms the basis of successful learning. Students of Dentistry for example, can gain experience working with patients at the UIC's University Dentistry Clinic.

Students enrolling at the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences enjoy access to practice rooms that are equipped with cutting-edge technology, including a simulation laboratory, gyms and dissecting rooms.



Virtual laboratory



The University Dental Clinic



Physiotherapy's gymnasium 1 (360°)



Physiotherapy's gymnasium 2 (360°)



Anatomy laboratory (360°)



Preclinical Laboratory in dentistry (360°)



Laboratory of Clinical Skills and Simulation



Simulated Nursing Laboratory (LBS)

2. Services and university life

International Relations

The UIC Barcelona International Relations team is one of the most important contacts for all international students joining UIC Barcelona.



Isabel Pera Segarra
Director of the
International Relations
Service



**Celia Martínez
Martínez**
Global Partnerships and
Staff Mobility Manager



Sharon Rauet Frentjen
Partnerships & Grants
Administrator



Sílvia Loewe
Senior International
Mobility Coordinator,
Campus Barcelona



Mònica Luque Xicota
International Mobility
Coordinator, Campus
Sant Cugat



Reetta Heikkinen
Junior International
Mobility Coordinator,
Campus Barcelona



Mavi Maestre
International Mobility
Coordinator, Campus
Sant Cugat

exchange.bcn@uic.es

exchange.scu@uic.es

Semester structure

Our semester 1 lasts from September to January, and the semester 2 starts in late January and lasts until June. Exam periods are in January (semester 1 courses) and in the end of May (semester 2 courses). The resit exams for both semesters take place in the end of June.

You will receive the updated academic calendar for your faculty by email.

Note that in your country or home university the system might differ. Remember to take this into account when planning your exams here and at home.

Welcome activities

Welcome Session:

1st week of September (semester 1 / fall)

2nd week of January (semester 2 / spring)

The Welcome Session is the first and most significant event organised every semester by the International Relations team. During the Welcome Session students mix with other international colleagues, International Relations, Academic Coordinators and other staff members of UIC Barcelona. After the session, we will also offer some Spanish-styled snacks.



Culture workshop and Language workshop:

Right after Welcome Session, every semester

Workshops for all new exchange students, where they get to work together around the theme of internationalization and culture, in a motivating atmosphere, and learn about the Catalan language and culture.



Barcelona city tour:

Right after Welcome Session, every semester

A city tour around the beautiful Barcelona, by bus and walking, with a professional guide. This activity is free of charge, and offers a perfect possibility to get to know other new exchange students from both campuses and all study fields.



Mentor programme

International students have the possibility to get a local student mentor, who will help them with getting to know Barcelona and the university. More information about how to sign up will be sent to students after acceptance.

Student Services

Accommodation



<https://www.uic.es/en/accommodation-recommendations>

<http://bcu.cat/en/>

Please visit the BCU website. The **Barcelona Centre Universitari (BCU)** is an official organization that aims to accommodate and help out UIC Barcelona students, teachers and researchers who choose Barcelona to develop their project.

UIC Barcelona doesn't have campus dormitories, but we recommend you to see the links above. Barcelona is a vibrant city with many possibilities, so it's good to know the DOs and DON'Ts before jumping in. Our Student Services can inform you about different options.

An average cost for a room in a shared apartment varies between 400-700€ / month.

Sports

<https://www.uic.es/en/sports>

<https://www.uic.es/en/sports/advantages-and-discounts>

At Student Services, you can also get information on different sports teams and groups at UIC. See the links above, and contact the Student Services in order to participate in the activities!



Solidarity



<https://www.uic.es/en/solidarity>

The aim of the University Students for Solidarity Service is to contribute to a comprehensive education for students so that they can discover their desire to help others and improve their professional competences. For that reason, UIC Barcelona offers students the opportunity to discover their desire to help others through various practical projects both during the academic year and over the summer holidays.

We encourage you to take part and find more information in the link above.



Student card

UIC Barcelona students, including international students, have access to several offers and promotions, such as sports facilities. The card is also used for printing at the campuses, and for library services and cafeteria.

