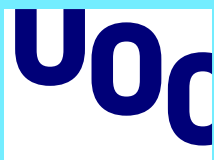


# Uoc

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## Press pack



Universitat  
Oberta  
de Catalunya

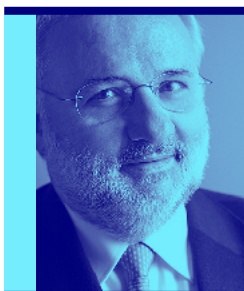


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“The UOC is agile enough to be able to reinvent itself and, thus, contribute to outlining the higher education model of the future.

Being different, but able to complement the university system, that is what makes us strong.”

**Josep A. Planell**, president

# 1

## A pioneer in e-learning

The UOC is an **innovative university** that is rooted in Catalonia and open to the world. It offers people of all ages lifelong learning to help them, and society, advance, while carrying out research in two particularly important areas: **the information and knowledge society** and **e-learning**. Its educational model is based on **personalization** and student mentoring via e-learning.

Founded in 1994 with the backing of the Government of Catalonia, the UOC is an institution created within the knowledge society. It offers top-quality distance education and is a world leader in research and the application of information and communication technologies (ICT) to education. It is a university that provides a **public service** but with a **private management** model. The UOC forms part of the Spanish and Catalan public university systems and is a member of the leading international university networks.

As an innovative institution, the UOC has received many awards and recognitions for its work and achievements, including the five awards it has received from the IMS Global Learning Consortium for its impact on learning. These accolades highlight the university's history and quality, and the innovation and excellence of its e-learning model.

The courses offered are official and endorsed by the Catalan University Quality Assurance Agency (AQU Catalunya) and the Spanish Quality Assessment and Accreditation Agency (ANECA), which assure academic rigour and compliance with the standards required by the European university system.

At the UOC, the student learns actively, mentored at all times by the teaching staff, in cooperation with his or her fellow students, supported by tools and resources and competency-based assessment.



## International recognition

The Universitat Oberta de Catalunya was the first university in the world that was born in the virtual world and which gave classes only by Internet. From the very moment it opened its doors in the **1995-1996 academic year**, with 200 students, it has operated entirely online. Since then, it has become consolidated as one of the top universities in quality, global online education, endowed with an optimal structure to render the best possible service to students.

