We transform lives

Making quality higher education more accessible

Universitat
Oberta
de Catalunya

Our purpose

01 **A university with a purpose**

02 A unique learning model

03 Research that drives transformation

04 Knowledge transfer

05 People who inspire

06 Open to the future

To make quality higher education accessible and empower people to transform their lives and the world around them.

With this in mind, we created the UOC in Catalonia in 1995. It was the world's first online university and set the standard for innovative teaching methods.

More than 30 years later, we continue to be a driving force for change, committed to transforming society and serving the common good through the generation, transfer and exchange of relevant knowledge.

1st
university in Catalonia in terms of student numbers

97,500+
students

133,000+
graduates

130+
countries where students live

Figures for 2024/2025

Lifelong learning opportunities

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All students should have access to the tools and resources they need to grow personally and professionally, and to adapt to a constantly changing world. That's why we provide inclusive, transformative education at public prices. We believe that only by embracing diverse talents can we build a society that is more critical, responsible and committed.

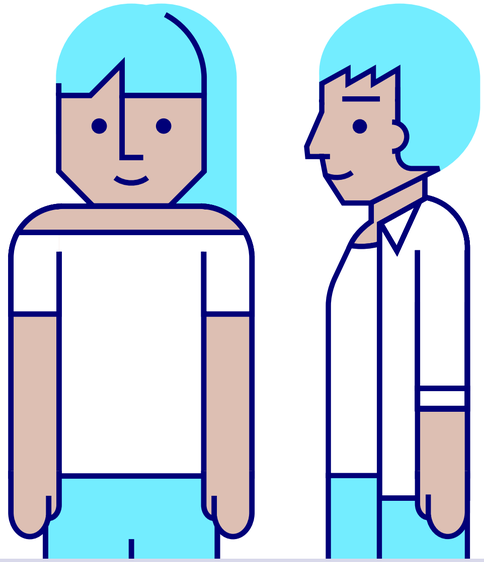
We support students through every stage of their personal and professional lives.

UOC STUDENTS

Figures for 2024/2025

37.9%
of students at Catalan universities who live in rural areas study at the UOC

58%
women



38%
aged between 25 and 34

91%
study and work at the same time

48%
of students in the Catalan university system with a certified disability study with us

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Helping students to achieve their goals and dreams

We support students in achieving their personal goals and the dreams they have for their lives and careers. We do so by prioritizing personalized, flexible training options.

Our range of educational programmes evolves and adapts to new needs and changes in society and the world of work.

BACHELOR'S DEGREES
27

UNIVERSITY MASTER'S DEGREES
52

LIFELONG LEARNING
247

OTHER UOC-SPECIFIC PROGRAMMES
61

DOCTORAL PROGRAMMES
9

VOCATIONAL TRAINING
10

UNIVERSITY ENTRANCE EXAM PREPARATION COURSES
3

MASTER'S DEGREE PREPARATION COURSES
3

CODING SCHOOL
4

UOC SKILLS LAB
18

OPEN COURSES
215

CENTRE FOR MODERN LANGUAGES
61

Helping students to achieve their goals and dreams

We are the first Catalan university to receive institutional accreditation, which extends to all of our official bachelor's and university master's degrees.

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Times Higher Education. World University Rankings

WORLDWIDE
Top 200
among the world's youngest universities

SPAIN
1st
online university

CATALONIA
Top 6
among Catalan universities

38%

of new STEM students in Catalonia study at the UOC. Nearly nine out of ten of those studying STEM subjects online are enrolled with us.

ELSEWHERE IN SPAIN

16%

of new STEM students study at the UOC. Six out of ten of those studying STEM subjects online are enrolled with us.

