



Teaching

Bases, Model, EHEA

Accompaniment of the Student Throughout

Faculty of Economics and Business Studies

Faculty of Humanities

Faculty of Computer Science, Multimedia and Telecommunications

Faculty of Information and Communication Sciences

Faculty of Law and Political Science

Faculty of Languages and Cultures

Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences

Master's and Postgraduate Degrees

Learning within Everybody's Reach

Bases, Model, EHEA

In the field of teaching, especial importance has been given to innovation, evaluation, quality, and adaptation to the EHEA.

Very positive evaluation by the Agència de la Qualitat del Sistema Universitari de Catalunya (Quality Agency of the University System of Catalonia)

The UOC has created two postgraduate degree courses of its own, adapted to the Bologna directives:

Fundamentals of Psychology, and Juridical Studies.

EHEA and quality, objectives of teaching

In regard to teaching, this academic year has been marked by the work done in the evolution of methodology and innovation, by quality and quality evaluation, and also by the process of adaptation to the EHEA (European Higher Education Area).

Beginning with this latter section, it is necessary to stress on the one hand that within the pilot plan for adaptation to the EHEA, promoted by the Departament d'Universitats (Universities Department), the UOC has launched two postgraduate degree courses of its own that are completely adapted to the new Bologna directives: Fundamentals of Psychology, and Post-Graduate Juridical Studies.

Likewise, within the first matriculation process for official Masters' degrees, the UOC obtained the authorisation of the Govern de la Generalitat (Autonomous Government of Catalonia) to impart three such degree courses as of the start of the 2006-2007 academic year: the official Master of Education and ICT (e-learning), the official Master of Free Software, and the official Master of the Information and Knowledge Society. It is worth pointing out that as regards the number of Masters' degrees, the offer of the UOC within the Catalan university system represented only 2% of the total, while as regards the number of students enrolled, the figure is 12% of the total.

The commitment to quality has meant a search for the validation of the mechanisms that the university system itself supplies and that are concentrated in the activities of the Agència de la Qualitat del Sistema Universitari de Catalunya (AQU Catalonia, Quality Agency of the University System of Catalonia). In this regard, further to the follow-up on the part of the AQU of the pilot plans adapted to the EHEA and mentioned previously, the evaluation of the teaching staff of the UOC has also been carried out. The outcome of a long process of internal evaluation of the teaching staff, a selection was made of those susceptible of a positive evaluation by the AQU Catalonia. The results have been very positive: of sixty-four applications made, fifty-nine were favourable. Furthermore, the AQU Catalonia offered its congratulations for the institutional commitment that the UOC undertook in this process.

Moreover, in this academic year the UOC began on a series of activities that have as their objective the promotion of the development and the improvement of the teaching and learning process within the framework of the new European Higher Education Area.

A virtual information area about the Bologna process

The launching of a web about the European higher education area allows one to follow, both from the portal of the University and from within the Virtual Campus, the evolution of the UOC's adaptation to this process. One of its functions is to give information about the development of new degrees and the principal projects and activities relating to them; it also offers relevant documentation on the evolution of the Bologna process in the autonomous, state-wide, and European spheres, and places at the disposal of the academic staff a range of didactic resources for the improvement of teaching.



More than 250 lecturers and tutors participate in the training courses and workshops for adaptation to the EHEA.

The bulletin *EEES Notícies* (EHEA News) informs lecturers about the process of adaptation to Europe.

The bulletin *EEES Notícies* (EHEA News) is an instrument that allows the academic staff to receive the most up-to-date news about the evolution of the Bologna process in general.

Creation of the design model for competencies and the development of the new teaching plan with more than 50 lecturers.

Adjustment of more than 66 subjects to the requirements of the EHEA.

16 lecturers are participating in the pilot test of the new teaching plan and in the study of the validation of the ECTS credit.

New instruments for the design of a training offer adapted to the quality requirements of the European area.

Emphasis should be given to the approval of the design model for competencies of the programmes of the UOC, the tool for the assignation of ECTS credits, and the new subject adapted to the requirements of the European area, based on a model of a teaching plan that organises the subject on the activities of the student, orienting him or her toward the acquisition of competencies.

An academic staff training plan is under way

A training plan is being got under way and this plan has made it possible to put both in-person and virtual courses and workshops into effect – introduction courses to the European area; the design of degrees in accordance with competencies; the creation of subjects adapted to the EHEA; and the broadening of the ECTS credit, among others.

A study evaluates the social and work-place impact of having been a UOC student

The UOC has begun to carry out a scientifically rigorous study that incorporates the voices and the experience of its graduates, in order to find out about the impact that having been UOC students has had on various aspects of their lives (professional, social, and so on). This study is the start of a group of projects that will be put into practice from time to time.

The UOC participates in European training and quality programmes

Through the Europortic project the UOC participated in the creation and development of a European portal oriented toward training and the accreditation of professional competencies. At the same time, through the E-forminfo project, it participated in the elaboration of cases for the accreditation of competencies in the sphere of informatics and multimedia. Likewise, in regard to the sphere of quality, it participated in the Excellence project promoted by the EADTU (European Association of Distance Teaching Universities), the result of which was the development of a tool for the measurement of excellence in e-learning.