# The UOC in figures



## Programmes

**21**

bachelor's degrees

**43**

university master's degrees

**3**

doctoral degrees

**48**

UOC-certified master's degrees

**350**

postgraduate diploma, specialization and short courses



## Students

**54.022**

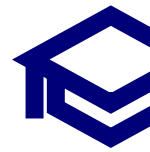
students

**80%**

study and have a job

**70%**

already have a university degree



## Graduates

**68.479**

graduates

**92%**

would choose the UOC again

**88%**

would study for the same qualification

**82%**

work in a job related to their studies



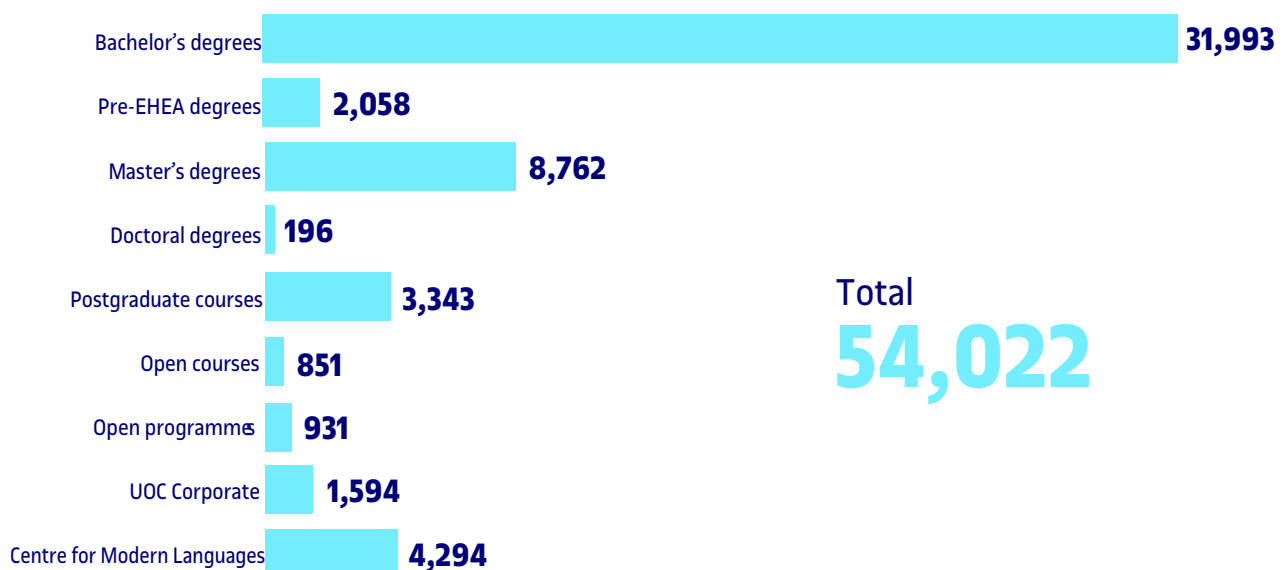
**2.470**

active classrooms

**3.692**

teaching staff

## Students enrolled at the UOC





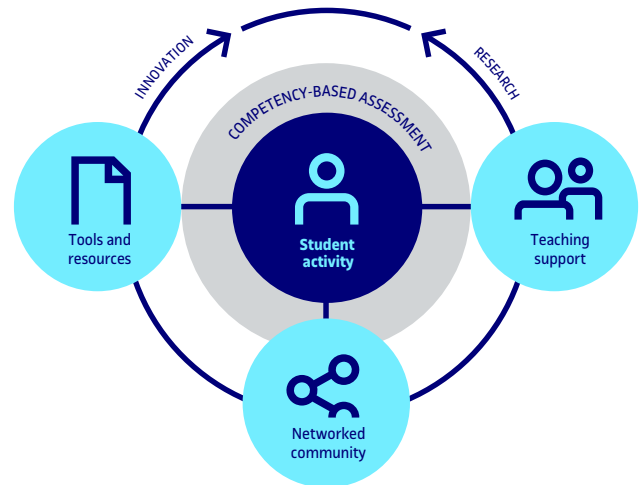
## A unique educational model

### Dynamic and flexible

It is designed to adapt and evolve continuously over time. Focused on the learning activity, it offers a diversity of options to adapt to the needs of each student. The model allows students to learn in a similar way to how they work and to communicate with one another using the internet.

The model is centred on learning environments that combine a variety of resources and working dynamics based on mentoring by the teaching team and interaction with fellow students. The students and their learning activity are at the centre of the educational process.

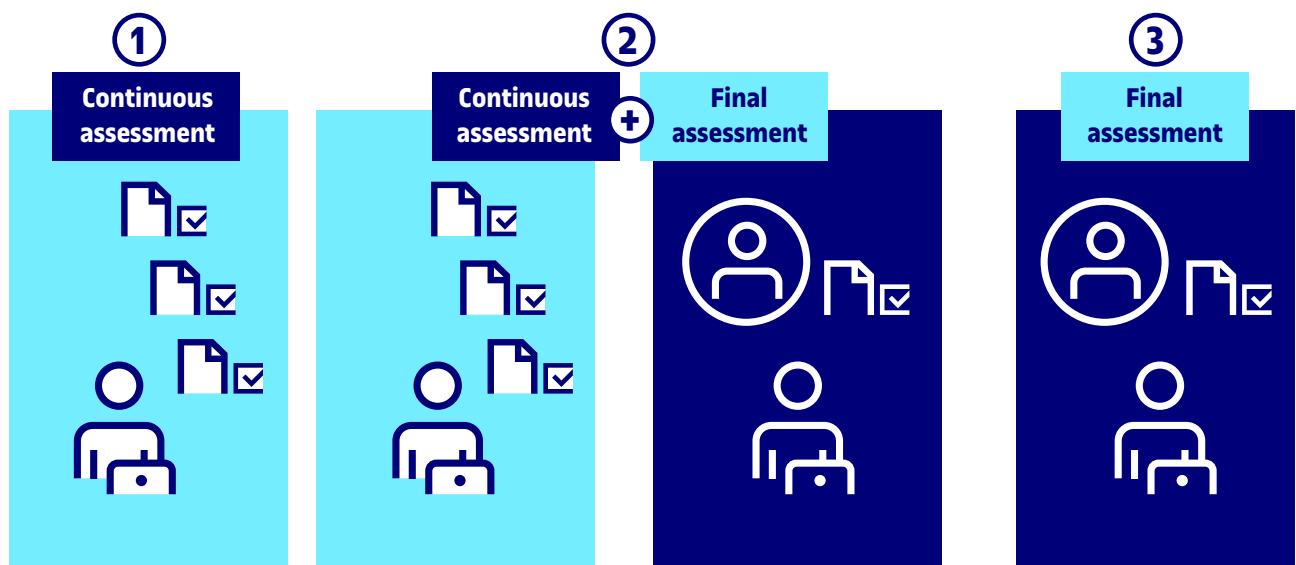
One of the added values of this model is that it guarantees the development of **digital skills** amongst students.

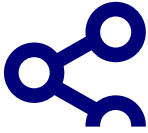


### Assessment

The assessment is **continuous and formative** and has an impact on the continuous improvement of the learning.

The assessment activities help ensure the achievement of learning objectives and the development of skills.