Exchange students can apply for the card in intranet, once they are officially enrolled and get their UIC credentials. You can ask more information at the Student Services.

Culture

<https://www.uic.es/en/culture>

Students have a possibility to participate in various activities and groups. You can read more on our website. These activities are a great way to get to know local students!

You can find an activity for example among the following groups: **theatre, reading, music, gastronomy, cinema, debate, literature, photography etc.**



Language courses

<https://www.uic.es/en/ifm>

Our Institute for Multilingualism provides support for the University community members wishing to improve their knowledge of foreign languages, and to international students needing to learn or improve their **Spanish** and **English** skills, or wanting to learn **Catalan**.

A multiplicity of courses is offered to all international students: Face to face, blended and online courses. These courses have a special price for Erasmus+ students.

For those students wishing to improve their skills in English, free support, linguistic resources and guidance is also available: diagnostic tests, advice, resources for autonomous learning, conversation groups, cinema and book clubs, language exchanges and other activities.

The Institute for Multilingualism at UIC Barcelona is accredited by the Spanish Association of Higher Education Language Centres (ACLES) to assess competence in English as an examining centre for the Language Certificate of the Universities of Catalonia (CLUC).

Chaplaincy

<https://www.uic.es/en/chaplaincy>

The Chaplaincy promotes various **religious activities** open to all those interested in participating. The chaplains are **also happy to attend to anyone who seeks their guidance** in order to develop and enrich their personal or spiritual lives.

To facilitate religious practice and spiritual life in the academic setting, the University maintains a chapel or house of worship on each campus, and all are welcome to celebrate the Eucharist and receive the sacrament of Penance.

At the university's request, the Opus Dei Prelature is responsible for pastoral care in the chapel, through the priests who are in attendance there. The Opus Dei Prelature is an organization within the Church, placed under the authority of its Prelate, appointed by the Pope, on which it depends both immediately and directly, through the Congregation for Bishops. The Christian labour entrusted to the Opus Dei consists of disseminating the ideal of holiness around the world, in both the professional sphere and also in ordinary circumstances.



Cafeteria

<https://www.uic.es/en/coffee-shop>

UIC Barcelona has a cafeteria in Barcelona Campus, and in Sant Cugat Campus. You can buy drinks, snacks and sandwiches (“bocadillos”), and they also serve a buffet lunch from Monday to Friday. The price for the lunch (first + second course, dessert and drink) is about 8 € for UIC students.

IT services and wifi

There are computer rooms for students in both campuses. Students can also access the UIC Barcelona **wifi connection and eduroam**.

Eduroam is a worldwide secure mobility service developed for the academic and research community. The service provides the students, researchers and staff of participating institutions with access to wireless Internet connectivity on their own campus and when visiting other institutions participating in the Eduroam initiative.



3. Life in Barcelona

Visa and other formalities

If you have doubts about immigration and administration issues in Spain, **you can contact our legal advisor, Ida Quintian, at iquintian@uic.es.**

Before coming to Spain:

Make sure you apply for an adequate visa, according to your nationality, as soon as possible after you receive the Acceptance Letter from UIC Barcelona.

Once in Spain:

If you are from an EU member state (Germany, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Croatia, Denmark, Slovakia, Slovenia, Estonia, Finland, France, Greece, the Netherlands, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Poland, Portugal, the United Kingdom, the Czech Republic, Romania and Sweden) **or from Liechtenstein, Iceland, Norway or Switzerland**, then you have the right of free movement and residence in Spain.

Any foreigner however, who has come to Spain for over 3 months for economic, educational or professional purposes, **has to register** at the Central Registry for Foreigners to get the **NIE, the Foreign Identity Number**. It is issued by the National Police of Spain. You can apply for NIE number at police stations with a *Oficina de Extranjeros* (Foreigners Office).