MyWay Project: content in accordance with the special needs of students.

The objective of the MyWay Project is to develop content in accordance with the needs of students. In this regard, work has been done in new formats: we stress here the DAYSI format (accessible to persons with disabilities), the MP3 voice format, and the tests of electronic ink.

This project has been awarded a prize by the IGC (Internet Global Congress) as the best initiative in digital innovation.

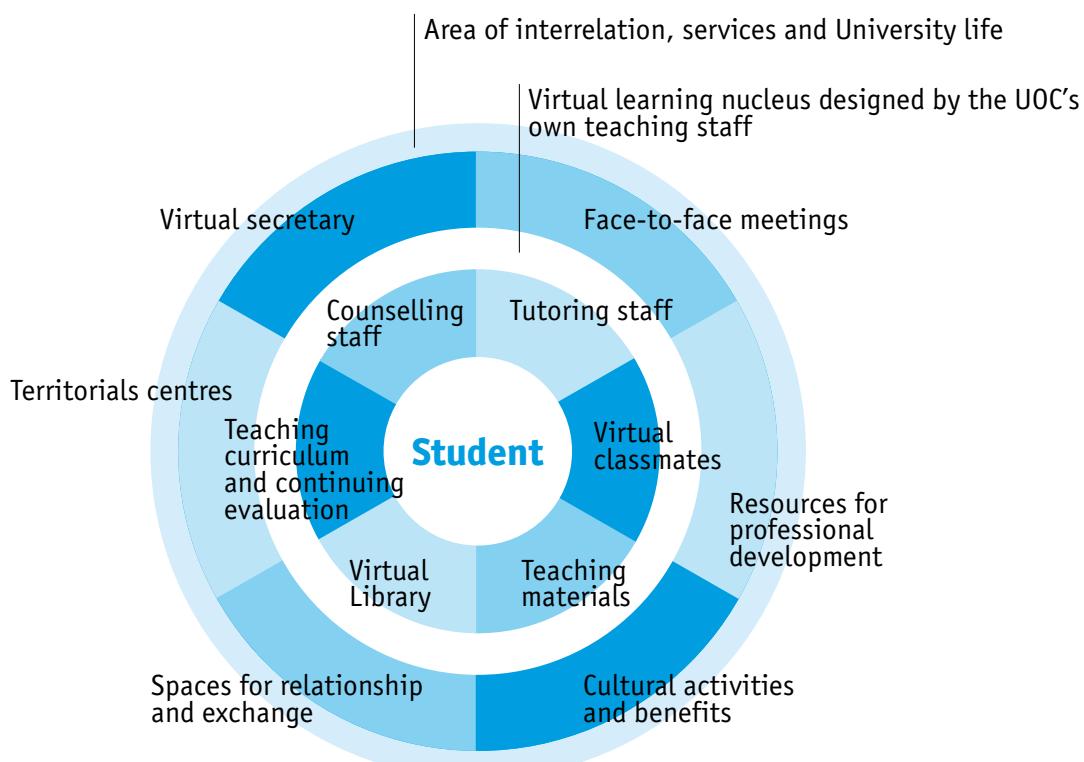
Lecturers and students are working on the Nova Aula (New Lecture-room) project

With its sights set on the future and the evolution of teaching tools, the UOC has begun on the Nova Aula project, which works directly with lecturers, tutors, counsellors, and students in the search for an innovative tool that will facilitate learning and lend itself to all involved. In this academic year the statements of people's needs were compiled in order to carry out the first pilot tests.

It is foreseen that this Nova Aula project will involve work for two years and that the participation of users will be a key element. This participation is based on focus groups, interviews, tests, and pilot schemes in accordance with methodologies of design centred on the user.

The UOC is working to adapt content and teaching tools to the needs of students.

Methodological model



Accompaniment of the Student Throughout

The 2005-2006 academic year saw some of the most important innovations concerning the accompaniment of the student throughout. The new Student Attention and Information Service and the consolidation of the initial tutorial function are some of the outstanding examples.

New Student Care and Information Service

This new area of the Virtual Campus comes into existence with the objective of centralising communication with UOC students in all not-specifically-educational matters that are necessary to them in the course of their academic lives. From this service the doubts of our students are resolved – doubts, on the one hand, about academic records, matriculation, and procedural matters, and on the other, about technological matters, the functioning of the Virtual Campus, the work point, and so on.

The *Student Care Service* brings together all the systems of attention at the UOC and allows one to navigate on the basis of a directory in which material associated with various subjects, which finishes up as blocks of frequently-asked questions, comes into view. These questions resolve many doubts directly, but as well, if the matter is not resolved, it is possible to insert a consultation to be replied to on a personal basis from the UOC.

According to the student satisfaction poll, overall satisfaction with the UOC stands at 4.1 out of 5.

More than fifteen thousand students have already made use of the start-of-course tutorial.

The academic year 2005-2006 was the one in which the UOC's start-of-course tutorial was consolidated. As of the month of February, the team of start-off counsellors was formed, and at present it is made up of one-hundred-and-ninety external collaborators who have provided tutoring to more than fifteen-thousand students.