## Collaborative learning

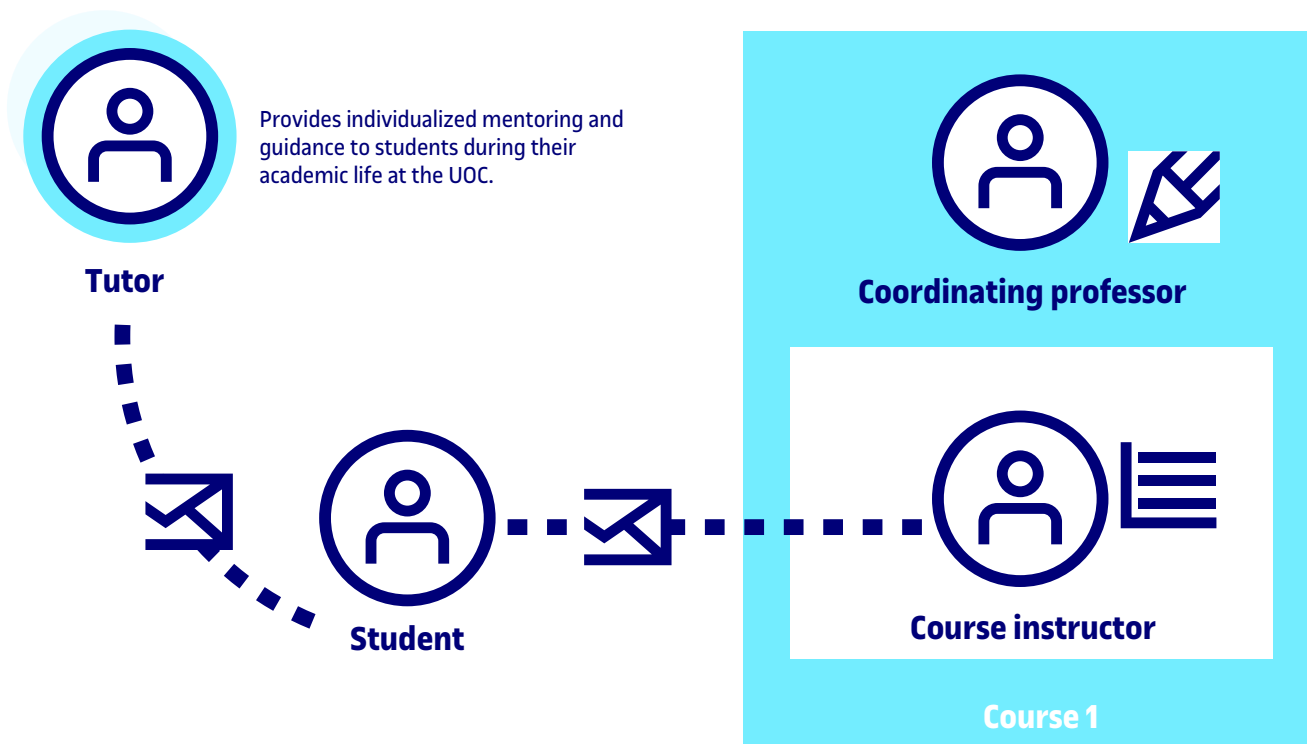
The model is oriented towards collective participation and knowledge building, and embraces the students' learning, social and working experiences. It is committed to a learning process that balances the individual engagement of the student with collaboration, enriching the student's learning process with the knowledge, opinions and experiences of their fellow students, and developing their teamwork skills in preparation for the professional world. Some of the methodologies that are used to foster this type of learning are: **project work**, problem-based learning, inquiry-based learning and agile methodologies.

## Student support

Students are supported by **teachers** whose primary functions are to design, guide, promote and assess the entire educational process. There are three teaching profiles – professor, course instructor and tutor – who work jointly to assure quality in the learning process.

- The professor **designs** the course, assures its quality and coordinates the course instructors.
- The course instructor **guides** and **assesses** the students' learning process within the framework of a particular course.
- The tutor **guides** the student in choosing a personalized academic pathway throughout their time at the UOC.

## Educational staff





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## Virtual Campus

It is the environment where all these elements converge. The Campus is where the university community lives, composed of students, professors, researchers, course instructors, tutors and administrative staff. Through the Campus, the student has access to the **virtual classrooms**, which are the learning spaces where the professors, fellow students, activities, content and tools for learning can be found.

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# 3

## Networked students and graduates

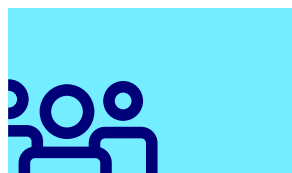
The UOC has more than 54,000 students and almost 60,000 graduates.

The two main reasons bachelor's degree students at the UOC choose this university are that it allows them to **better manage their time** and they perceive it to be a **modern, innovative university**. That is what they say when enrolling.

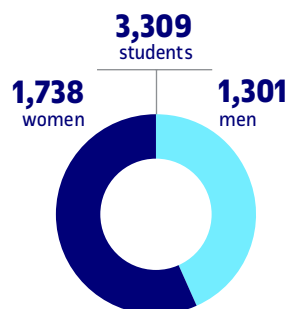
- **Ninety-two per cent would choose** the UOC again.
- **Eighty-eight per cent would study for the same qualification.**
- **Seventy-six per cent of students would** recommend the UOC to friends and family.
- **Ninety per cent of graduates want to maintain** links with the University on finishing.



