

# **Doctoral Programme in Education and ICT (e-Learning)**

# Doctoral Programme in Education and ICT (e-Learning)

## Start

18 Sep 2025

## Online

100%

**Admission:** March 5, 2024

**Languages:** Catalan, Spanish, English

**Official qualification**

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## Presentation

The Education and ICT ( *e-learning* ) doctoral programme focuses on the study of the phenomena linked electronic teaching and learning, the institutional or social framework, and technology-mediated online learning systems in general in any geographic or cultural setting, while also opening up this focus to include any innovative research that uses ICT in the framework of education. To do so, the programme offers interdisciplinary work that currently covers fields of knowledge as diverse as psychology and pedagogy or computer engineering, law, tourism, economics, mathematics and the humanities, among others.

The challenges facing education in the 21st century are closely linked to competent and rational use of **Information and Communication Technologies** as we know them, and the different forms that these technologies might take in the immediate future. This connection between education and ICT will not remain the same over time, rather it will become more complex, taking on new challenges that are hard to foresee at present. The mutually influencing evolution of education and ICT requires professionals who are knowledgeable and curious about technological advances, while also being committed to the social ends inherent in all levels of education, clearly including non-formal forms of education. Likewise, study and analysis in the field of education requires interdisciplinary and intersectoral work that opens the door to companies that develop and apply knowledge in any of the different areas of learning.

The Education and ICT doctoral programme focuses on **online teaching and learning**, the institutional or social framework, and technology-mediated **online education systems**, in general, in any geographic or cultural setting. It is open to any innovative research that involves the use of **ICT** in education. With this in mind, the programme supports **interdisciplinary** work that covers fields as diverse as psychology, pedagogy, computer engineering, law, tourism, economics, mathematics or the humanities, among others.

## Official qualification

The UOC Doctoral Programme of Education and ITC (e-Learning) is a programme that has been approved by the Spanish Universities Council, and its implementation has been authorized by the Government of Catalonia, in accordance with current legislation.

The UOC's bachelor's, university master's degrees and doctoral programmes have full academic validity throughout Spain; where such is the intention, they are qualifications to perform regulated professions, in accordance with the regulations applicable in each case.

The certificates for these programmes are issued together with a Diploma Supplement (DS), providing details of what the student studied, their results, the professional competencies obtained and the qualification's level in the Spanish higher education system; the aim of this is to facilitate recognition of the qualification and promote students' and graduates' mobility within the European Higher Education Area (EHEA).

In other countries, the validity of the official university qualifications issued by the UOC will depend on each specific country's education laws.

# 1st

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**1ST SPANISH-LANGUAGE ONLINE MBA IN THE WORLD**



### **Programme quality**

The quality of this degree programme is endorsed by the Catalan University Quality Assurance Agency (AQU), which ensures that rigorous standards, including those demanded by the EHEA, are met.

### **AQU quality seal**

Catalan University Quality Assurance Agency



AQU Catalunya registered on EQAR

# Programme of study

## Study plan

The study plan is based on a series of training and research activities (courses, seminars and thematic and methodological workshops) aimed at training for research in the field of education and technology, which support the preparation and defence of the doctoral thesis in order to obtain the doctoral degree.

The learning format of the doctoral programme is generally distance and online, with support provided by the teaching staff, thesis supervisors, tutors and other members of the research community. The course can be taken on a part-time or full-time basis. Students on the full-time programme are advised to obtain a grant that enables them to work on the doctoral programme on a full-time basis. Some grants, such as the UOC doctoral degree grants, may require the student to live in Barcelona, so some training and academic activities in the programme are also available in in-person format.

The programme is run in Catalan, Spanish and English, and the learning resources may be in any of these three languages. A high level of English language proficiency is therefore required.

Each doctoral student, with the guidance of their thesis supervisor and their cohort tutor, draws up a personalized training plan based on their selection of the most suitable activities for their doctoral thesis project, which will in turn contribute to the development of skills necessary for participation in academic life. Within these activities, presenting papers at conferences and publishing articles during the programme are considered essential training experiences that must be carried out before the doctoral thesis is defended.

