

Training on environmental aspects of sustainability

QS Sustainability – Evidence (Students and Staff) | Academic year 2024–2025

Introduction

UIC Barcelona provides mandatory, recurring training that supports the environmental aspects of sustainability through its integrated Occupational Risk Prevention system (PRL/UPRL). This system promotes prevention culture and environmentally responsible practices across the university community, including safe management of environmental risks and correct waste segregation (especially in laboratories and clinical environments). The PRL management system applies to staff (PAS/PDI) and students and includes periodic training actions and an annual general emergency drill. In addition, UIC Barcelona offers optional learning opportunities (talks, workshops and academic events) that build environmental awareness and skills.

The PRL management manual states that UIC Barcelona seeks to “spread a preventive and environmental culture” and that it aims to “promote good practices and respect for our environment”.

Evidence sources

Public evidence: Occupational Risk Prevention Unit (UPRL) webpage

UIC link:

<https://www.uic.es/en/university/campus/safety-and-health/occupational-risk-prevention-unit-uprl>

Public evidence (supporting): Waste management (Sustainable Campus) webpage

UIC link: <https://www.uic.es/en/university/campus/sustainable-campus/waste-management>

Internal evidence: Manual of Integrated Occupational Risk Prevention Management (MG-PRL-UIC-01, Rev. 03, 11/2020)

1) Mandatory recurring training – Occupational Risk Prevention (PRL/UPRL) (Staff – PAS/PDI)

Mandatory / periodic training (academic year cycle)

- Periodic PRL training actions for all PAS and PDI (online or in-person)

Date: Ongoing (periodic; delivered within each academic year)

Description: Periodic PRL training actions delivered online or in-person, addressed to all PAS and PDI as part of the institutional prevention system.

Target group: Staff (PAS and PDI)

Social impact: Strengthens prevention culture and safer working practices, supporting environmentally responsible procedures and risk reduction.

UIC link: Internal evidence (MG-PRL-UIC-01, Rev. 03, 11/2020)

• **Laboratories and clinical environments: safe practice and waste segregation responsibilities**

Date: Ongoing (role-based)

Description: Role-based prevention duties in laboratories and clinical environments include correct segregation of laboratory waste and management of special waste collection.

Target group: Staff (laboratory and clinical environment)

Social impact: Reduces environmental harm and improves compliant handling of hazardous/special waste while protecting health and safety.

UIC link: Internal evidence (MG-PRL-UIC-01, Rev. 03, 11/2020)

• **Waste management framework embedded in the prevention system**

Date: Ongoing

Description: Waste management objectives prioritise prevention/reduction at source, reuse and recycling, and controlled disposal; the system supports correct disposal pathways and hazardous waste handling.

Target group: Staff

Social impact: Supports safer, lower-impact campus operations through responsible waste management and reduced environmental deterioration.

UIC link: <https://www.uic.es/en/university/campus/sustainable-campus/waste-management>

Summary of additional PRL/UPRL sessions (non-mandatory as stated)

Additional PRL sessions offered include incident/accident investigation, basic preventive principles, first aid, protections for especially sensitive workers

(pregnancy/maternity/breastfeeding), fire prevention and evacuation, electrical risk, work-related road safety, and other preventive measures relevant to university activities.

2) Mandatory annual dedicated training – Students and Staff

Annual emergency preparedness and participation

• Mandatory annual emergency preparedness training/drill (institution-wide)

Date: Annual (each academic year)

Description: Mandatory annual emergency preparedness training/drill involving the university community to strengthen evacuation readiness and coordinated response.

Target group: Students and Staff

Social impact: Improves campus safety and coordinated response during incidents, protecting the university community.

This mandatory annual training/drill reinforces responsible behaviour in campus environments (including laboratories and teaching spaces), supports compliance with safety and waste-handling procedures during incidents, and contributes to minimising environmental harm through preparedness and coordinated response.

UIC link: Internal evidence (MG-PRL-UIC-01, Rev. 03, 11/2020)

• Student participation in drills and adherence to safe and responsible practices

Date: Ongoing (applies to academic activity; reinforced through drills/emergencies)

Description: Students are required to follow safety rules and good practices, report risks, and collaborate in drills and emergencies as part of the prevention system.

Manual (students): “Colaborar en todos los actos de simulacros y posibles emergencias reales.”

Target group: Students

Social impact: Builds responsible habits that support safe and environmentally responsible conduct in learning environments.

This includes reinforcing environmentally responsible conduct in practical settings (e.g., correct waste segregation and safe handling of materials where applicable).

UIC link: Internal evidence (MG-PRL-UIC-01, Rev. 03, 11/2020)

3) Mandatory role-based PRL courses with clear environmental relevance (Staff)

Course descriptions (translated from internal PRL training documentation)

• Risks and preventive measures in UIC laboratories and the clinical environment

Date: Ongoing (academic year cycle 2024–2025)

Description: 3-hour training covering general PRL concepts and specific risks in laboratories and the clinical environment, including emergency response and safe practices.

Target group: Staff (laboratory and clinical environment)

Social impact: Protects health and safety while reinforcing responsible handling of environmental risks and waste in higher-exposure settings.

UIC link: Internal evidence (PRL training description / People Management)

Course details (verbatim structure, translated)

Duration: 3 hours

Directed to: Laboratory and clinical environment staff

Objectives:

- Raise awareness of the importance of prevention at work; identify risks and the means/actions to prevent them.
- Present general and specific risks so they can be identified and the corresponding preventive measures adopted.
- Cover general PRL concepts (workplaces, installations, work equipment, personal protective equipment, emergency response) and specific risks for laboratories and the clinical environment.