# Students enrolled on official courses

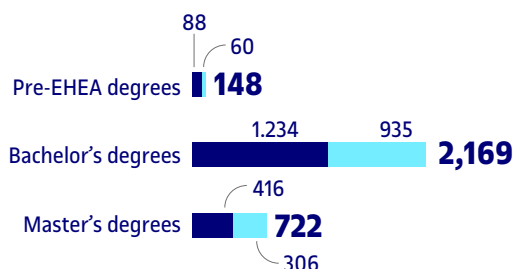


## > Arts and Humanities



### Bachelor's degrees

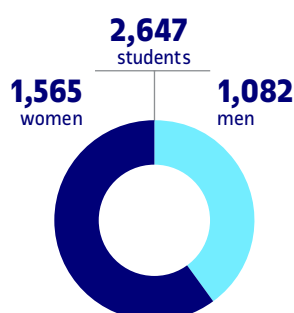
- Social Sciences
- Humanities
- Catalan Language and Literature
- History, Geography and Art History (UOC, UdL)
- Translation, Interpreting and Applied Languages (UOC, UVic-UCC)
- Anthropology and Human Evolution (URV, UOC)



### University master's degrees

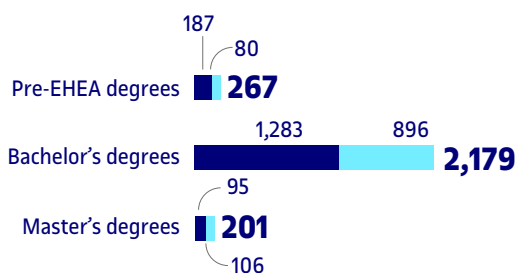
- Gestió Cultural (UOC, UdG)
- Humanitats: Art, Literatura i Cultura Contemporànies
- Mediterrània Antiga (UOC, UAB, UAH)
- Història Contemporània i Món Actual (UB, UOC)

## > Information and Communication Sciences



### Bachelor's degrees

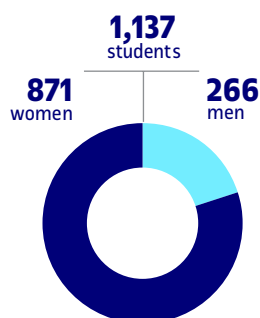
- Communication
- Information Science



### University master's degrees

- Corporate Communication, Protocol and Events
- Strategic Management of Information and Knowledge in Organizations

## > Health Sciences



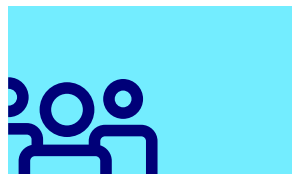
Màsters universitari s

### University master's degrees

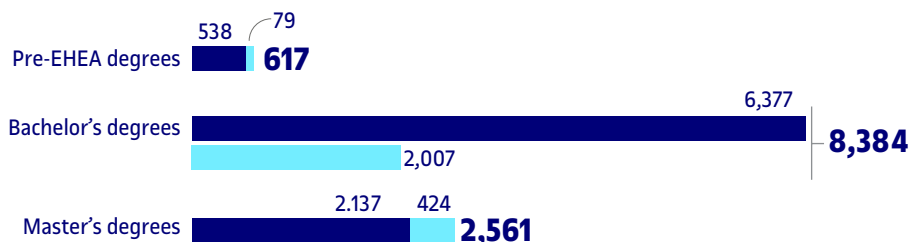
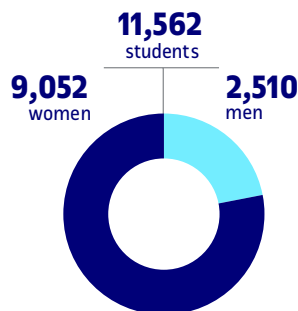
- Neuropsychology
- Nutrition and Health
- Medical Social Work

Data for the academic year 2015 /2016

# Students enrolled on official courses



## >Psychology and Education Sciences



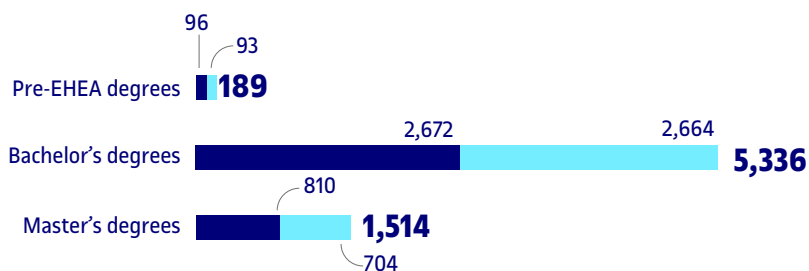
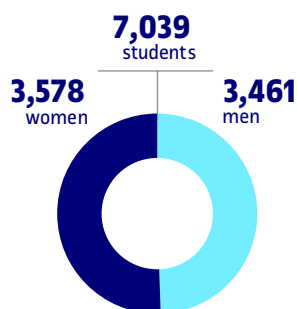
### Bachelor's degrees

