It gives us great pleasure to be able to present the Information and Knowledge Society PhD programme, a post-graduate programme that aims to develop rigorous and systematic research into the uses of information and communications technologies (ICT) in the different social ambits, and, likewise, the global changes brought on by the emergence of a network society.

The analysis of the changes and phenomena that characterise the information society require going beyond the traditional disciplinary barriers, given that one of its fundamental traits is the connecting of various social, economic, political and cultural systems. The PhD programme is based, thus, on a clearly interdisciplinary perspective that brings together different theoretical perspectives and methodological tools transversally. The interdisciplinary nature of the programme is reflected both in the study plan, in terms of the courses, and the subject areas for research in which the theses are developed.

The programme’s teaching activities aim basically to provide the fundamental knowledge required for a critical understanding of the information society and the changes it brings with it, providing a solid training in social and techno-scientific aspects of the information society and aiding the acquisition of the necessary technical and methodological skills for research work in the field of the information society.

In terms of the research activities carried out as part of the programme, the production of PhD theses that offer rigorous analysis is encouraged, in line with the standards of the different scientific fields, phenomena and processes involved in the information society. The research carried out in the programme is directly linked to the research activities of the various research groups at the UOC; indeed, members of these groups are the people who form the backbone of the teaching staff and team of thesis supervisors on the programme.

Our ultimate aim is to generate PhD theses of the highest possible scientific quality along the lines of the leading international research into the interaction between ICT and the various social ambits.

We hope to have whetted your appetite.

Best wishes,

Teresa Sancho
Director of the PhD Programme

Manuel Castells and Imma Tubella
Scientific Directors of the PhD Programme
THE PHD THESIS

To gain the title of PhD, students have to present and defend a PhD thesis (constituting original research work, under the supervision of a PhD) before a tribunal. To be able to defend this research work, students need to have obtained the Advanced Studies Diploma and, consequently, at least 32 credits (20 from the study activities and 12 from research) on the PhD programme.

Once the student has the approval of the PhD supervising their research work, they can produce the thesis project and apply for inscription. Once this inscription is accepted, they are considered PhD students (doctorands) for the effects of the programme.

The natural framework for the carrying out of these research works lead to the production PhD theses related in terms of their subject to the fields of expertise of the teams at the UOC, which working in a network cover a wide range of disciplines. The theses may be supervised by professors from this wide network and doctors working on similar subjects and with whom the UOC establishes a corresponding agreement. The publication of this research is to be made on the pages of the IN3 website, which offers information on the lines of research and projects currently under development and the researchers working on them.

THESIS SUPERVISION

The acceptance of a supervisor is vital for inscription of the thesis project, and the student has to be aware of the importance of finding one as soon as possible. The UOC will assign each student with a tutor to accompany them in their academic life, both in terms of the PhD thesis supervisor and the choice of credits matriculated. Likewise, support is given in terms of administrative matters and services from the University. Should the supervision of the thesis not be agreed on, the tutor shall act as the main advisor of the student in the matriculation of the courses on offer as part of the PhD programme.

The Universitat Oberta de Catalunya is a young university with a relatively small number of doctors. However, being a networked university, it has wide-ranging relations with collaborators. Likewise, a field as large as the information society allows for the easy incorporation of new collaborators. We encourage, thus, PhD students to propose their own possible thesis supervisor to the programme’s directors, via their tutor. In this case, the University analyses the incorporation of the proposed doctors on to the network of collaborators, following agreement between both parties.

THE PHD PROGRAMME

Before defending the PhD thesis before the tribunal assigned to this end, at least 32 credits have to be gained from the PhD programme.

In accordance with the regulations in force, the distribution of these credits is as follows:

- 20 study credits (with at least 15 core credits),
- 12 research credits.

In accordance with these same regulations, to be able to formalise the matriculation for the research credits, the 20 study credits have to have been completed.
The UOC's PhD Programme organises the study credits into courses of 5 credits over semesters. The actual offer for each semester is made public before matriculation for the semester that immediately precedes it.

Depending on the content, the courses are classified as core or methodological. To be able to defend a PhD thesis, the legislation in force requires at least 15 study credits be of core content.

