

Doctoral Programme in Law, Politics and Economics

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Start
18 Sep 2025

Online
100%

Admission: March 5, 2024

Languages: English, Spanish, Catalan

Official qualification

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Fully online method



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Presentation

This doctoral programme aims to train professionals and researchers with a global, interdisciplinary and critical perspective to address and work on problems arising in the fields of law, criminology, economics and political science. The Doctoral School and its doctoral programme in Law, Politics and Economics are part of the UOC's strategic objectives aimed at training global citizens and professionals, promoting transdisciplinarity and open knowledge with and for all, and creating environments that foster the co-creation of knowledge with other agents in society in order to increase its impact. The programme's teaching staff also share the transformation goals that are expressed in the sustainable development strategy.

The doctoral programme in Law, Politics and Economics is aimed at students with a university degree in any of the disciplines included in the programme, and who wish to study these fields of knowledge in depth and to make new and relevant contributions based on a rigorous approach to study. Candidates must meet the access requirements and admission criteria set out in section 3.2 of this document.

An objective of the UOC Doctoral School, and of the doctoral programme in Law, Politics and Economics in particular, is for doctoral students to benefit from interaction with the University's research groups and projects. Working in contact with a research group provides an overview of the various fields related to the subject of the doctoral research, and collaboration with research staff in the collection and analysing of data and the dissemination of results helps develop the know-how required for professional research.

Advanced training in the fields of law, political science and economics, and in related fields such as criminology, is of obvious general interest both for training teaching staff with strong skills in research and analysis of their specialist fields and for training highly qualified professionals in each of those fields.

Our increasingly urgent social, political and economic challenges require new ways to tackle problems in both the legal-economic and political science fields. There are many challenges which take many different forms, ranging from the relentless digital transformation and the expansion of disruptive technologies such as artificial intelligence, to the emergence of an unexpected pandemic with its consequences for labour relations, the slowdown of growth, and the reshaping of social welfare and participation systems. These are just some specific examples that highlight the need for people with advanced training and research skills who can contribute to a thorough understanding of these phenomena, to formulating proposals and searching for solutions, and to their practical application. Catalan industry is not indifferent to this need, and the UOC aims to contribute by providing people who are highly qualified in their respective professional spheres ¿ not only in the academic field, but also among legal, political and economic specialists.

Official qualification

The doctoral programme in Law, Politics and Economics is a programme that has been verified by Spain's Universities Council, and its implementation has been authorized by the Government of Catalonia in accordance with current legislation.

The UOC's official university programmes are valid throughout Spain. They are fully recognized academically and, in cases where it is intended, qualify the holders to exercise regulated professions, in accordance with the regulations in place in each case.

The certificates are issued with a European Diploma Supplement (DS), which provides information on the courses studied by the student, the results obtained, the professional skills acquired and the qualification's level in terms of the Spanish higher education system. The DS helps students to obtain recognition for their qualifications, and aids mobility throughout the European Higher Education Area (EHEA).

Outside the EHEA, the validity of the official university qualifications awarded by the UOC will be determined by each country's own education laws in each case.

Find out more on:

+ [Official recognition](#)

+ [Legalization](#)

1st



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

At the start of the research period of the doctoral programme, the UOC will map out a personalized learning pathway for each student, taking into account their research skills and knowledge (particularly in terms of research methodologies) and research interests. This pathway may therefore involve the following training activities: methodology courses, seminars and complementary activities aimed at training in research. When the training activities are included in the personalized learning pathway, the student must take them and pass them.

Complementary activities

Doctoral students will have to study and pass during the first year of the doctoral program (and particularly, during the first semester), if they have not previously done so, the courses in advanced research methodologies that correspond to their research itinerary within the program. Due to its relevance, all students are recommended to take the subject "Research Design".

Based on the student's previous studies and research interests, it can be established that he participates in short-term training activities, in support of his research.

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>

Training seminars

The maximum duration of studies will be three years for full-time students and five years for part-time students, counted from the date of admission to the programme until the doctoral thesis is presented. This period does not include maternity or paternity leave, or any long-term sick leave deemed necessary by the Academic Committee.

The Academic Committee may authorize the extension of these periods, subject to the legally stipulated maximum periods, in specific circumstances defined for each doctoral programme.

After enrolling in the programme, each doctoral student will be given a personalized activity document. This document specifies all the activities set by the Academic Committee for the doctoral student's development.

By the end of the first year, doctoral students must write a research plan that includes the methodology to be used and objectives to be pursued, as well as the means and timetable for completing the thesis.

The Academic Committee will conduct an annual assessment of each doctoral student's research plan and activity document, which will be considered together with reports from the tutor and thesis supervisor. This research plan must receive a positive assessment for the doctoral student to continue in the programme.

Over the course of the programme, each doctoral student must successfully complete the specific training activity (basic, thematic and methodological seminars) stipulated in his/her personalized pathway. In the first year of the programme, doctoral students must also write a research plan and have it approved.