- Social Education
- Psychology

### University master's degrees

- Education and ICTs (e-learning)
- Learning Difficulties and Language Disorders
- Neuropsychology
- Employment and the Labour Market: Intervention and Coaching for Work
- Teacher Training - Secondary Education, Language Teaching and Vocational Training (specializing in Mathematics) (UAB, UB, UOC, UPC, UPF)
- Teacher Training - Secondary Education, Language Teaching and Vocational Training (UPF, UOC)
- General Health Psychology (UdG, UOC)

## >Law and Political Science



### Bachelor's degrees

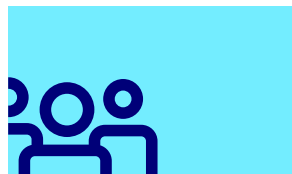
- Criminology
- Law
- Public Administration and Management (UOC, UB)

### University master's degrees

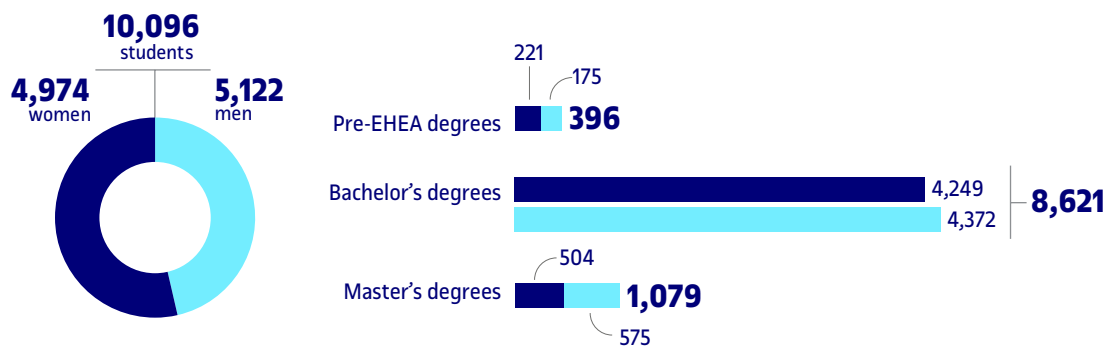
- Electronic Administration and Governance
- Legal Practice
- Political Analysis
- Human Rights, Democracy and Globalization
- Taxation
- Criminology and Criminal Justice (UPF, UAB, UdG, UOC)

Data for the academic year 2015 /2016

# Students enrolled on official courses



## >Economics and Business



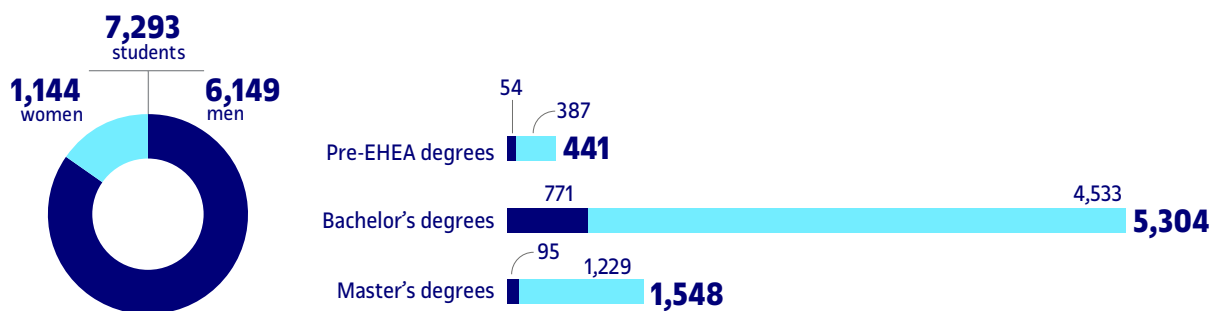
### Bachelor's degrees

- Business Administration and Management
- Economics
- Marketing and Market Research
- Labour Relations and Employment
- Tourism
- Double Degree in Business Administration and Management and in Tourism

### University master's degrees

- Economic Environment Analysis
- Degree in Organization Management in the Knowledge Economy
- Strategic Management of Information and Knowledge in Organizations
- Occupational Health and Safety
- Corporate Social Responsibility
- Sustainable Tourism and ICTs

## >Computer Science, Multimedia and Telecommunications



### Bachelor's degrees

- Computer Engineering
- Multimedia
- Telecommunications Technology
- Double Degree in Computer Engineering and in Business Administration and Management
- Digital Design and Creation

### University master's degrees

- Multimedia Applications: Smart Content Design and Development
- Bioinformatics and Biostatistics (UOC, UB)
- Mobile Application Development
- Telecommunications Engineering (UOC, URL)
- Computer Engineering
- Information and Communication Technology Security (UOC, UAB, URV)
- Computational and Mathematical Engineering (URV, UOC)
- Computer Vision (UAB, UPC, UPF, UOC)

Data for the academic year 2015/2016

# Almost 60,000 graduates connected with 20,000 companies

The UOC is the second online university in Spain in number of graduates: 59,247, in 80 countries around the world.