It is obligatory **to book an appointment online**

<https://sede.administracionespublicas.gob.es/pagina/index/directorio/icplusplus/language/en>

and present the required documents:

- **Printed confirmation of the appointment booking**
- **Application form EX-15:** copy and original version, duly completed and signed by the foreigner
- **Form modelo 790**
- **A valid copy of your passport or national identity document** (original and a photocopy)
- **Proof of enrolment at UIC Barcelona**
- **Proof of address in Spain (e.g. rental contract)**
- **European healthcare card or medical insurance** (original and a photocopy)
- **A sworn declaration stating that you have sufficient economic means** during your stay in Spain (template). Participation in study exchange programmes in the European Union is considered to be sufficient accreditation for the justification of financial means. You can find more information if you visit the Ministry of the Interior website

If you are a student from outside the European Union (EU), EEA (Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway) or Switzerland, you need to prepare your legal situation **before arriving to Barcelona**. The arrangements will vary depending on the duration of your stay.

Note that you cannot change your visa type once you enter the country. If you enter as a tourist (residence permit up to 90 days) you will have to leave after that period.

Required procedures:

1. Before you arrive in Spain: **Student Visa** (180 days recommended)
2. Within one month (30 days) of your date of entry in Spain:
 - **NIE** (Foreign Identity Number): for study programmes lasting 90 days or more. You will need the NIE for arrangements such as opening a bank account (some banks). Buying/selling/insuring property, being paid for employment, getting the Bicing card (Barcelona's public biking system). See the previous page for required documents.
 - **TIE** (Foreign Identity Card), obligatory for study programmes lasting more than 6 months (180 days).
3. Two months before your card expires: Renewal of the Student Residence Permit
4. If you need to travel and your card has expired: Re-entry permit
5. If you want to work during your period of study: Work permit

If you come from a non-EU country but are already in Europe for a study programme, you must communicate your stay to the Spanish authorities. The process will vary according to your residence card:

When your EU resident permit includes the period you will stay in Spain, UIC Barcelona will communicate with Spanish authorities. Please let us know if this is your case so we can help you.

When your EU resident permit does not include the period you will be in Spain, then you either need to apply for a visa at the country where you are living, or you can apply for a Spanish permit within the first month of your stay in Spain.

Immigration department will request you to show the following documents:

- Resident permit of the previous EU country and passport
- Domicile certificate from your previous EU country place
- Admission letter of UIC and admission letter from the previous university
- Health care insurance
- Official medical certificate
- Criminal record from your country of origin and from the countries where you lived the last five years
- Economic resources, you are request to show you are granted, you have the support of your relatives or you hold a Spanish bank account with 600€ per month of the stay

Getting to Barcelona

The airport of Barcelona is located in the suburbs of Barcelona, in a town called El Prat de Llobregat. There are different ways to arrive to the airport or the other way around:

By car: taking the highway C-31 or C-32, both take you to the centre of the city. The journey is no longer than 30 minutes if traffic allows it.

By bus: the lines connecting the city and the airport are the Aerobus T1 and T2. Both take you from Pl. Catalunya to the Airport (Terminal 1 or 2) in about 35 minutes. There are some stops in between, as for example, Plaça Espanya. The tickets cost €5.90 per person. They leave every 5 minutes.

By taxi: there is a taxi stand in front of the airport departures door. To get to Plaça Catalunya the price is more or less €30 and it takes around 30 minutes.

By train: The local train line of RENFE Rodalies/Cercanías (R2 Norte Aeropuerto - Sant Celoni / Maçanet Massanes) is the most economical way connecting Barcelona's airport with the city. Reaching the airport is easy from the train & metro station of El Clot, Sants and Passeig de Gràcia, from which the estimated travelling time is 30min.

Other airports:

El Prat is not the only Catalan airport, the Girona-Costa Brava and Reus airports are located at approximately 100 kilometres from Barcelona city.

Understanding the city

Barcelona is divided in 10 districts and each of them has its own neighbourhoods and spirit.

The Ciutat Vella District “the Old City” (medieval heart of the city)

Neighbourhoods: El Gòtic, La Ribera, El Raval, La Barceloneta, the last one, known as the “Barcelona beach”.

Along with Barceloneta you will find Vila Olímpica and Poblenou, in the Sant Martí district, all together 4km of beaches that form the maritime area of the city.