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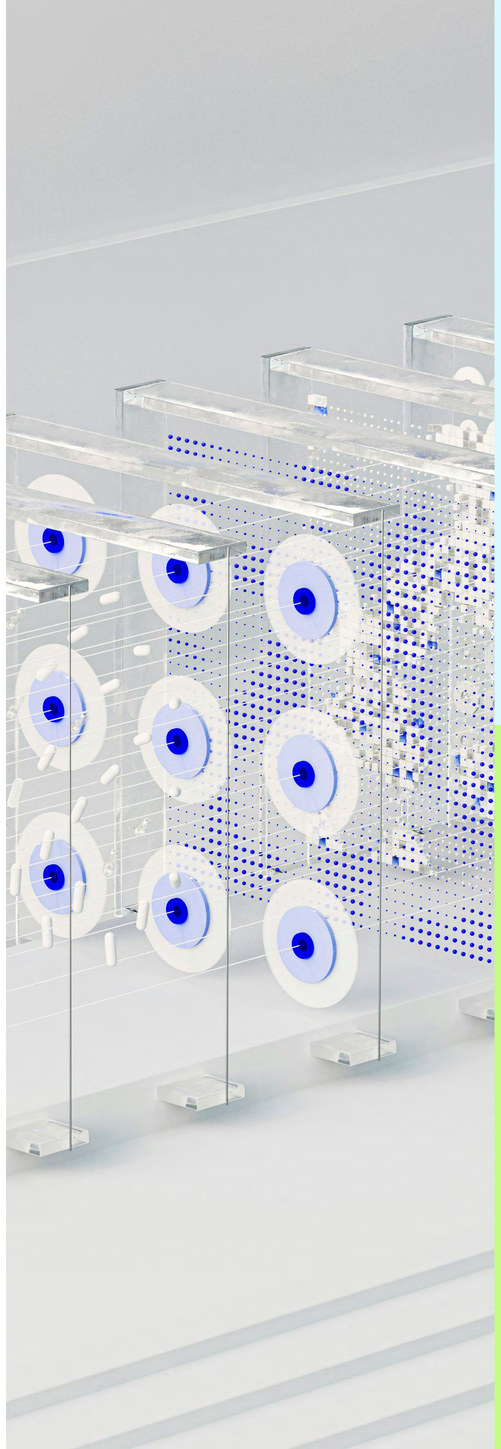
An active, practical learning model in tune with the world of work

Every student learns, works and grows at their own pace. That's why, at the UOC, we offer our own teaching model that creates, evolves and shapes new learning experiences.

Our model is our most distinctive attribute. It's 100% online, flexible, rigorous and people-centred:

- It's based on innovative methodologies.
- It's built through reflection, participation in projects, collaborative work, continuous assessment and the application of knowledge to real-world situations.
- It takes place on the Virtual Campus, with learning resources designed specifically for the online environment.
- Its teaching staff guide and mentor students, encouraging autonomy, initiative and critical thinking.



Innovation, the driving force behind our educational model

The eLearning Innovation Center (eLinC) advises teachers on course and programme design, assists in the implementation of new technical and educational solutions, and promotes the improvement of teaching and learning processes.

→ **LINK**

SofIA: AI to support our educational model

The aim of the SofIA initiative is to integrate artificial intelligence not only into teaching, but also into administration and support services, continuously guided by an ethical, human-centred approach aligned with our values.

This strengthens our educational leadership, providing it with a sense of coherence and a forward-looking perspective.

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Leading the future of European digital education

OpenEU is a pan-European alliance of open and distance-learning universities, coordinated by the UOC.

OpenEU

The Open European University

We're working to establish the first pan-European open university. It will provide accessible, flexible, high-quality lifelong higher education for everyone, no matter where they are.

Thanks to OpenEU, our community is growing. It now links over 368,000 students and 24,000 academics and professionals from across Europe, creating an international learning environment on a mission to transform.