Various types of training activities are available when drawing up the personalized training plan: foundation and methodological courses, bridging courses, seminars, workshops and courses for professional development as a researcher. Some of these activities are compulsory, but most are optional.

Students are advised to consult their assigned tutor regarding the right time to develop the various activities included in their training plan.

Students' learning pathways may include bridging courses. These bridging courses are based on the specific training needs associated with the entry requirements and are assigned by the Doctoral Degree Academic Committee.

If, for example, the student does not have the required B2 level of English, they will be required to study the courses offered by the UOC's Centre for Modern Languages: English B2.1. and English B2.2.

In any event, to complete the doctoral studies, we recommend that students achieve a C1 level of English, which can also be achieved through the English C1.1 and English C1.2 courses.

Timing	Assignatures	ECTS credits	Type	Language
1st year	<u>Research Design in Social Sciences</u>	5	Mandatory	English
2nd year	<u>Elearning. Thematic Seminar</u>	3	Mandatory	English
1st or 2nd semester	<u>Research in e-Learning</u>	5	Optional	Catalan/Spanish
1st or 2nd semester	<u>Research Methods</u>	5	Optional	Catalan/Spanish
1st or 2nd semester	<u>Data Analysis Techniques</u>	6	Optional	Catalan/Spanish
1st or 2nd semester	<u>Construction of Instruments for Research</u>	5	Optional	Catalan/Spanish
1st semester (1st or 2nd year)	<u>Advanced Qualitative Methods in Knowledge Society Research</u>	5	Optional	English
1st semester (1st or 2nd year)	<u>Advanced Quantitative Methods in Knowledge Society Research</u>	5	Optional	English
1st or 2nd semester	<u>English B2.1</u>	6	Optional	English
1st or 2nd semester	<u>English B2.2</u>	6	Optional	English

## Courses

### Fundamental methodological courses

These are highly recommended advanced courses in research methodology, which, if applicable, must be taken between the first year (full-time students) and the second year (part-time students).

Temporal Distribution	Subject	Credits (ECTS)	Typology	Language
1st semester (1st or 2nd year)	Advanced Qualitative Methods in Knowledge Society Research	5	Optative	English
1st semester (1st or 2nd year)	Advanced Quantitative Methods in Knowledge Society Research	5	Optative	English

### Research, transfer and entrepreneurship courses

The UOC also offers research, transfer and entrepreneurship courses in English aimed at **students, researchers** and faculty to foster **research in scientific, academic and business fields**.

Research, transfer and entrepreneurship courses can be recognized as free elective credits on bachelor's degree courses. If you are studying a doctoral degree at any university and have obtained a competitive grant, you can also study it as part of your training resources.

You can check all the courses in the website: <https://estudios.uoc.edu/en/doctoral-programmes>

The following seminars differ in the extent to which they are compulsory or optional.

"PhD Seminars" are compulsory as they form part of the doctoral degree assessment and monitoring process.

Timing	Field of the education and ict	ECTS credits	Type	Language
2nd year (1st semester)	Phd Seminar 1 <sup>1</sup>	0	Compulsory	English
4th year (1st semester)	Phd Seminar 2 <sup>1</sup>	0	Compulsory	English

<sup>1</sup>These seminars are assessed and synchronous and will be on-site and online.

Students studying full-time will complete the programme in a maximum of 3 years, and in a maximum of 5 years if studying part-time, from admission to the programme to the doctoral thesis's defence. This timeframe does not include maternity or paternity leave, or any long-term sick leave that the programme's Academic Committee may consider appropriate to approve.

The Academic Committee may also authorize an extension of these periods for the maximum number of times stipulated by the applicable legislation, and under the conditions determined by the relevant doctoral programme.

The personal training plan is established for each doctoral student after they have enrolled in the programme. This document lists all the training activities, established by the thesis supervisor and approved by the Academic Committee, for the doctoral student's development.

Before the end of the first year, the doctoral student must produce a research plan that includes the aim, questions and objectives to be achieved, the proposed methodology and the resources and time planning to produce the thesis. A positive assessment by the Academic Committee of the research plan submitted in the first year is an essential requirement for continuing in the programme.