The creation of the start-of-course tutorial has allowed the counsellor's activity to be even more personal, the counsellor being the person who provides the assessment and the orientation that the student requires when he or she enters the University.

After the two first weeks, the student has available the assessment and support of his or her follow-up counsellor.

Figures per semester

Management personnel: 443

Own teaching staff: 152

Tutors: 1,736

Start-off counsellors: 222

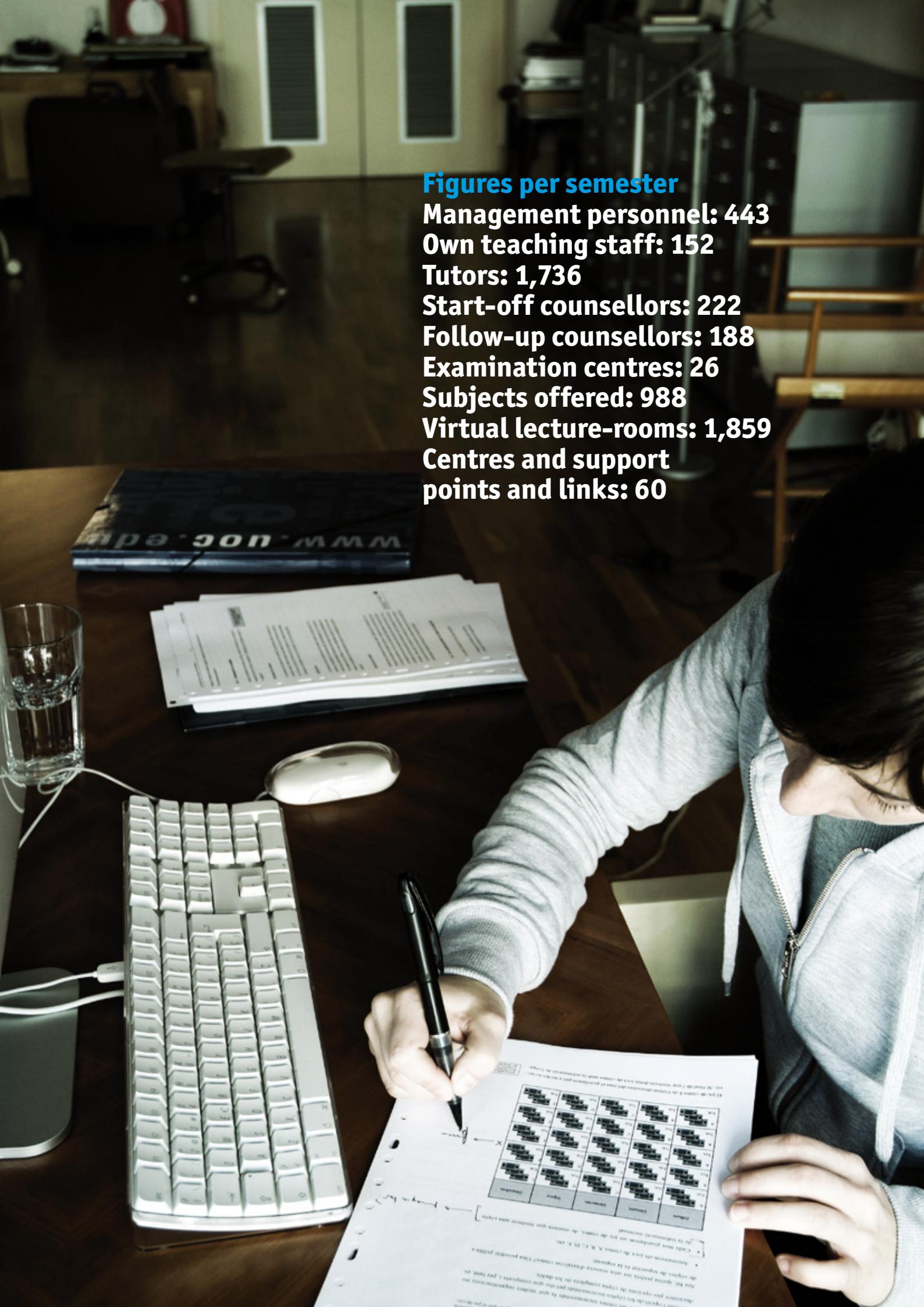
Follow-up counsellors: 188

Examination centres: 26

Subjects offered: 988

Virtual lecture-rooms: 1,859

**Centres and support
points and links: 60**



Improvements have been introduced into the administrative processes that students must go through, thus making them simpler and faster.

Students who reside abroad can do the accreditation tests virtually, at the same time as the students present do them in person.

Improvements in the management of student evaluation

In regard to the management of the systems of student evaluation, numerous initiatives have been taken:

- Extension of the final test centres to Alacant as well
- Division of the Barcelona centre into two in order to improve the management of the centre and avoid an excessive loss of personal interaction
- Improvement of the evaluation of students residing abroad. When a student provides proof of his or her residency abroad, he or she can do the accreditation test virtually, on the condition that he or she has successfully followed through the process of on-going evaluation. In order to facilitate this process, a 'virtual centre' of end-of-course exams has been created, and in this way those students, at the same time as their fellows, can accede by means of the Virtual Campus to the announcement of their accreditation tests, do them at the same time that their fellows do them, and send them, also by means of the Virtual Campus, to be corrected.