→ LINK

Support as our defining feature

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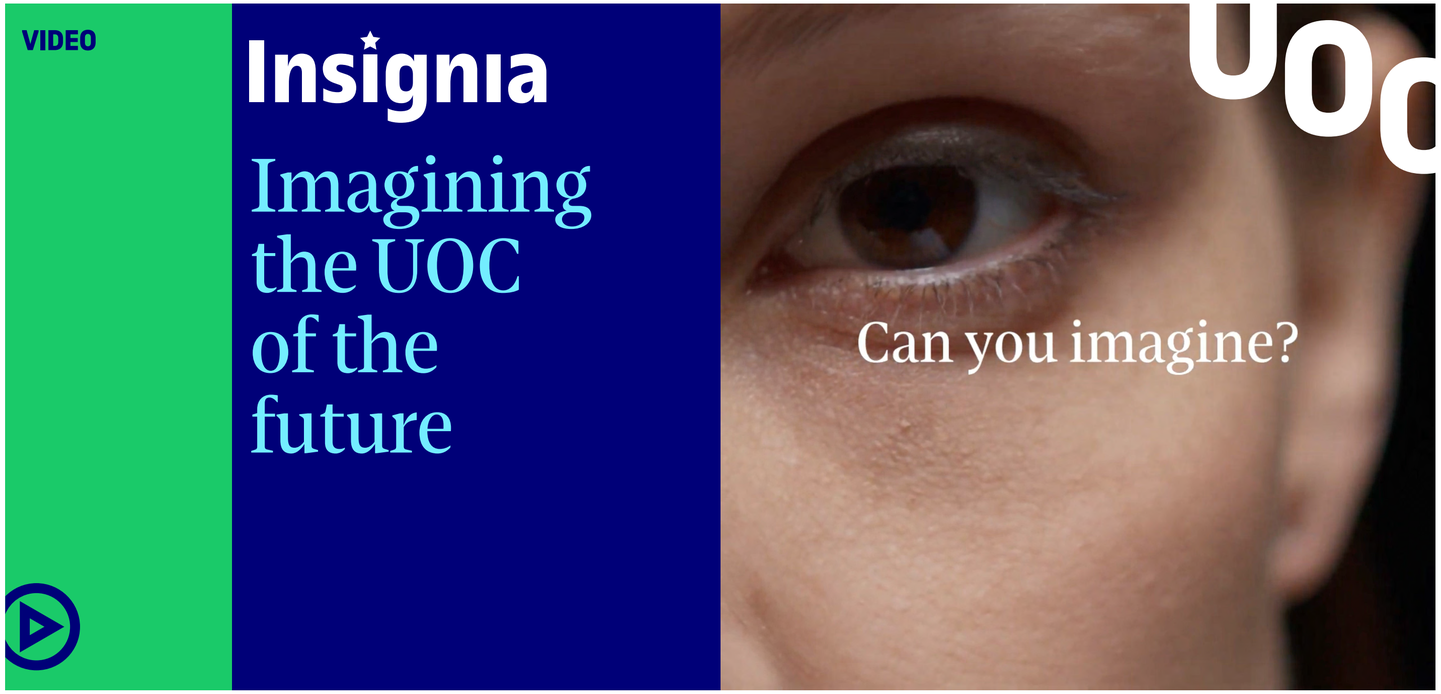
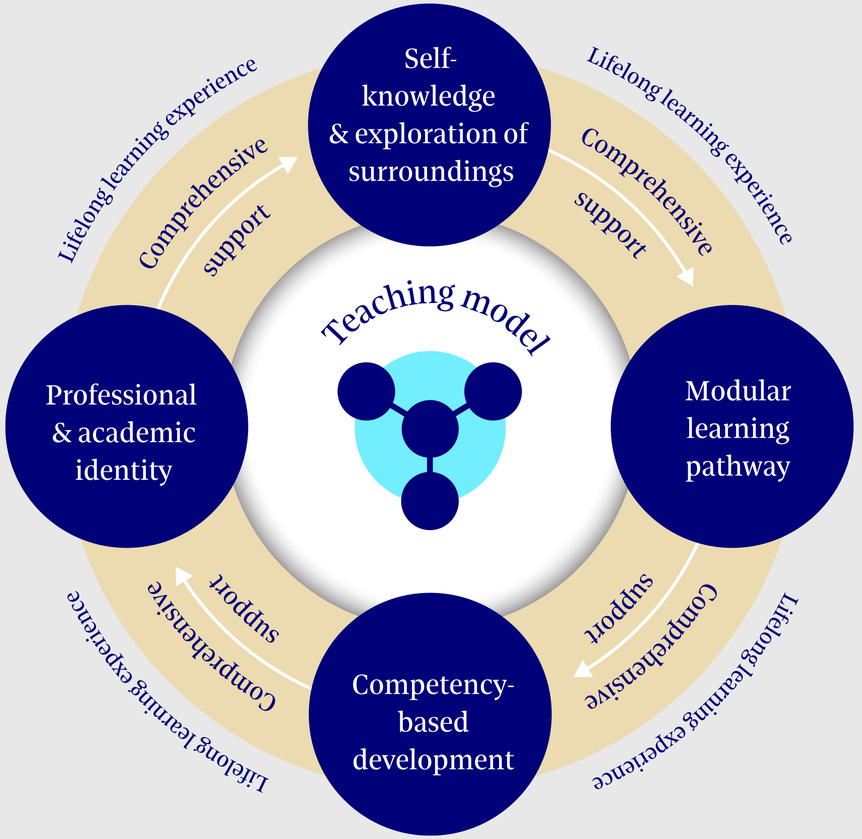