The doctoral student must take and successfully complete the specific training activity that is included in their personalized training plan during the programme.

Each doctoral student also creates and maintains an "Activities Document", in which they record all the training activities they carry out as part of their training pathway. In this document, they also reflect on their progress in the research plan and in research development by means of all the activities carried out.

The programme's Academic Committee assesses the progress made in each doctoral student's research plan and Activities Document every year, as well as the reports that the thesis supervisor must issue to that end.

## Activities in face-to-face teaching mode

**Activities in the organized research period in face-to-face teaching mode**

## Activities in distance teaching mode

**Activities in the organized research period in distance teaching mode**



Research lines

# Academic team

## Doctoral School Management

David Masip Rodó

## Program direction

Iolanda García González

## Academic Committee

Antoni Badia Gargante

Atanasi Daradoumis Haralabus

Enric Serradell López

Gerard Josep Ferrer Esteban

Gisela Grañena Gimeno

Iolanda García González

Julio Meneses

Lucrezia Crescenzi-Lanna

Marcelo Fabián Maina

## Thesis directors team

Adriana Ornellas Rios da Silva

Agusti Canals Parera

Albert Sangra Morer

Aleksandra Malicka

Alicia Aguilar Martinez

Amalia Susana Creus

Ana Elena Guerrero Roldán

Anna Espasa Roca

Antoni Badia Gargante

Antoni Pérez Navarro

Atanasi Daradoumis Haralabus

Elena Barberà Gregori

Enric Mor Pera

Enric Serradell López

Eulalia Canals Fornons

Eva Bretones Peregrina

Gerard Josep Ferrer Esteban

Gisela Grañena Gimeno

Guillem Bautista Perez

Iolanda García González

Jordi Conesa Caralt

Jordi Planella Ribera

Josep Cobarsí Morales

Julio Meneses

Julià Minguillón Alfonso

Llorenç Andreu Barrachina

Lourdes Guàrdia Ortiz

M. Elena Rodríguez Gonzàlez

Marc Romero Carbonell

Marcelo Fabián Maina

Maria Jesús Marco Galindo

Marie Christine Appel

María Jesús Martínez Argüelles

Mireia Montaña Blasco

Montse Guitert Catusus

Montse Vall Llovera Llovet

Rosa Maria Mayordomo Saiz

Teresa Guasch Pascual

Teresa Romeu Fontanillas

Teresa Sancho Vinuesa

## Tutoring

Jordi Mogas Recalde

**PhD in Educational Technology**

Núria Molas Castells

**Dr of Education**

## 25 years' experience in e-learning

In 1995 the UOC was launched as the world's **first fully online university**. More than 25 years later, we are still pioneers in digital education.

Our **eLearning Innovation Center** oversees the evolution of our educational model, to ensure unique, high-quality, connected and networked learning experiences.



# Call for applications

## General requirements

To be admitted to the organized research period of the Doctoral Programme in Education and ICT (e-learning), students must meet both the general University and specific programme requirements.

To this end, students must first submit proof of meeting one of the following sets of requirements:

- a) Hold an official university master's degree issued by a higher education institution in the European Higher Education Area (EHEA) and have passed a minimum of 300 ECTS credits out of all official university courses.
- b) Hold an official Spanish university degree, or one from an EHEA member country, that allows them admission to a master's course, and have passed a minimum of 300 ECTS credits out of all official university courses, of which at least 60 must be at the master's level.
- c) Hold an official Spanish graduate degree of at least 300 ECTS credits in line with EU legal regulations.
- d) Candidates with degrees from education systems outside the EHEA, whose degrees do not require homologation (official recognition by the Spanish Ministry of Education), must hold a level of education equivalent to Spanish university master's degrees that authorizes admission to doctoral studies in the country issuing the degree.
- e) Be a university graduate and have passed with a positive assessment at least two years of education on a programme to be awarded the official degree of any of the health sciences specialties.
- f) Hold a Spanish doctoral qualification in accordance with the previous university system.
- g) Be a graduate, architect or engineer and be in possession of the Advanced Studies Diploma (DEA), awarded in accordance with the provisions of Royal Decree 778/1998, of 30 April 1998, or have obtained research proficiency, regulated in Royal Decree 185/1985, of 23 January 1985.