New criteria for the management of the evaluation of previous studies (AEP, *avaluació d'estudis previs*)

The proposal for the modification of the criteria for the evaluation of previous studies (AEP) supposes:

- Revising and establishing the equivalency tables among programmes
- Making the procedure easier for the student
- Making the application with less documentation (only with the official academic certificate, not with programmes, for the AEP with the complete established equivalency table)
- Making it possible for the student to simulate his or her AEP before submitting the official application
- Revising the application to make the application
- Extending the student's initiative in regard to the utility of knowledge acquired. The resolution of the AEP has to be separated from the matriculation documents, so that, when legislation may allow, it will be the student who will decide whether to repeat the knowledge already made useful.
- Making the AEP application gratis when it refers entirely to UOC material

Progressive degrees are managed automatically

The UOC has put into effect a new tool that, once goals are attained, allows students to manage progressive degrees automatically and without having to ask to do so.



Faculty of Economics and Business Studies

One of the priorities of the Faculty of Economics and Business Studies is to contribute to the study and application of ICT in the nearby business sphere

The incorporation of Tourism, a very important discipline in Catalonia, is a commitment to a more competitive form of teaching in line with the EHEA.

Head of Faculty
Antoni Meseguer

Head of the Business Administration and Management Programme
Ana Isabel Jiménez

Head of the Labour Sciences Programme
Eva Rimbu

Head of the Business Science Programme
M. Jesús Martínez

Head of the Market Research and Techniques Programme
Elisabet Ruiz

Head of the Tourism Programme
Joan Miquel Gomis

Lecturers
Ramon Alemany, Gisela Ammetller, Josep M. Batalla, Carlos F. Cabañero, David Castillo, Pau Cortadas, Raquel Ferreras, Pilar Ficapal, Lluís A. Garay, Joan Miquel Gomis, Francesc González, Carolina Hintzmann, Ana Isabel Jiménez, Josep Lladós, Pere Losantos, Oriol Miralbell, M. Jesús Martínez, Antoni Meseguer, Carmen Pacheco, Dolors Plana, Eva Rimbu, Inma Rodríguez, Elisabet Ruiz, M. Mar Sabadell, Enric Serradell, Joan Torrent, Jordi Vilaseca, and Marta Viu.

Tourism is being incorporated into the Faculty of Economics and Business Studies in order to adapt to Europe

Tourism is a degree centred on the training of those involved in one of the main economic activities of the country. For this reason, at a time when the entire university system is in a process of reflection on what the new study plans must be like to adapt to the European Higher Education Area (EHEA), Tourism has become part of the present training offer of the faculty in order to find an appropriate place within the framework of the new offer of undergraduate and postgraduate courses.

Commitment to enterprise initiatives within the European sphere

The Faculty of Economics and Business Studies has joined two projects that are in their first phase of life, these being the programmes called B-Europe, Best European Pathways to Entrepreneurship (e-lab empresa) and Formation virtuelle des jeunes créateurs d'entreprises innovantes (e-nov). Likewise, the project E-clue 4 MATEO has been promoted, which, together with the previously-mentioned projects, constitutes the axis of the contribution of the Faculty to the support of entrepreneurship.

Furthermore, the involvement of the Faculty in the European project eLene-EE has begun – a project whose objective is to analyse the economy of e-learning and propose improvements in order to implant it.

Teaching and research projects in collaboration with other institutions

Other externally-financed teaching and research projects have been completed, such as SCHULTZ, which is centred on the analysis of the processes of virtual training by means of learning guides, for the development of competencies in the area of the economy and business and within the framework of the EHEA. The elaboration of the various research articles and the design and launching of a pilot test are two of the principal results of this project.



Another of the projects now completed is Innovative Environment, Micro-firm, and Local Development, the objective of which was to analyse whether the interaction of an institution such as Barcelona Activa with entrepreneurs contributed favourably to the success of business undertakings and whether it also favoured their becoming more innovative.



Faculty of Humanities

The Faculty participates in the elaboration of a *Humanities White Paper*

The Faculty of Humanities participated, through the Head of the Humanities Programme, Glòria Munilla, in the tasks of elaboration, implementation, and publication of the *Humanities White Paper* in association with ten universities throughout the Spanish state that also formed part of the corresponding commission. This participation falls within the framework of the process of the consolidation of the European Higher Education Area, in accordance with the directives of the Spanish Ministry of Education and ANECA, in order to prepare the implementation of the new study plans for undergraduate and postgraduate degrees in Spain.

This White Paper offers a renewed perspective on the profiles of humanistic training, in accordance with the transformations that are produced in the various cultural spheres as part of the emergence of the information society.

Round-table in Madrid on digital culture and the humanities

On 20th July 2006 the Faculty of Humanities organised in Madrid (Centro Cultural Conde Duque) the round-table 'Humanidades, cultura digital y nuevas profesiones' (The Humanities, Digital Culture, and New Professions), with the participation of relevant speakers from various fields of digital culture and the humanities. From their perspectives, an up-to-date and suggestive view was offered of this inter-disciplinary area of knowledge.