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

Director of the Doctoral School

David Masip Rodó

Programme director

David Martínez Zorrilla

Academic Committee

Ana María Delgado García

Aura Esther Vilalta Nicuesa

David Martínez Zorrilla

Joan Balcells Padulles

Josep Lladós Masllorens

Josep Maria Tamarit Sumalla

Miguel Ángel Elizalde Carranza

More than 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 doctoral programme, applicants must meet both the general requirements stipulated by the University and the programme's specific requirements.

First of all, students must certify that they hold one of the following:

- Official Spanish bachelor's degree, or equivalent, and an official university master's degree, or equivalent, having passed at least 300 ECTS credits in the two degree courses.
- Official Spanish university degree, corresponding to past university education systems, having passed a minimum of 300 ECTS credits in all of the official university studies taken, of which at least 60 credits must correspond to a master's degree-level qualification.
- Official university degree from a country that is a member of the European Higher Education Area (EHEA) that entitles the holder to admission to official master's degree courses, having passed a minimum of 300 ECTS credits in all of the official university studies taken, of which at least 60 credits must correspond to a master's degree-level qualification.
- Official Spanish bachelor's degree whose duration, in accordance with the rules of EU law, is at least 300 ECTS credits. In this case, the student will have to take the necessary specific training courses, unless the corresponding doctoral programme includes research training credits, equivalent in formative value to the research credits obtained in the master's degree studies.
- Official university degree for which, prior to obtaining a place through the corresponding examination for access to a specialized medical training programme, candidates had to have passed with a favourable assessment at least two years of training in a programme to obtain the official certificate in any of the health science specializations.
- Official university degree from a non-EHEA country, without need for its official recognition, after verification that the level of training is equivalent to that of an official university master's degree and that it entitles the holder to admission to doctoral studies in the country where the degree was awarded.
- Spanish doctoral degree obtained in accordance with past university education systems.
- Official *llicenciatura*, *arquitectura* or *enginyeria* degree along with an advanced studies diploma, in accordance with the provisions of Spain's Royal Decree 778/1998, of 30 April, or the certificate of research proficiency regulated in Spain's Royal Decree 185/1985, of 23 January.
- Official university degree that corresponds with level three of the Spanish Qualifications Framework for Higher Education (MECES), in accordance with the procedure set forth in Spain's Royal Decree 967/2014, of 21 November, establishing the requirements and procedure for officially recognizing and declaring equivalence with respect to the official university degree programme and academic level and for validating foreign higher education studies, and the procedure for determining correspondence with the MECES levels of the official certificates of *arquitectura*, *enginyeria*, *llicenciatura*, *arquitectura tècnica*, *enginyeria tècnica* and *diplomatura* degrees.

Applicants who have not passed the Introduction to Research credits in a university master's degree will need to take the bridging courses

determined by each programme, as appropriate.

In the case of applicants who only have an official university bachelor's degree which, in accordance with the rules of EU law, has a duration of 300 ECTS credits, or have not taken and passed a minimum number of Introduction to Research credits in a university master's degree programme, their continuation in the doctoral programme is conditional upon them passing the bridging courses corresponding to the Introduction to Research module, pathway or courses for the corresponding period of academic training.

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

This programme does not require a specific level of English, although it is necessary to have a minimum knowledge of the language in order to thoroughly understand scientific articles, interact fluently and naturally and produce scientific texts.

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

If you are applying for access to a UOC doctoral programme, you must submit the following documents:

- A photocopy of your national identity document (e.g. ID card or passport).
- A letter of motivation/introduction, in which you provide a brief presentation of your career, and which must also include the specific motivations behind your candidacy, a description of your research interests, and your association with the research group.
- A letter of recommendation from faculty and/or research staff stating the full name, affiliation, postal address and email address of the person providing the reference.
- A letter of endorsement from a UOC professor or researcher who is a doctor in which he/she explains his/her interest in the project and eventually directing the student's doctoral thesis, which must be identified by name and surname.
- A CV with details of the master's degree and postgraduate programmes and courses you have studied that are linked to the research interests mentioned in your letter of motivation and, where applicable, any previous scientific output.
- A sample of your recent academic work (in Catalan, English or Spanish).
- Academic certificates of any studies prior to the doctoral course, showing the courses taken and the mark given, the exam sitting, the type of course, the number of credits and the average grade in the academic record (if these have not already been submitted to meet the access requirements).
- Documentation certifying compliance with access requirements. You will find more information in the relevant section in the secretary's office section of the Campus.
- If you have university qualifications from outside the European Higher Education Area (EHEA), you will need to legalize your certificate through diplomatic channels (or with the Hague Apostille where applicable). If your academic certificates are not in English or one of the official languages of Spain, you will need to provide a sworn translation in Catalan, English or Spanish. You may not be admitted to the doctoral programme if you do not provide these documents, or if any of the details they contain are not consistent with those entered in your application.
- After we have reviewed the access documents and accepted your applications, you will be admitted to the doctoral programme on the condition that you submit the official documents.

Evaluation criteria

The admission process is evaluated using criteria that assess the applications that have been submitted, taking defined criteria and merits into account:

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](#).

****** The publication of the final lists of applications to be assessed will be published on 14 March.

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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