The Eixample District surrounds the original old walls of Barcelona (very impressive from an architectural point of view) Neighbourhoods: Gràcia, Sarrià-Sant Gervasi – where UIC Barcelona is located–, Sant Andreu and Horta (former nearby villages and nowadays part of the main city)



Public transport

<https://www.tmb.cat/ca/home/>

The public transport in Barcelona is very quick and easy: most places are accessible. There are single tickets for one trip or tickets for various trips; the more often you travel, the cheaper it becomes. You can purchase the tickets directly at the station in the vending machines. If you are under 25 years old, the travel cards have a discount.

TMB has a smartphone application called "TMB app" that lets you find out what is the fastest route by public transport to get to your destination.

<https://www.bicing.cat/es/> 

Most of the Barcelona's city centre is fairly flat, so it's easy to find your way around on a bicycle, even if you're not used to it. A lot of the streets have bike lanes, and cars are usually respectful of the cyclists. You can buy or rent one, but Barcelona also has a public bike system called Bicing. There are many Bicing stations all over the city. You can take a bike and drop it off at any other station once you have joined the network.

The bikes can be used for free for a period of 30 minutes; after that, around 0.70 euros is charged every half-hour, up to a maximum of two hours. When you reach the limit-limit of two hours, the charge is around 5 euros / hour. To use Bicing regularly you will need a Bicing card. All you have to do is register on their website - you'll need a credit card, your NIE number, and your address. After registering, the card will arrive at your home within a period of ten days. The annual fee for Bicing is around €50.

Banks

The bank accounts listed below provide benefits for students and young people. Note that normally you will need the NIE number to open a bank account.

La Caixa: <http://www.carnetjove.cat/ca>

BBVA: www.bbva.es/eng/particulares/index.jsp

Banco Santander: has an agreement with UIC. It provides discounts to UIC students and staff.
<https://www.bancosantander.es/es/universidades>

Health care, insurance and security

If you are from the EU, you should get a European Health Insurance Card. The European Health Insurance Card is a free card that gives you access to medically necessary, state-provided healthcare during a temporary stay in any of the 28 EU countries, or Iceland, Lichtenstein, Norway and Switzerland, under the same conditions and at the same cost (free in some

countries) as people insured in that country. Cards are issued by your National Health Insurance provider.

In addition, UIC Barcelona strongly recommends every student to get a medical travel insurance. Please also note the special requirements of your exchange programme / study field.

If you are not from the EU, you have to get your own insurance. Various companies offer this service, such as ERV (International Relations provides information about ERV seguros).

In the case of an illness or other incidence, you should be in contact with your insurance provider.

General emergency contacts in Barcelona you can see below:

All Emergencies: 112

Fire Service: 080

Guardia Urbana: 092

Mossos d'Esquadra (autonomous police): 112

Medical Emergencies: 061

Lost Objects Office: 010

Leisure and culture

Barcelona is an incredible city, one that you will greatly enjoy during your time here. We are sure you will love it! To assist you in discovering it, we have listed a few websites where you can gather information about the city, its surroundings and more. It is also important to know that museums are free on Sundays after 3pm, and also that most of them are closed on Mondays.

www.bcn.es

www.barcelona.com

www.totbarcelona.org

www.timeout.com

www.butxaca.com

www.casaasia.es

www.guiadelociobcn.com

<https://guia.barcelona.cat/en/>



Most Spaniards start their days quite early between 7:00 and 8:00 a.m. Daily schedules are a bit different to other parts of Europe.

Breakfast: between 7:00 and 10:00a.m. It is common to find affordable “breakfast deals” in bars and cafeterias, usually composed of “café con leche y croissant o tostadas con mermelada o aceite de oliva o “pa amb tomaca”, y zumo de naranja” (coffee with milk, croissant or bread toasts with jam or olive oil and fresh tomato and orange juice)

Lunch: between 1:00 and 2:00 p.m. during working days, and up to 3:00 p.m. during holidays or weekends.

Dinner: between 9:00 and 10 p.m. especially during working days.



Shopping times: Most businesses are open between Monday and Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00p.m. Yet, there are some small and traditional shops that have a break between 3 p.m. and 5p.m. and end the working day at 8:00 p.m.