Interviews with international specialists at Artnodes

The digital journal promoted by the Faculty of Humanities, the Faculty of Information and Communication Sciences, and the Faculty of Computer Science, Multimedia and Telecommunications published a series of twelve interviews with artists, researchers, and lecturers in digital art, among whom may be mentioned W. Bradford Paley, Howard Rheingold, Rafel Lozano-Hemmer, Marie Sester, Henry Newton-Dunn, Scott Snibbe, Andreas Broeckmann, Erkki Huhtamo, Alex Galloway, Jonah Brucker-Cohen, David Rokeby, and Marc Downie.

The Faculty of Humanities is undergoing a process of re-definition within the European ambit. The UOC participates in this process by collaborating in the *Humanities White Paper*.

Head of Faculty
Isidor Marí

Head of the Humanities Programme
Glòria Munilla

Lecturers
Eduard Aibar, Pau Alsina, Elisenda Ardèvol, Joan Campàs, César Carreras, Joan Fuster, Marc Gil, Isidor Marí, Roger Martínez, Glòria Munilla, Francesc Núñez, Laura Solanilla, and Agnès Vayreda.



Faculty of Computer Science, Multimedia and Telecommunications

The Telecommunications degree with a major in Telematics, a professional option for the future within the area of ICT.

Second edition of the symposium on the design, evaluation, and description of content.

Head of Faculty
Rafael Macau

Head of the Multimedia and Communications Programme
Montse Guitert

Head of the Graduate in Multimedia Studies Programme
Ferran Giménez

Head of the Computer Management Programme
Josep M. Marco

Head of the Computer Systems Programme
Josep Prieto

Head of the Telecommunications Programme
Eugènia Santamaría

Head of the Computer Engineering Programme
M. Jesús Marco

Lecturers
Joan Arnedo, Roser Beneito, Genís Berbel, Santi Caballé, Jordi Cabot, Carlos Casado, Robert Clarisó, César Pablo Córcoles, Àtanasi Daradoumis, Ferran Giménez, Ana Guerrero, Isabel Guitart, Montse Guitert, Jordi Herrera, Maria Antònia Huertas, Josep Jorba, Rafael Macau, M. Jesús Marco, Josep Maria Marco, Antoni Marín, Joan Manuel Marquès, David Megías, Julià Minguilón, Enric Mor, Jose Antonio Morán, Antoni Pérez, Laura Porta, Josep Prieto, Daniel Riera, Àngels Rius, M. Elena Rodríguez, Teresa Romeu, Teresa Sancho, Eugènia Santamaría, Montse Serra, Jordi Serra, and Francesc Vallverdú.

The degree in Technical Engineering in Telecommunications has been launched.

In September 2005 the degree in Technical Engineering in Telecommunications with a major in Telematics was launched, and forms part of the Faculty of Computer Science, Multimedia and Telecommunication. The proposal would complement the one offered by the Catalan university system, as it guarantees currently active new groups or social sectors access to this training – groups and sectors that otherwise would not have access to university training. This major is planned to be, for the student, a possibility of re-cycling toward a future professional option in the area of the use of the information and communications technologies.

First degree-holders in Computer Engineering Studies in Spanish

In the second semester of the 2005-2006 academic year the first degree-holders in Computer Engineering Studies in Spanish graduated. This degree falls within the Second-Cycle category, and the course lasts for two years and requires 120 credits. As well as the graduates in Spanish, there were eighty-two new graduates in the same degree in the Catalan language.

Second edition of the multidisciplinary symposium of the design, evaluation and description of re-usable educational material

In October the second edition of this symposium was held. It was organised jointly by the University's Faculty of Computer Science, Multimedia and Telecommunications and the Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences.

The objective of the symposium was to share the results of recent research and discuss the 'Design of Re-usable Educational Material'. Researchers and professionals from various backgrounds in the areas of the sciences of education, educational technology, the sciences of documentation, and information systems were involved.

 <http://www.uoc.edu/symposia/spdece05>

Mosaic, a technology and multimedia communications journal

The digital journal promoted by Graduate Multimedia is continuing the process of its consolidation on the Internet through the publication of twelve new issues that bring together the experiences and opinions of expert professionals in the fields of multimedia technologies and communications.

 <http://mosaic.uoc.edu>

Faculty of Information and Communication Sciences

Advertising and Public Relations launched

In September 2005, the virtual lecture-rooms of the new Advertising and Public Relations programme opened their doors for the first time. The basic objective of this higher degree is to train the professionals who are to lead communications in present-day enterprises and institutions.

The new degree forms part of the teaching offer entrusted to the Faculty of Information and Communication Sciences of the UOC, which has already offered two other accredited Second-Cycle degree-courses (Documentation and Audiovisual Communications) and various postgraduate degrees. Furthermore, the programme includes subjects imparted in other Faculties, such as Economics and Business Studies, and Language and Cultures. Attention to the new technologies and the care of ethical matters within the profession are to be the main defining elements of the focus that the UOC gives this degree.