Syllabus:

- Topic 1. Regulatory framework for occupational risk prevention. UIC Barcelona PRL policy.
- Topic 2. Laboratory and clinical environment staff.
- Topic 3. Facility-related risks and preventive measures.
- Topic 4. Risks and preventive measures.
- Topic 5. Specific risks and preventive measures.

- Topic 6. Prevention and response in an emergency.

• **UNIVERSITY TEACHING: specific risks and preventive measures**

Date: Ongoing (academic year cycle 2024–2025)

Description: 3-hour training covering general PRL concepts and specific risks for teaching and administrative activity, including emergency response.

Target group: Staff (teaching and administrative staff)

Social impact: Supports safe university operations and responsible practices, reducing risks and strengthening preparedness.

UIC link: Internal evidence (PRL training description / People Management)

Course details (verbatim structure, translated)

Duration: 3 hours

Directed to: Teaching and administrative staff

Objectives:

- Raise awareness of the importance of prevention at work; identify risks and the means/actions to prevent them.
- Present general and specific risks so they can be identified and the corresponding preventive measures adopted.
- Cover general PRL concepts (workplaces, installations, work equipment, personal protective equipment, emergency response) and specific risks for teaching and administration.

Syllabus:

- Topic 1. Regulatory framework for occupational risk prevention.
- Topic 2. University teaching staff.
- Topic 3. Facility-related risks and preventive measures.
- Topic 4. Risks and preventive measures.
- Topic 5. Prevention and response in an emergency.

• **Basic level in Occupational Risk Prevention (30 hours)**

Date: Ongoing (as required by role)

Description: 30-hour PRL training aligned with Royal Decree 39/1997 covering OSH fundamentals, general risks, emergency and evacuation planning, and prevention management.

Target group: Staff (as required by role)

Social impact: Builds competence to prevent harm and strengthens safe and environmentally responsible working practices.

UIC link: Internal evidence (PRL training description / People Management)

Course contents (verbatim structure, translated)

In accordance with Royal Decree 39/1997 (Regulation of Prevention Services).

CHAPTER 1. BASIC CONCEPTS ON SAFETY AND HEALTH AT WORK

- The work and health: occupational risks. Risk factors.
- Work-related harm: accidents and occupational diseases; other work-related pathologies.
- Basic regulatory framework in occupational risk prevention. Core rights and duties.
- Employer liability for non-compliance with OSH measures.

CHAPTER 2. GENERAL RISKS AND THEIR PREVENTION

- Risks linked to safety conditions.
- Risks linked to the work environment.
- Workload, fatigue and job dissatisfaction.
- Basic risk control systems. Collective and individual protection.
- Emergency and evacuation plans.
- Workers' health surveillance.

CHAPTER 3. SPECIFIC RISKS AND THEIR PREVENTION IN THE SECTOR CORRESPONDING TO THE COMPANY'S ACTIVITY

- Specific risks and preventive measures relevant to university activities.

CHAPTER 4. BASIC ELEMENTS OF PREVENTION MANAGEMENT

- Public bodies related to safety and health at work.
- Preventive organisation of work: basic routines.
- Documentation: collection, preparation and archiving.

4) Optional complementary environmental learning (context only; not used as proof of mandatory annual training)

Examples (students and staff)

• 16th Cross-Disciplinary / Transversal Workshop on Sustainability (student projects on climate change)

Date: 21/11/2024

Description: Workshop theme “Climate change: science, irreversibility and commitment,” including student projects and linked expert session.

Target group: Students (and university community depending on session)

Social impact: Builds climate literacy and skills to engage with environmental challenges.

UIC link:

<https://www.uic.es/en/university/campus/sustainability-and-social-commitment/teaching-and-research-sustainability/cross>

• Aula de Pensamiento – sustainability reflection sessions (SEI – GRC)

Date: Jan–Apr 2025 (monthly sessions)

Description: Interdisciplinary reflection sessions on sustainability topics; recorded for later viewing.

Target group: Students and Staff

Social impact: Encourages environmental responsibility and values-based engagement for sustainability.

UIC link:

<https://www.uic.es/es/noticia/consulta-las-sesiones-de-reflexion-del-aula-de-pensamiento-de-sostenibilidad>

Appendix – Detailed mandatory PRL courses (Staff – PAS/PDI)

Mandatory PRL courses aligned with environmental aspects of sustainability

- **Emergency Plan Training/Briefing – Sant Cugat Campus**

Date: 20/02/2025

Description: Briefing on emergency procedures, roles and response protocols for the Sant Cugat Campus.

Target group: Staff

Social impact: Strengthens institutional readiness and coordinated response, protecting staff and campus community during incidents.

UIC link:

<https://www.uic.es/en/university/campus/safety-and-health/occupational-risk-prevention-unit-uprl>

- **University Teaching: Specific Risks and Preventive Measures**

Date: Throughout academic year 2024–2025

Description: Ongoing training on occupational risks and preventive measures in university teaching contexts.

Target group: Staff

Social impact: Supports safer academic work environments and staff wellbeing through a consistent prevention culture.

UIC link:

<https://www.uic.es/en/university/campus/safety-and-health/occupational-risk-prevention-unit-uprl>

- **University Teaching: Specific Risks and Preventive Measures in UIC Laboratories and the Clinical Environment**

Date: Throughout academic year 2024–2025

Description: Ongoing training on specific risks and preventive measures in laboratories and clinical environments.

Target group: Staff

Social impact: Reduces risk in higher-exposure environments, protecting staff and strengthening safe practice.

UIC link:

<https://www.uic.es/en/university/campus/safety-and-health/occupational-risk-prevention-unit-upr/>