Candidates who have not successfully completed the initiation to research credits for a university master's degree programme will have to take those bridging courses specified by the programme, if any.

The continued enrolment on the doctoral programme of candidates who hold only an official university bachelor's degree that, in accordance with EU law, consists of 300 ECTS credits or who have not taken and successfully completed at least 20 initiation to research credits as part of a university master's degree programme is contingent on the successful completion of the relevant bridging courses for the initiation to research module, pathway or subjects for the corresponding training period.

**According to Decree 822/202, of September 28, students with a disability equal to 33% or more have a reservation of 5% of the places.**

## Admission requirements

As well as the general and additional requirements established by the University, the doctoral programme in Education and ICT (e-Learning) establishes the following specific requirements:

- If you're not a citizen of an English-speaking country, **you must provide proof of a level of English equal to or higher than B2** in accordance with the Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR).
- If you have attended school or have completed a bachelor's or master's degree (or equivalent qualification with regards to enrolment in the doctorate programme) in English in a country where English is an official language, you will be deemed to have an equivalent level to the one required.
- You may also demonstrate your linguistic competency in English by means of another official certificate that proves you have a level equivalent to or higher than the one required. You can consult this equivalency table to see examples of certificates that correspond to these levels.

Candidates for the part-time (online) doctoral programme who do not meet the required level will have the opportunity to access the doctoral programme with a B1 level **if they undertake to attain a B2 level before completing the research plan** at the end of the first year. According to regulations, if the student does not attain this level, the research plan cannot be approved.

If you wish to enrol in the programme on a full-time basis, you must provide proof of a level equal to or higher than B2 from the time of application.

The UOC's Centre for Modern Languages offers English courses to attain the minimum level required for admission into the different doctoral programmes.

The UOC offers an online English language proficiency test, which can be accessed via this [link](#), to accredit your knowledge of English. A score of between 72 and 94 accredits a level corresponding to B2 as defined by the CEFR. When taking this test, you must specify the code that corresponds to the UOC (Universitat Oberta de Catalunya): 4418. This code does not exempt the student from paying the corresponding exam cost and fees.

Meeting the above requirements does not guarantee admission to the doctoral programme. These requirements must be met in order to apply for admission to the doctoral programme.

**If you apply for a UOC grant, you must accredit a level equal to or higher than B2 from the time of application. For other grants, financial aid or research contracts, please consult the terms and conditions and requirements for each case** (level of English and part-time or full-time format).

## Admission documents

- A photocopy of your DNI, NIE or passport.
- A certificate attesting to the **level of English required** by the doctoral programme (B2).
- **Academic transcripts** of your previous studies, indicating subjects and marks, evaluation call, type of subject, number of credits and average mark.
- **Endorsement letter** issued by the UOC researcher supporting you as a candidate and your doctoral research project. This letter is essential for you to be considered for admission. **To request this letter, you must review the research lines described [here](#), choose the thesis proposal that best suits your research interests and contact the responsible researcher.**
- **Research project.** A document of no more than five pages describing your research idea and how it relates to the thesis proposal you have chosen. This document is essential for you to be considered for admission and must include the following sections:
  - Purpose and justification of the research, explaining how it fits into the chosen line of research and thesis proposal.
  - Theoretical background and brief state of the art of the chosen topic.
  - Research problem and questions.
  - Outline of research methodology and context.
  - Expected results.
  - References.
- **Contributions and supporting evidence.** You must complete and submit the [contributions template](#) in order to be considered for admission. (You can edit this template with Adobe. You can also find it in a Word format in the Virtual Campus under Admission Requirements section) This will contain a selection of contributions, chosen at your own discretion and accompanied by a brief explanation, which should demonstrate and enable assessment of your prior knowledge, experience and skills as they relate to doctoral study. You must provide evidence for each contribution. This evidence may be tangible (where possible) or merely mentioned. Examples of evidence include previous research (in Catalan, Spanish or English), letters of recommendation, products resulting from a project or study, or activities included in your CV.
- **Curriculum Vitae**  
This should include details of your education and professional and/or academic experience.
- **Letter of motivation/introduction**  
A brief, two-page presentation of your professional and educational background in research and in the field of education and ICT, including your motivation to undertake research and focus on the chosen topic, to apply for the doctoral programme and, if applicable, to apply for a grant. You should describe your aspirations and explain how the doctoral programme fits into your career plans. It is also important to indicate your availability and the conditions under which you intend to pursue the doctorate, including whether it will be full-time or part-time (distance learning).
- **Evidence that you meet the admission requirements**  
Further information can be found in the relevant section of the Campus Secretary's Office. If you have obtained a degree in a higher education system outside the European Higher Education Area (EHEA) and it has not been officially recognised (homologado), you will need to authenticate it through diplomatic channels (or, if necessary, through the Hague Convention Apostille). If you have