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<th>CONTENTS OF THE STUDY CREDITS</th>
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### Core courses:
- Virtual Communities
- Digital Visual Culture
- Work in the Information Society
- Virtual Learning Environments
- Technological bases for the Information Society
- Chaos Management: an introduction to conflictology
- Globalisation, legal pluralism and the Internet
- Introduction to the information society
- Knowledge Management
- Education in the Information Society
- Companies in the Knowledge Society
- Law transformations in the Information and Knowledge Society
- Media in the Information Society
- Marketing and e-commerce
- The new economy and e-business
- Politics and the Information Society
- Salud y Red
- Technology, Economy and Society
- ICTs and Political process

### Methodological courses:
- Applied statistics to research in knowledge society
- Management information for research
- Qualitative methodologies in social research
CONTENTS OF THE RESEARCH CREDITS

The research credits are gained through the development of one or more tutored research works; to matriculate, students need to have completed at least 20 study credits, 15 of which have to be core. The programme offers a series of research works each semester that have to be carried out within the framework of the research developed at the University. The content of these works varies in terms of the interests of the professors or groups offering them, who will also set the number of credits and the criteria for admission for said works.

The areas in which these research works are to be carried out are those aspects of the information society on which the UOC focuses its activities:

- Art and networked creation
- E-business
- E-government and e-administration
- E-health
- E-law
- E-learning
- Knowledge Society
- Network society
- Networking Technologies

Likewise, students who already have their PhD thesis inscribed can apply for recognition of research credits from supervised activities carried out, via their tutor.

LANGUAGES

The three official languages for the programme are Catalan, Spanish and English. However, many of the texts and mandatory lectures will contain teaching materials in English. For this reason, it is highly advisable that students have a high level of English, especially in terms of reading.

In terms of interaction in the classroom (with the professor and other students), this may be carried out in any of the three programme languages, despite the fact that in some cases, due to the nationality of the professors, it may have to be in English and Spanish or only in English.

Normally, any research work, and the PhD theses in particular, can be presented in any of the three languages: Catalan, Spanish or English.
Qualification as a PhD from the Universitat Oberta de Catalunya

With the defence and approval of the PhD thesis, the student obtains the PhD qualification from the Universitat Oberta de Catalunya. This qualification is recognised by the Spanish government for all those accessing the studies with a recognised degree.

Those accessing the studies with a foreign degree that has not been recognised will be awarded a Universitat Oberta de Catalunya qualification.

Advanced Studies Diploma

Students passing the 20 study credits and 12 research credits can go before a tribunal that assesses the knowledge they have gained. Passing this assessment guarantees the student’s adequate level of research skills and entitles them to the Advanced Studies Diploma, which recognises that those who obtain it have carried out the required tasks in a certain area of knowledge, accredits their research skills and is recognised by all Spanish universities.

Gaining this diploma is a vital requisite for the presentation of the PhD thesis and, following its defence before the corresponding tribunal, gaining the PhD qualification.

Study Certificate

All students passing the 20 study credits, of which at least 15 are of core content, can apply for the Study Certificate, which accredits their having passed the post-graduate university studies course. This certificate is recognised by all Spanish universities and is required for matriculation for the research credits.

Masters Qualification

All students passing at least 30 credits, including those obtained on PhD courses and research credits, can apply for the Masters degree in the Information and Knowledge Society, as a Universitat Oberta de Catalunya qualification. This educational alternative is possible thanks to the wide range of courses on offer in the programme and allows for the recognition of the personal academic work through the programme, regardless of whether or not the Advanced Studies Diploma is achieved.
Requirements

Candidates should hold a higher university qualification.

Candidates holding foreign degrees - which are not recognised by the Spanish Ministry of Education and Culture - can apply by presenting his/her degree properly legalized. In this case, in order for the PhD to be officially recognised by the Spanish State, the student must have his/her foreign degree accepted by the time the PhD degree is awarded or afterwards.

When can I apply for access?

Access to the UOC can be applied for each year during the April/May period to start studies in September.

How can I apply for access?

To formalise your application to access the UOC, you need to fill out the form to be found at the UOC’s web page (www.uoc.edu)

Once the access application form has been filled out, the pertinent documentation for the form of access chosen needs to be sent to us.

Access documents

- A certified photocopy of the degree certificate.
- A photocopy of the national identity card or passport for those who are not Spanish.
- Curriculum vitae.
- A photograph.

Those applying for access with a foreign university qualification that has not previously been recognised by the Spanish Ministry of Education and Culture have to present the following additional documentation:

- Legalised academic file (or certified photocopy).

Degree and Academia file must be legalised by the diplomatic service.