At the UOC, we support people throughout their lives. This support forms the cornerstone of our work, guiding the design of learning processes, assessment and feedback, alongside the activities of our teaching team and the creation of learning resources. It also involves actively listening to stakeholders. Our educational model extends beyond the classroom, supporting students throughout every experience at the university.

Support as our defining feature

Our model encourages students to reflect on what they have learned, apply it to real-world situations and establish connections with their professional environment. This methodology helps them to develop critical thinking, autonomy, self-awareness and self-regulation. It also fosters creativity and equips students with teamwork tools.

The institutional Insígnia initiative enables us to continue creating lifelong opportunities, where every student can chart their own path, grow continuously and forge meaningful connections with the community and the professional world.



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Transformative, impactful research

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At the UOC, our research aims to shape the society of the future and contribute to the transformations needed to address global challenges.

With a marked specialization in the digital field, we develop applied, interdisciplinary research aligned with major contemporary challenges.

→ VIDEO

Researchers among the most cited in the world: the UOC's experts in the Internet of Things, water management, tourism, public health, and nutrition are included in the Stanford ranking

→ LINK

5

Funding for research projects

€32m+

Researchers working on more than 200 concurrent projects

500+

Human Resources for Research: a quality seal recognizing our ability to create work environments that foster research, promote learning and advance the careers of researchers within Europe

HR EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH

Connecting scientific activity with global needs

We are driven by five research missions that serve as overarching frameworks, foster interdisciplinary collaboration and promote real impact.

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Lifelong learning

Futures of Education in the Digital Age Research Centre (UOC-FuturEd)

We conduct excellence-driven research into the futures of education, understood as a continuous process that unfolds in multiple contexts and forms throughout life.

01

Digital transition and sustainability

Digital Transformation and Governance Research Centre (UOC-DIGIT)

We analyse how digital technologies transform social, economic and political spheres using a plural, interdisciplinary approach.

02

Culture for a critical society

Interdisciplinary Research Centre on Social and Cultural Transformations (UOC-TRÀNSIC)

We carry out research, thought, experimentation and innovation within the social sciences, humanities and arts.

03

Planetary health and well-being

eHealth Centre: Research for Human and Planetary Health (UOC-eHealth)

We use technology to push the boundaries of health and move towards a healthy, inclusive society. We are a WHO Collaborating Centre in eHealth.

04

Ethical and human-centred technology

Ethical Technologies and Connectivity for Humanity Research Centre (UOC-TECH)

We generate knowledge on technology and artificial intelligence to facilitate digital transformation using a critical and ethical approach. We're working towards a fairer, more inclusive and sustainable digital future.

05

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Agents of innovation

The nine labs on the UOC Campus are used for experimentation, research and collaboration. They act as catalysts for knowledge, drivers of innovation and bridges between the academic world and contemporary challenges.

→ **LINK**

We also transform knowledge into opportunities with Hubbik, the place where innovative ideas and entrepreneurial projects become reality.

1,167

people from the UOC community supported in entrepreneurship and transfer through SpinUOC (13 annual programmes).

139

entrepreneurial projects supported through the pre-acceleration phase in the technology and education sector (seven Edutech Emprèn programmes).