First Teaching Day of the Faculty of Information and Communication Sciences

In May 2006 the first Teaching Day of the Faculty of Information and Communication Sciences was held, and it brought together the various teaching and management teams of each of the programmes of these studies: Documentation, Audiovisual Communications, and Public Relations. The subjects that were dealt with were adaptation to the European Higher Education Area; tutorials; and innovation, processes, and resources for the improvement of teaching.

Seminar on Content Management as a Strategic Resource

In November 2005 the Faculty of Information and Communication Sciences organised a seminar on Access to and Use of Content as a Strategic Resource in Organisations. The seminar sought to establish a perspective on the changes that have come about in organisations as a result of the introduction of technology – changes that suppose a new configuration of organisational structures and a new role for content management in the decision-making process within organisations.

Presentation of the book entitled *Comunicación audiovisual digital (Digital Audiovisual Communication)*

The Auditorium of the Centre de Cultura Contemporània de Barcelona (Barcelona Contemporary Culture Centre) hosted the presentation of the book entitled *Comunicación audiovisual digital (Digital Audiovisual Communication)* published in the ‘Manuals’ collection of the Editorial UOC. This book is a compilation of texts about the transformation processes of the audiovisual at the present time. A number of authors involved in the work participated in the act, as did Pere Vila, the Technology Director of the Corporació Catalana de Ràdio i Televisió (Catalan Broadcasting Corporation), who was there as a guest.

The new degree in Advertising and Public Relations

comes into existence with the objective of emphasising ICT and the care of ethical aspects of the profession.

Seminars, books and one-day conferences have served to reflect on the application of the latest technological novelties in the field of communications.

Head of Faculty
Agustí Canals

Head of the Audiovisual Communications Programme
Antoni Roig

Head of the Documentation Programme
Sandra Sanz

Head of the Advertising and Public Relations Programme
Ferran Lalueza

Lecturers
Gemma Andreu, Agustí Canals, Judith Clares, Josep Cobarsí, Núria Ferran, Ferran Lalueza, Pablo Lara, Francisco Lupiáñez, Eva Ortoll, Víctor Renobell, Antoni Roig, Francesc Saigí, Gemma San Cornelio, Sandra Sanz, Imma Tubella, and Sandra Vilajoana.

Faculty of Law and Political Science

The Faculty of Law and Political Science is keeping an attentive eye on the changes that Internet and ICT are bringing about in legislation and public administration.
The second Congrés d'Internet, Dret i Política (Internet, Law, and Politics Congress) and the articles of the IDP journal are examples of this.

Head of Faculty
Pere Fabra

Head of the Law Programme
Raquel Xalabarder

Head of the Political Science Programme
Ana Sofía Cardenal

Lecturers

Albert Batlle, Rosa Borge, Ana Sofía Cardenal, Agustí Cerrillo, Ana María Delgado, Pere Fabra, M. Rosa Fernández, Jordi García, Elisabet Gratti, David Martínez, Albert Padró-Solanet, Miquel Peguera, Ismael Peña, Lourdes Salomón, Víctor Manuel Sánchez, Mònica Vilasau, and Raquel Xalabarder.



From left to right: Eduard Aibar and Pere Fabra. On the screen, the IDP digital journal

The UOC co-organises the Second Internet, Law, and Politics Conference

The Faculty of Law and Political Science of the UOC organised, with the collaboration of the Escola d'Administració Pública de Catalunya (School of Public Administration of Catalonia) the Second Internet, Law, and Politics Conference.

This was a meeting of international scope that aimed to offer a platform for reflection on and discussion of the consequences of the appearance of ICT for legislative and public administration spheres.

In this second congress such contemporary issues were studied as the reforms in the government of the Internet, the progressive implantation of electronic administration solutions in the sphere of Justice (e-justice), the penal supervision of electronic transactions, the retention of data on the part of telecommunications operators, and the impact of these factors on the right to the protection of privacy. Likewise, the responsibility of the administration for the information on the Internet was discussed, as were the use of the Internet by political parties and the relationship between democracy and ICT. In this way, a wide range of questions open in this field was covered – questions that interest both professionals and scholars of law and professionals and scholars of political science and administration.

Within the framework of the same congress the presentation of the second issue of the *Revista d'Internet, Dret i Política* (IDP, Internet, Law, and Politics Journal) was made by Eduard Aibar, Vice Rector for Research, and Pere Fabra, the Director of the journal.



IDP, the Internet, Law, and Politics Journal, is consolidated

IDP is an electronic publication promoted by the Faculty of Law and Political Science of the UOC, and its objective is to communicate and disseminate works of research into and analysis of the challenges and the questions that the information and communications technologies pose in respect of law and political science.

In the second issue a series of single-subject papers on the transformation of law and politics in the information society was published. It contains conferences by Miguel Ángel Amutio, Santiago Cavanillas, Fernando Harto de Vera, María del Mar Pérez and Juan Carlos Ruiloba given in the first IDP congress, held in May 2005. Furthermore, the views expressed by Albert Agustinoy on the new dominion name .cat were included, as were those of Ana María Delgado and Rafael Oliver on the applications of the Internet to tax and revenue Administration, and those of Raquel Xalabarder on the responsibility of Internet service providers for the infringements of intellectual property committed by their users.