certificates, degrees or academic transcripts that are not written in an official language of Spain or in English, they must be accompanied by a certified translation into Catalan, Spanish or English. Failure to submit these documents, or discrepancies between them and the information given in the application form, may result in non-admission to the doctoral programme.

**Finally, we recommend that you include a document containing a list of all the documents submitted.**

## Evaluation criteria

All applications that meet the requirements will be evaluated by the doctoral programme's academic committee according to the criteria and merits listed in the table below:

CRITERION (dimension)	CRITERIA (elements, merits)	DOCUMENTS / EVIDENCE	M A X I M U M S C O R E
1. Academic record	Average mark (bachelor's degree) [RS1]	Average mark calculations	15
	Average mark (master's degree)	Academic transcripts	25
2. Research project	Project suitability:  - Degree of definition of the research idea, relevance, interest and fit. - Knowledge of the field (correct approach to the problem, appropriate references). - Research competence (adequacy, methodology, correct formulation, questions, consistency, results).  - Academic skills (academic writing, use of information sources, etc.).	Research project presented	20

3. Education and research experience	Previous knowledge and/or experience and development of academic and scientific skills (academic writing, use of information sources, use of data for decision- making, application of research methods, etc.).	Contributions / Evidence presented	20
4. Professional experience and personal skills	Previous knowledge and experience in the field of education and ICT, education and/or other fields related to the research topic.  Personal, professional and/or social action skills.	Contributions / Evidence presented	20
TOTAL			100

[RS1]This was too ambiguous to provide any real information. Please check.

#### EVALUATION AND SELECTION PROCEDURE

In the first phase of evaluation, candidates will be assessed based on the documents they have submitted. An assessment rubric will be used to score various dimensions, resulting in an overall score for each candidate that will be used to rank the applications.

In the case of candidates applying for a grant (and in other cases where the committee deems it necessary), a second phase of evaluation will be carried out, consisting of an interview with the candidate. This interview is conducted by a member of the academic committee and the UOC researcher who has endorsed the candidate. The aim is to further examine and enquire about the merits, skills and motivations presented in the documents submitted.

The qualitative mark (A, B, C or D) awarded to the candidate for the interview, which will also be carried out using the rubric, will allow the evaluators to modulate and adjust the score obtained by the candidate in the first phase. This will result in a new ranking.

Finally, there will be two rankings of the evaluated candidates, one for those who have applied for a grant and one for those who have not. From these two rankings, the evaluators will draw up two ranked lists, one of the candidates proposed for admission with a grant and one of the candidates admitted to the part-time doctoral programme (without a grant). The total number of candidates admitted may not exceed 20. Candidates who do not receive a grant or who are not admitted because the number of admittees exceeds 20 will be placed on the waiting list.

### Calendar

**1 December 2023:** Start of the call for applications for access and admission to doctoral programmes.

**12 February 2024:** End of the call for applications for access and admission to doctoral programmes.

**19 February 2024:** Publication of the provisional lists of applications to be assessed. The lists will be published on the [Doctoral School website](#).

**19 February to 26 February 2024:** Period for appeals of the applications to be evaluated.

**29 February 2024:** Publication of the final lists of applications to be assessed. The lists will be published on the [Doctoral School website](#).