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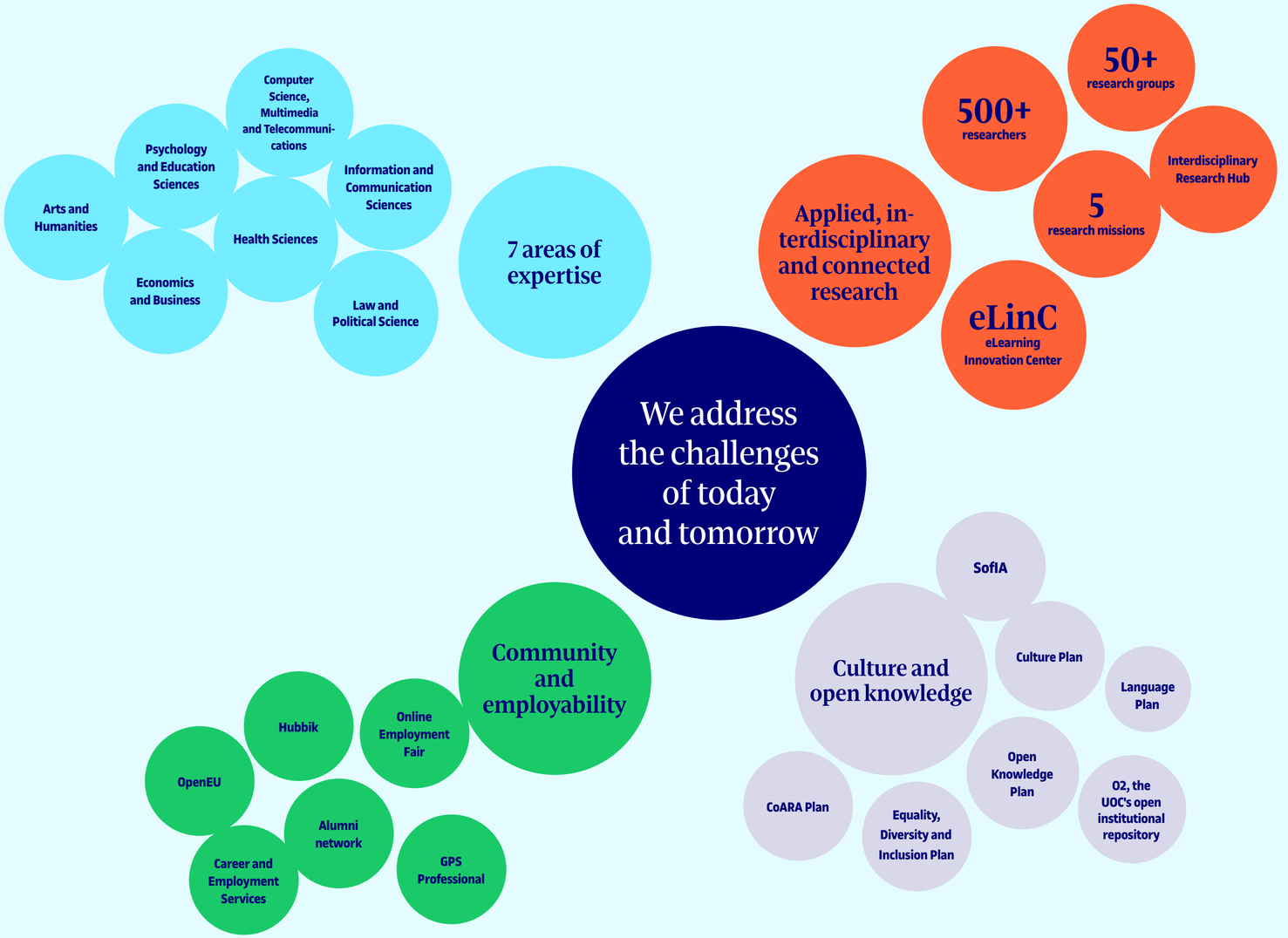
An open knowledge hub

At the UOC, we do more than deliver high-quality online learning. We're also driven by a clear mission to serve society by promoting open and accessible knowledge.

We generate, transfer and connect knowledge to address social, technological and cultural challenges, thus helping to shape the society of the future.



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Access to culture, creativity and knowledge

We strive to create an open and diverse culture in terms of both content and format. This promotes a rich variety of voices, encourages participation and collaborative creation, and fosters critical thinking.

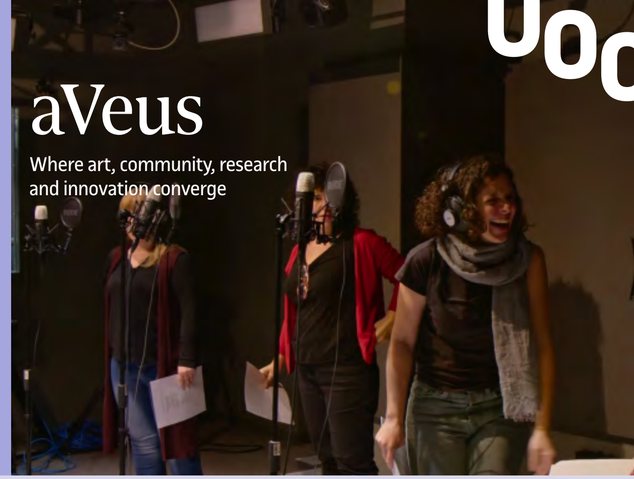
- We provide cultural experiences with the UOC community and through external alliances, connected to academic interests.
- We publicize all our cultural activities.
- We participate in existing projects led by groups at the UOC or by external organizations and institutions.