Faculty of Languages and Cultures

The new Faculty of Languages and Cultures is launched

The Faculty of Languages and Cultures was formally created by the UOC Governing Council in July 2005, and in the following September its activities began. This last academic year has therefore been the first in the existence of this Faculty, which was formed by the teams of Catalan Language and Literature, English Language (which previously formed part of the Faculty of Humanities and Language and Literature), and East Asian Studies. It came into existence, therefore, with the objective of promoting the teaching of languages and of the studies associated with specific cultural areas at a time when the world is undergoing globalisation and societies are becoming multicultural and multilingual.

Precisely the first public act of the Faculty was the first Languages and Cultures Day, 20th June 2006. At this act, which also devoted some time to the evaluation of teaching with the tutors and counsellors in the two degree-courses, the paper entitled 'Àsia Oriental en la literatura catalana del segle XX' (East Asia in Twentieth-Century Catalan Literature) was given by Manel Ollé, a lecturer at Pompeu Fabra University.

First degree-holders in East Asian Studies

The 2003-2004 academic year saw the launch of East Asian Studies, and this year the first degree-holders have been registered. Another noteworthy factor is the assistance received in 2006 from the Japan Foundation.

The Faculty directs an on-line course in Catalan for the Generalitat

This year, the Faculty participated in the tender for a project to elaborate an on-line Catalan course for the Generalitat de Catalunya, and the UOC has begun to direct the content of the same.

Digithum: one of the top digital journals in Spain

This digital journal, promoted by the Faculty of Languages and Cultures and the Faculty of Humanities, has now reached its eighth issue after a period of renovation of its format. In the eighth issue the dossier 'Gestió de la cultura, una nova disciplina?' (Culture Management, a New Discipline?) was published; it contains contributions by Glòria Munilla, Alba Colombo, Joaquim Rius and Laura Solanilla. The miscellany compiles articles on technologies in the training of geographers, chats and the courtly love of troubadors, the campaign to obtain the dominion .cat, and Internet searches as the basis for a grammar corrector.

In a report issued in December 2005 by the Centro de Información y Documentación Científica (CINDOC), *Digithum*, a journal on the Humanities and the digital era, obtained one of the highest placings in regard to the fulfilment of the quality requisites within an exhaustive list of university electronic journals from around the Iberian peninsula.

In a moment in which the world is tending toward globalisation, the areas of Language and Literature and East Asia have come together to foment the teaching of diverse languages and cultures.

Head of Faculty
Joan Pujolar

Head of the East Asia Programme
Anna Busquets

Head of the Catalan Language and Literature Programme
Narcís Figueras

Lecturers
Joan-Elies Adell, Federico Borges, Laura Borràs, Anna Busquets, Roger Canadell, Salvador Climent, Mavi Dolz, Ona Domènech, Pauline Ernest, Narcís Figueras, Joseph Hopkins, Lluc López, David Martínez, Carles Prado, Joan Pujolar, Miquel Strubell, and Mariona Taulé.

The *Digithum* journal publishes its eighth issue and sees the recognition of the standard quality requisites published by the CINDOC-CSIC

Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences

The Debates on Education have looked at the analysis of international experiences in various educational ambits. Those who have participated are Andreas Schleicher, Cristovam Buarque, and Reijo Laukkonen.

International specialists in the Debates on Education

Three open debates were organised in association with the Fundació Jaume Bofill (Jaume Bofill Foundation) throughout the academic year. In the first, Andreas Schleicher presented the results of the latest PISA report, 'Millorar els resultats i assegurar l'equitat: els sistemes escolars vistos a través del PISA' ('Improving the results and assuring equity: school systems seen through the PISA'). The second debate was on 'Com l'educació pot canviar el Brasil' ('How Education May Change Brazil) and was chaired by the Brazilian ex-Minister of Education and Professor, Cristovam Buarque. The last conference was 'Les claus de l'èxit de l'educació a Finlàndia ("The Keys to the Success of Education in Finland') and was given by Reijo Laukkonen, Education Counsellor of the National Education Committee of Finland.

 <http://www.debats.cat>

Educlip Congress: how to make audiovisual education more effective and attractive

The activities of the Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences were centred during this last academic year on the presentation of conferences and on the organisation of seminars relating to the subjects of the Faculty. Outstanding among these activities was the Educlip Congress, the objective of which was to find ways of communicating that would make educational and cultural audiovisuals more attractive and effective, taking advantage of the expressive parameters characteristic of communication in advertisements. The Congress was attended by more than two-hundred people from the spheres of education, publicity, and communications. Other contributions were, for example, the conference entitled 'L'espai professional del psicòleg i de la psicòloga en el marc de l'EHEA: present i futur' (The Professional Area of the Psychologist in the Framework of the EHEA: Present and Future) given by Manel Viader, Dean of the Faculty of Psychology of the University of Barcelona, a round table centred on 'Open Educational Resources (OER) and Open Content for Higher Education', and a seminar on e-learning centred on the improvement of on-line teaching quality.

 <http://www.educlip.org/>

New books by Faculty lecturers

In this period the following books have appeared on the market: 'Tecnologías sociales de la comunicación' ('Social Technologies of Communication') by Israel Rodríguez; 'Educación abierta y a distancia' (Open and Distance Education) by Elena Barberà i Albert Sangrà, and 'La pedagogía social en la sociedad de la información' ('Social Pedagogy in the Information Society') by Jordi Planella, all of whom are Faculty lecturers.