**6 May 2024:** Publication of the provisional resolution on the accepted online and granted candidates. The lists will be published on the [Doctoral School website](#).

**6 May to 16 May 2024:** Period for appeals of the selection of online and granted candidates.

**27 May 2024:** Publication of the final resolution on the candidates admitted to the doctoral programmes and those who are granted. The lists will be published on the [Doctoral School website](#).

**July 2024:** Start of the enrolment period 2024-25.

**September 2024:** Start of the academic year 2024-25.

# Request access

## 1 Apply for the Welcome and Information Service

Apply for the Welcome and Information Service is a free, no-obligation procedure that provides you with a user name and password that will allow you to enter the UOC's Virtual Campus, from where you will be able to:

1. Contact experts who will help you settle any doubts you may have about applying.
2. Consult the Campus Secretary's Office for information about the programme of studies, enrolment prices, documentation, etc.

### Access requirements

Before requesting access, check that you meet the requirements for the programme you want to be admitted to.

### Access form

On the access form, you must give your personal details and the educational level you have attained.

### Access Documentation

You will find a list of the documentation you need when you request access and can consult the Campus Secretary's Office.

#### Discounts

If you are eligible for any of the discounts stated in the Price Decree, you will have to submit the appropriate documentation, following the instructions given by the virtual Secretary's Office.

## 2 Access the Campus and contact the researcher

### Virtual campus

After you have requested access, you will receive a user name and password that will allow you to access the Virtual Campus, where you will find all the information and resources you may need.

### Researcher

You will find the information to contact the lead researcher in the "research lines" section. The researcher can provide support for preparing your application and will be your sponsor, if he or she agrees. Once you have been admitted to the programme, he or she will advise and guide you in choosing courses, in accordance with your prior academic background, your interests and the amount of time you have.

### Virtual Secretary's Office

There is a Procedure on the Campus where you can consult and manage all academic matters, such as viewing the programme of studies, payment options or the discounts available.

## 3 Apply for admission

You can complete the admission form the virtual campus **Procedures / Doctoral programme admission documentation**, where you will have to give your academic details, whether you want to apply for a grant and the research line you are interested in.

You must submit an enrolment proposal after having chosen the courses you want to follow during the semester, which your tutor will analyse so that you can complete enrolment with his or her counselling. It is a step prior to completing enrolment.

## 4 Send the digital documentation

Having completed the previous step, you must attach the documentation in the same section. You can see which documentation you must attach in the corresponding section within **Procedures / Doctoral programme admission documentation**.

When you have completed all the steps, the doctoral programme's academic committee will assess the applications that have been submitted.

If you pass the first phase of the admission process, you will receive notification confirming that you have entered the second phase and a telephone interview will be scheduled.

If you pass the second phase of the admission process, you will receive notification to confirm that you have been admitted. You will have a maximum of one month (counting from the admission notification) to confirm your acceptance of the place on the doctoral programme; if this confirmation from you is not received, you will not be admitted to the programme.

It is at this point that you will be able to complete enrolment, choosing your preferred payment option from among those available. If you are eligible for any of the [discounts](#) stated in the Price Decree, you will have to submit the appropriate documentation, following the instructions given by the virtual Secretary's Office.

Remember that once you have enrolled, you will have ten days to send the admission documentation.

The Government of Catalonia establishes the public prices for credits and other academic services charged by public universities in Catalonia and the UOC. You can consult the prices in [Decree 125/2023](#), of June 28th.

The fees will be those applicable when enrolment is completed. Subject to annual revisions.

### Price and enrolment Fees

Price per credit	32,28€/cr*
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Price per learning resources credit	15,16€/cr*
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### Biannual Fees

Fee for supervision, tutorship and continuous assessment of the doctoral thesis	200,56€
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Fee for the management of your record	54,54€
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Fee for learning support services	101,47€
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### Fees

Fee for requesting your certificate	218,15€
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Fee for oral examination and defence of the doctoral thesis	156,87€
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Fee for requesting your record	54,54€
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# UOC