International residencies with the CCCB

We welcome journalists and intellectuals from all over the world. We encourage cultural dialogue, share knowledge and connect creators with the community to spark new ideas and perspectives.

LINK

VIDEO



aVeus, the UOC's digital choral voice

We've developed an artificial intelligence model trained with diverse voices from all of the UOC's groups to create a unique synthetic voice. The union of art and technology reinforces the identity and participation of the entire community.

Digital art created by the community

Floreix, *Constel·lacions* and *Els ritmes* are three digital artworks created by members of our community, presented as institutional tokens and exhibited on the UOC Campus. This is yet another way for the community to actively engage with the university.

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People who inspire, projects that transform

The UOC is an open, collaborative community, committed to people and society.

We're committed to contributing to the development and progress of society through shared knowledge, critical thinking and a spirit of service.

ALUMNI IMPACT AWARDS 2025

PRIZE FOR PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVEMENT

Celia Martínez,

a graduate of the Joint University Master's Degree in Bioinformatics and Biostatistics (UOC, UB)

From Munich, she leads an international multidisciplinary team that conducts research combining experimental biology and computational analysis, focused on studying how cell heterogeneity influences tissue function during ageing.

> Right now, we're trying to mimic ageing on a culture plate to study how chronic diseases evolve, especially what happens in the liver.

PRIZE FOR TECHNOLOGICAL INITIATIVE

Jennifer Samaniego,

a graduate of the University Master's Degree in Data Science

Creator of STEM4WomenEC, a programme that has inspired more than 1,300 students and provided over 50 grants to support careers in science. She leads the Immersive Learning Network, recognized by Meta and BID Lab as one of the ten most influential communities in Latin America and the Caribbean.

> This award recognizes a career dedicated to showing that innovation is meaningful when driven by a sense of purpose.

PRIZE FOR THE PROJECT WITH THE GREATEST SOCIAL IMPACT

Álex Andrés,

a graduate of the Joint University Master's Degree in Bioinformatics and Biostatistics (UOC, UB)

Co-founder and president of BioHack UIO, the first community biotechnology lab in Ecuador and Latin America, created with the mission of democratizing science. It helps to develop projects that evolve into biotechnological ventures and educational programmes with a social impact, bringing science closer to vulnerable communities, young people and children who rarely have access to a lab.

> Innovation has no borders when knowledge is shared.

People who inspire, projects that transform

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Health Promotion Awards 2024, Catalan Network of Healthy Universities

Ignacio Macías,
a student on the Bachelor's Degree in Applied Data Science

His bachelor's degree final project focuses on the early detection of suicide risk signals on social media. This project combines technology with public health through an innovative approach that aims to prevent personal tragedies and support mental health professionals.

> I believe that student research can be extremely valuable because it brings fresh ideas and different approaches that, in some cases, can complement existing work.

Making technology an open and shared space

Azucena Vázquez,
a course instructor on the University Master's Degree in Education and ICT (E-learning) and the Bachelor's Degree in Primary Education

Co-founder of Capses InspiraTech, a digital project that challenges stereotypes and shows that women can be leaders and key players in the scientific and technological world.

> By bringing practical challenges and female role models in science and technology into the classroom, the message is clear: You belong here. You can do this too.

Open to the future

We strive to play an active role in social and educational transformation.
This is the cornerstone of our Strategic Plan 2026-2030, a transformation roadmap to keep us on the right track.

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2026-2030

Strategic priorities

Personalize learning to change lives

Conduct research with a genuine impact

Operate as an agile, talent-based organization

Grow sustainably

Position the UOC as a transformative force

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08018 Barcelona

Instagram
LinkedIn
YouTube
TikTok
Bluesky
Facebook