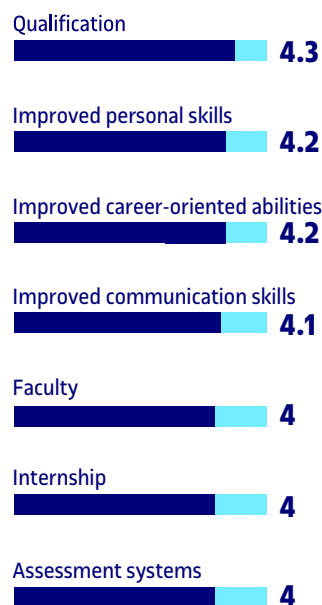
UOC Alumni is the network of all these graduates, connected with more than 20,000 companies. Its mission is to accompany the UOC's students in their lifelong learning and continual professional growth. It also offers a job bank and a career guidance service. There is also a Premium version that offers a wider scope and improved mentoring.

Graduates can redraft their CV and receive recommendations for promoting it on the social media, find out how to handle a job interview or change their career direction. They also have the possibility of sending queries to experts who will answer with helpful information for their career. And entrepreneurs find the support and personalized guidance they need to prepare themselves and create a business plan.

## 92% of the graduates would choose it again

### Level of satisfaction

(On a scale from 1 to 5)



### They choose the UOC

because they can manage their time

48.6%

because they can study anywhere

32.8%

for its reputation

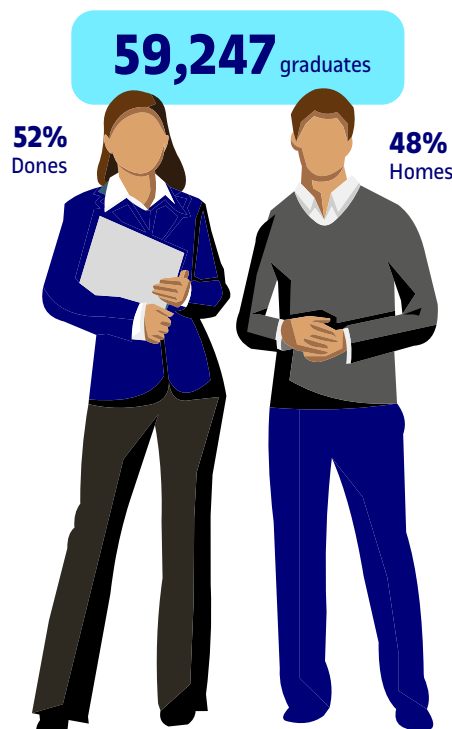
8.6%

### Why do they study?

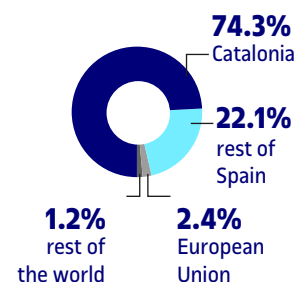


83% to expand their knowledge and progress in their career

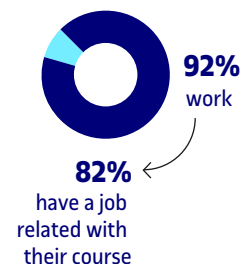
Data for the academic year 2015/2016



### Where are they from?



### Work



# 4

## Top quality official courses

The degrees are official, adapted to the European Higher Education Area and endorsed by the Catalan University Quality Assurance Agency (AQU Catalunya) and the Spanish Quality Assessment and Accreditation Agency (ANECA), which guarantees academic rigour and compliance with the standards required by the European university system.

Courses are organized in **seven areas of knowledge**: Arts and Humanities; Health Sciences; Information and Communication Sciences; Law and Political Science; Economics and Business; Computer Science, Multimedia and Telecommunications; and Psychology and Education Sciences.

For the 2016/2017 academic year, the course offering includes 21 bachelor's degrees and 43 university master's degrees with full official recognition and more than 350 master's degree programmes, post-graduate courses and specializations from thirteen areas focused on acquiring new professional skills.



### Chairs

The UOC's six chairs undertake training, research, technology and knowledge transfer projects with the goal of generating and exchanging knowledge in a specific field. They are the following:

- UNESCO Chair in Education and Technology for Social Change
- UNESCO Chair in Food, Culture and Development
- UNESCO Chair in Sport for Social Coexistence and Conflict Resolution
- Miró Chair
- UOC-Telefónica Chair in Design and Multimedia Creation
- UOC-BSA Chair in Applied Research and Data Analysis in Health

### Doctoral School

The Doctoral School coordinates and organizes the UOC's doctoral studies and creates a common framework of reference for the various doctoral degree programmes that are offered there, which are Education and ICT (e-learning), Information and Knowledge Society, and Network and Information Technologies. The UOC offers three doctoral programmes: Information and Knowledge Society, Network and Information Technologies, and Education and ICT (e-learning).