Master's and Postgraduate Degrees

The UOC wants official Third-Cycle training to have its particular hallmark: the provision of specialised and innovative training on the social and cultural effects of ICT.

Areas

- International Co-operation
- Law and Political Sciences
- E-learning
- Enterprise
- East Asia Studies
- Urban Management
- Information and Knowledge Management
- Humanities
- Computer Science, Multimedia and Telecommunications
- Journalism and Publishing
- Health
- Tourism

Number of Master's and Postgraduate degrees:

217

Master of Education and ICT
Innovative and high-quality training in e-learning

Master of Free Software
Specialised training in free software that provides an answer to the need of private enterprise and public administration to have available professionals highly qualified in this field.

Master of the Information and Knowledge Society
Training of specialists who will be capable of confronting the challenges that the new organisation of society presents as a result of the appearance of the information and communications technologies.

The activities in Postgraduate Training at the UOC during the academic year 2005-2006 have been oriented toward consolidating and enhancing the presentation portfolio of Masters' and Postgraduate programmes based on the development of competencies characteristic of professional roles. The programmes follow the philosophy of structuring the areas of knowledge in the form of training itineraries, which structure offers students the possibility of doing shorter and more fully-integrated programmes. Those that have already begun are:

- Master of Business Intelligence
- Master of Project Cycle and Humanitarian Activity Management (in association with the Spanish Red Cross)
- Master of Engineering applied to Development Co-operation (in association with Engineers without Frontiers)
- Master of Urban Management
- Master of Fiscal Policy
- Postgraduate degree in Corporate Information Technologies and Systems
- Expert in bankruptcy administration

 <http://www.uoc.edu/masters>

Three official Masters' degrees have been approved with EHEA criteria

The Departament d'Universitats, Recerca i Societat de la Informació (Department of Universities, Research, and the Information Society) has approved the programmes of Education and ICT (e-learning), Free Software, and The Information and Knowledge Society as official Masters' degrees following the criteria of adaptation to the European Higher Education Area (EHEA), to be imparted in the academic year 2006-2007 as postgraduate university training. Official Masters' degrees, the outcome of the application of the European structure of university studies, aim to go more deeply into the student's specialty in his or her academic, professional, or research training. Thus, the criteria that are taken into account in the approval of this university programming are: attention to the needs of Catalan society in the areas of the knowledge of the proposed degree-courses; the development of the specialisation of each university in the fields in which it shows most experience and potential; the evaluation of academic quality; and the adjustment to the principles that inspire the European Higher Education Area. Likewise, increased inter-university collaboration is sought in order to enhance the attractiveness and quality of the academic offer.

 <http://www.uoc.edu/masters/officials>

The other Masters' courses offered have continued to be degrees of the University's own with a recognition of quality from both the social and the business spheres.

Learning within Everybody's Reach

Winter courses show an increase in participation of 50%

Toward the end of February the 4th edition of the Winter Courses and the 2nd edition of the Summer Courses took place, involving almost one-thousand five-hundred students, a figure that represents growth of 50% over that for the previous edition. The Winter Courses and the Summer Courses offered 20 and 15 brief programmes respectively, organised in various areas of knowledge: Applications of the Social Sciences; Internet and Multimedia; and Enterprise, Economics, and Law. All these figures indicate a tendency to growth if they are compared to those for previous editions, and a constant increase in courses that responds to the appearance of new subjects of interest to the community of students. Some of the courses most in demand (among both the students in Catalan and the students in Spanish) are:

- Communication for Success (164 students)
- Diet and Health: Diet as a Medicine (117 students)
- Advanced Excel (115 students)
- Leadership and Delegating. Management Styles (107 students)
- Gender Violence: Juridical and Criminological Perspective (87 students)
- The World of Funerals in Ancient Egypt.
Beliefs and Practices (75 students)
- Computer-assisted Translation. Free Programs and Resources (69 students)
- Mediterranean Diet: Eat Properly and Stay Healthy (54 students)

More than two-thousand two-hundred students follow the Summer Courses

In July, 2,265 students began on the various courses at the Universitat Oberta d'Estiu (UOd'E, Summer Open University) and the Universidad Virtual de Verano (UVV, Summer Virtual University). Courses were offered in the Catalan and Spanish languages, organised in various spheres of knowledge: Enterprise and Economy; Law and Political Sciences; Humanities; Psychology; Education and Health; Computers and Multimedia; Languages and Cultures; and the Information and Communications Society.

Winter and Summer Courses register an increase in enrolled students, who total 1,500 and 2,265 respectively.

Universitat Oberta d'Estiu (Summer Open University)

2,265 students

<http://www.uoc.edu/uode>
<http://www.uoc.edu/uvv>

Winter Courses

1,494 students

<http://www.uoc.edu/cursoshivern>
<http://www.uoc.edu/cursosinvierno>

University@thenaeum

2,686 students

<http://www.uoc.edu/ateneu>

Seminars (October 2005)

218 students

Seminars (May 2006)

307 students

<http://www.uoc.edu/seminaris>