If you are interested in getting to know Barcelona, Catalan culture and its gastronomy, then you should find out about some of **the festivities and cultural events** that take place throughout the year:

SEPTEMBER

11 September: National Catalan Day, also known as the Diada.

24 September: Festes de la Mercé: the main annual festival in Barcelona, which celebrates the birth of the city’s patron saint, the Virgin of Mercy. Big and small events that focus on popular Catalan culture, music festivals, parades, horse rides, a castells contest, traditional dances such as la sardana, concerts, firework displays, air shows and many other events in Barcelona in various locations.

OCTOBER

around 7 October: Fiesta de Sarrià: some of the highlights include La Cercavila de les Escoles, el Correfoc, Sarrià en flames and la Trobada de Gegants.

NOVEMBER

1 November: All Saint's Day, and a national holiday.

DECEMBER

25 December: Christmas Day.

26 December: Saint Stephen's Day, a holiday in Catalonia.

JANUARY

1 January: New Year's Day

5 January: Twelfth Night procession, the Three Kings ride into town on horses, it's a great show, especially for kids.

6 January: Three Kings Day.

FEBRUARY

Carnivals: there are carnival parades all over Spain and several in Catalonia, such as the one in Sitges.

APRIL

14 April: Good Friday

22 April: Easter Monday

23 April: Sant Jordi's Day, one of the most popular celebrations in Catalonia.

According to legend, Saint Jordi saved a princess from the clutches of a dragon and became Catalonia's patron. It is a day when you can enjoy the spring and the tradition is to give roses and books as gifts to loved ones.

MAY

1 May: May Day

JUNE

9 June: Pentecost

Nights of 23/24 June: Night of Sant Joan, the celebration of the summer solstice. Parties and celebrations are held around a bonfire on the beach. The festival fills the night with light, colour and sound, due to the fireworks and firecrackers.

Telephone and electricity

Spain's country code is +34. Your family will need to dial this code to call Spain from your home country. Besides from the international code, every Spanish city has its own regional code. Thus, every Catalan landline will start with the prefix 93.

Barcelona's electricity supply is **220 volts**. Students coming from the UK or USA will need special adaptors to use the electrical goods you bring from home. Goods acquired in Spain do not need any adaptor. Plugs in Spain:



Groceries and shopping

The areas where most shops can be found include:

The area around Plaça Catalunya: Portal de l'Àngel, c/ Pelai, c/ Portaferrissa, Paseo de Gracia, Rambla de Catalunya.

El Triangle: shopping centre in Plaça Catalunya.

Diagonal: there is a shopping centre between Plaza Francesc Macià and Paseo de Gracia. L'illa shopping centre is located on Avinguda Diagonal, at number 565.

Pedralbes Centre: the most exclusive shopping centre in Barcelona, located on Avinguda Diagonal, at number 615.

Shopping centres:

Diagonal Mar: www.diagonalmar.com

Arenas: www.arenasdebarcelona.com/

Glories: www.lesglories.com/W/do/centre/tiendas

La Maquinista: www.lamaquinista.com/W/do/centre/tiendas

Maremagnum: www.maremagnum.es/tiendas (open on Sundays)

Supermarkets:

Caprabo: www.caprabo.com/web/es/conoce_tucaprabo.html

Carrefour: www.carrefour.es/hipermercados/guia_hipermercados/index.asp

Consum: www.consum.es

El Corte Inglés: www.elcorteingles.es/supermercado/sm/login/login.jsp

Mercadona: www.mercadona.es/ns/index.php?nidioma=1

Bon preu: www.bonpreu.cat/index.php?&idIdiomaCap=2

Condis: www.condis.es/index_cast.php

Sustainability Office

The Sustainability Office is a service created by UIC Barcelona to coordinate sustainability in all areas of the University.

Through its UIC + Sustainable programme, the Sustainability Office organises training and environmental awareness seminars for the entire university community, such as the Cross-Disciplinary Workshop on Sustainability and World Environment Day.

Recycling

Special waste bins include elements that identify them and make it easier for everyone to locate and distinguish between them in public spaces: Each waste category is associated with a colour:

Organic - Brown

Plastic packaging - Yellow

General waste - Grey

Glass – Green

Cardboard and paper - Blue



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