### Centre for Modern Languages

The UOC gives online courses in English, German, Chinese, French, Japanese, Catalan and Spanish, through the Centre for Modern Languages. The qualifications comply with the Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR). Use of tools such as Langblog or Tandem enables effective practice of all the skills required to master a language. These tools were developed for the European project **SpeakApps**, led by the UOC and given the Silver Medal in the international Learning Impact 2014 awards.



# 5

## Socially responsible

The UOC accepts the commitment to social responsibility and integrates it in its values.

- It is the top university in Catalonia and the third in Spain in terms of the number of **disabled students** (according to the Catalan Interuniversity Council Annual Report 2015).
- Award for the **Inclusion of People with Rare Diseases** (2016). The Spanish Federation for Rare Diseases (FEDER) highlights its commitment to the social inclusion of people with disabilities and the Disability Action Plan.
- **Gold Medal** (2015) awarded by the **Spanish Red Cross** for its educational work in the values of integration, tolerance, education for peace and coexistence.
- Fem.talent award (2015) for **promoting equality**.

## Code of Ethics

The UOC applies a series of values, principles and standards to guide the behaviour of the University's members. The Code of Ethics is not a body of legal regulations but a compendium of moral rules and principles that should guide coexistence between individuals and groups at the University.

## Research Ethics Board

The UOC's Ethics Board, formed by the University's Governing Council, acts in the service of the academic community and research staff with the goal of guaranteeing that people's dignity is respected in the research projects carried out at the University.

## Support for disabled people

From the very beginning, the UOC has been committed to the social inclusion of disabled people, and strives to make the University accessible to everyone who wishes to form part of the various groups within the University community (students, affiliated teaching staff, faculty and administrative staff).



## Equality

The goal of the UOC's Equality Committee is to generate awareness of gender differences and it works to transform the organizational, teaching and research practices that prevent true expression of this diversity.

## Development cooperation and social engagement

The UOC works to foster and facilitate university development cooperation and contribute, as a university, to the human development of societies through teaching and research.



# 6

## Connected with the world and the world of business

With the goal of becoming a global university with societal impact, the UOC proposes a new way to approach the internationalization of higher education. This approach arises from the lifelong need of citizens and professionals to acquire global competencies that enable them to address the challenges of a constantly changing world.

The UOC has a strong international presence thanks to alliances with universities, research institutions, business communities and other foreign bodies, with the goal of positioning and exporting its educational model around the world; increasing the societal impact of the knowledge generated at the UOC; and improving the quality of the University's teaching and research.

The UOC's global and social strategy is aligned with the United Nations' 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The links with these international organizations were created years ago and still continue with the UNESCO, UNITAR, WHO and the FAO.

In the field of international research, the UOC advocates Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI).

### International research projects

57, of which 5 are coordinated by the UOC

### International students

2.048

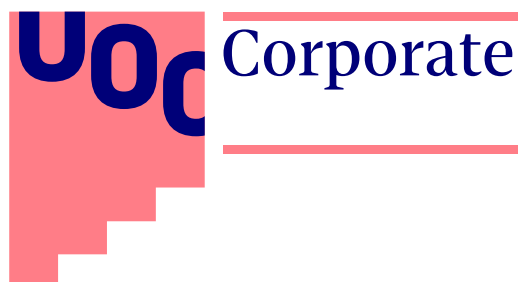
## International collaborations

The international alliances – with universities, educational institutions, public administrations and international bodies – foster and enrich knowledge mobility, connect talent, strengthen global presence and help promote the University's educational model.

Since October 2016, the UOC is president of ([CINDA](#)), (Inter-university Development Centre), an Ibero-American network of universities dedicated to assuring teaching and research quality.

The University is also member of the European University Association's ([EUA](#)) Science 2.0/Open Science expert panel, which discusses issues related with text and data mining (TDM) or the [European Digital Agenda](#).

## Map of international agreements



### UOC Corporate, corporate partner

UOC Corporate was created with the aim of becoming the benchmark partner of organizations that are committed to an innovative learning network for developing their professionals as a way of improving their competitiveness. In addition, it designs innovative solutions to address the existing needs of companies and institutions and assists them in their implementation.

UOC Corporate also makes available to organizations all the value added services through which the University hopes to enhance employment opportunities, encourage the transfer and dissemination of knowledge and, jointly with businesses, explore new scenarios for cooperation to contribute to the competitive strength of the business sector.



- **Open programmes:** master's degrees, postgraduate programmes and specialization courses in the different fields of knowledge, with special conditions for companies and institutions.
- **Custom programmes:** tailored to each organization's needs. Its customers include companies and business groups such as Banc Sabadell, Catalana Occidente, Leche Pascual, MC Mutual and Roca & Junyent.
- **Performance learning paths:** short learning paths accredited by the UOC and aimed at resolving specific business challenges, with over 370 high quality resources developed by key figures from the business and academic world.

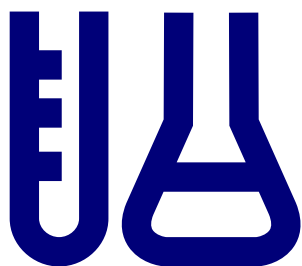
# 7

The UOC's research, innovation and transfer activity is carried out by more than **400 researchers** and is organized in **43 R&I groups** affiliated with a faculty or one of the University's two research centres: the **IN3** and the **eLearn Center**. Among these, 26 groups were recognized by the Government of Catalonia in the last call in 2014.



## Who researches?

The research, mostly carried out by the faculty, currently specializes in the fields of arts and humanities, social sciences, health sciences and technology and communication: identity, culture, art and society; technology and social action; globalization, legal pluralism and human rights; taxation, labour relations and social welfare; Internet, digital technologies and new media; information and communication systems and services, and information and communication management. There are two areas that are particularly significant for the University's research activity: the information and knowledge society and e-learning.



## Research centres

### Internet Interdisciplinary Institute (IN3)

The IN3 is a UOC research institute specialized in research on the networked society and knowledge economy, and also in studying web technologies and specific software areas.

### eLearn Center (eLC)

The eLC supports the University's applied research, fosters innovation and conveys the value of elearning as a keystone of the UOC's identity both within the institution and beyond.

Alongside the research at these centres, R&I is also carried out at the UOC's seven faculties (Arts and Humanities; Law and Political Science; Health Sciences; Computer Science, Multimedia and Telecommunications; Information and Communication Sciences; Economics and Business, and Psychology and Education Sciences).

Between these centres and faculties, there are some 43 research groups examining the following fields:

- Social sciences (26)
- ICTs (11)
- Health science (3)
- Arts and humanities (3)

# Appendix

## Services for journalists

The UOC's Media and External Communications Office provides journalists with a broad range of services and resources to enable them to find out more about the University, follow institutional current affairs and contact its experts and spokespeople.

The site [UOC News](#) is the UOC's current affairs platform and makes a number of useful resources available to professionals working in the fields of journalism and communication:

- **Press pack.** This is updated each year and summarizes the University's basic information and the key data.
- **Expert guide.** It facilitates media contacts with the University's teaching and research staff. The experts identified in the guide are organized by area of knowledge and in an alphabetically-ordered directory. Searches may be made online or you can ask for a printed copy.
- The **@uocnews** Twitter account lets you keep track of the views of the UOC's experts on current affairs and their appearances in the media, of the activities of the University's researchers and of the institution. It is also another way to contact and send enquiries to the Media and External Communications Office.
- **Subscription to the weekly newsletter** L'actualitat en 7 dies, to keep informed about all the news at the UOC.
- **RSS subscription** to UOC News, to receive all the news generated by the team at the Media and External Communications Office.
- **Flickr photo gallery** of ceremonies, events, experts and holders of UOC posts.
- **Videos** with reports, interviews and events on the UOC channel on YouTube.





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## Contact us

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**Lluís Rius (Director of Communications)**  
lrius@uoc.edu  
93 253 23 04

### Media and External Communications Office

**Ester Medico (Director)**  
emedico@uoc.edu  
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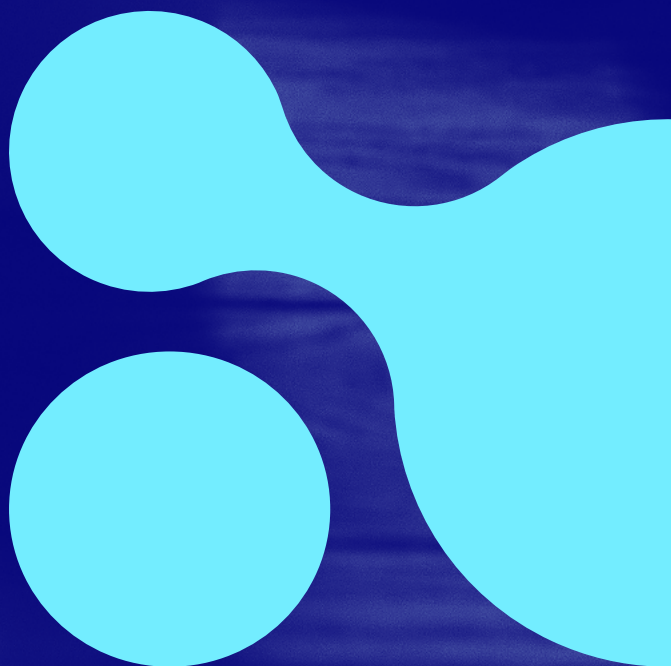
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