

ONLINE, ANYTIME

Doctoral Programme in Network and Information Technologies

Start
18 Sep 2024

Online
100%

Admission: March 6, 2023

Languages: Spanish, English, Catalan

Official qualification

[Apply for the Welcome and Information Service](#)

 Fully online method

 World's first ever online university

 Personalized guidance and support

The scientific production and training capacity of the researchers in the different UOC groups involved in IT, multimedia and telecommunications justify the creation of a specific doctoral programme, with a separate identity, to consolidate research and knowledge exchange activities in this area. Therefore, the IT, Multimedia and Telecommunications (IMT) Department at UOC is offering this **Doctoral programme in Network and Information Technologies**.

The research lines and groups associated with the programme are organized around network and information technologies, focusing on areas such as information security, distributed systems, open and decentralized networks, multimedia systems and applications, e-learning technology, information systems, computer vision, and software and service engineering. Several of these research lines are being pursued at the University's two research centres:

Presentation

Official qualification

The UOC's Doctoral Programme of Network and Information Technologies 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 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 offici...

4th



FOURTH AMONG SPANISH UNIVERSITIES UNDER 50 YEARS OLD



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



Study plan

Study plan

In order to acquire the advanced training required for the research project, the student must complete, during the doctoral programme, the subjects, courses or activities that comprise his or her personal academic itinerary.

The training offering consists of diverse training activities with different types, duration, timeframes and objectives, which are structured in five blocks (methodology courses, subject-specific research seminars, complementary training, research-oriented complementary training activities and the doctoral research seminar).

Table summarising the blocks that comprise the training offering in the organised research phase:

In any case, the inclusion of courses, seminars and activities in the academic itinerary of the doctoral candidate shall depend on the individual's prior research training and experience, as well as the specific area or topic addressed in his or her research project.

Bridging courses

These are courses lasting one semester, taught using the UOC's e-learning platform, and giving advanced training on research methodologies in some of the fields that will be the subject of the research project. These are mandatory for students who have not previously received this training, and must be taken and passed in the second semester.

The courses allow students to acquire advanced knowledge and master a range of research methodologies, enabling them to successfully analyse relevant aspects of information technologies and networks.

For illustrative purposes, the methodology courses liable to be included in a student's training plan in the second semester of their research period are shown below.

Some of the courses that may be included in the student's study plan in the second semester are detailed below:

Students' study plans may include optional courses, designed to take into account specific learning needs associated with the admission requirements. They are assigned by the Doctoral Degree Academic Committee. Particularly in the case of students from outside the European Higher Education Area, these may include courses from the UOC's range of university master's degrees. Students who enrol on these will need to study and pass them during the first academic year of their doctoral studies.

Research, transfer and entrepreneurship courses

The UOC also offers research, transfer and entrepreneurship courses in English. These are for students, researchers and faculty and are aimed at strengthening research in academic, scientific and business areas.

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, these courses can also be linked to the funding.

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

Workshops

The student may be able to take part in short learning activities to support their research, depending on the nature of their previous studies, research interests and course mode (full-time on-site, or online).

Once doctoral students have been admitted to the research period of the doctoral programme, the UOC provides them with personalized pathways, designed taking into account their specific skills and research capabilities (particularly with regard to research methodologies), as well as their research interests. The pathway may thus include courses, seminars and other activities intended to hone their research skills. Any such activities included on the doctoral student's personalized pathway must necessarily be taken and successfully completed.

Itinerary and duration

Five types or blocks of academic activities are considered when defining the **personalised academic itinerary** that supports the doctoral candidate's research plan, based on the following criteria:

Methodology courses

Students must undertake and pass in the first year, if not completed previously, the advanced research methodology courses corresponding to their research activity within the programme.

Subject-specific research seminars

Students shall undertake and pass in the first year a subject-specific research seminar linked to the area or topics covered in their research plan (when applicable).

Complementary training

In addition, the students' academic itinerary may include complementary training. This is configured based on the UOC masters-level offerings and, if the candidate enrolls, these must be undertaken and passed during the academic year.

Research-oriented complementary training activities

Depending on the student's previous studies, research interests and the doctoral programme mode (full-time face-to-face or distance), the student may also be required to participate in short training activities that support the research.

Doctoral research seminars

Students in the programme must participate actively throughout the research phase in the doctoral research seminar corresponding to the subject of their doctoral thesis, whether face-to-face or virtual (depending on the mode of the doctoral programme).

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

Continuation requirements

The maximum duration of the programme is **three years** if pursued **full-time** and **five years** if **part-time**, counting from the doctoral candidate's admission to the programme until presentation of the doctoral thesis. Calculation of this period does not include parental leave or extended sick leave the Academic Commission of the programme considers justified.

Nevertheless, the Academic Commission may authorise extension of these time limits to the maximums permitted by law and under the conditions established for the corresponding doctoral programme.

Following enrolment in the programme, a document of activities is created for each candidate. This document states all the activities assigned to the doctoral candidate by the Academic Commission.

Before the end of the first year, the doctoral candidate must prepare a research plan that includes the methodology to be used and the objectives to be achieved, in addition to the resources and timeframe for writing the thesis.

Each year, the programme's Academic Committee will assess each doctoral student's research plan and activity document, together with the reports to be submitted by their tutor, thesis supervisor and other members of their Thesis Supervisory Committee. To continue on the programme, they must receive a positive assessment.



Research lines

Academic team

David Masip Rodó

Ferran Adelantado Freixer

Ferran Adelantado Freixer

Javier Melenchón Maldonado

Robert Clarisó Viladrosa

Àgata Lapedriza Garcia

Ester Bernado Mansilla

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 Network and Information Technologies, 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) &n...

Admission requirements

As well as the general and additional requirements established by the University, the doctoral programme in Network and Information Technologies 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 ...

Admission documents

All candidates who apply to be admitted on a doctoral programme at the UOC should submit the following documents:

- A photocopy of their DNI, NIE or passport.
- A **statement of interest** in which the candidate makes a short presentation of their career and explains the candidate's specific reasons for applying to the programme (their motivations), a description of their research interests and the links with the research group.
- A **letter of endorsement (optional)** that appears in the name of research that supports the personal doctoral project, as well as its intention to be your tutor.
- A **curriculum** that describes the programmes and master's degree or postgraduate courses the candidate has taken that are related to the research interests described in the statement of interest and, if applicable, a description of previous scientific output.
- An example of a

Evaluation criteria

- A maximum of 25 points for the undergraduate academic transcript (or equivalent). If the weighted average of the transcript (using the number of credits for each course as the weight for each mark), is calculated using the habitual scale: 0 for Fail, 1 for Pass, 2 for Good, 3 for Merit and 4 for Distinction, points shall be assigned as follows:
 - 0 points if the mark is less than 1.
 - 5 points if the average mark is between 1 and 1.5.
 - 10 points if the average mark is between 1.5 and 2.
 - <> 15 points if the average mark is between 2 and 2.5.
 - 20 points if the average mark is between 2.5 and 3.
 - 25 points if the average mark is 3 or above.
- A maximum of 15 points for the masters-level academic transcript (or equivalent). If the weighted average of the transcript (using the number of credits for each course...

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.

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.

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*
Price per learning resources credit	15,16€/cr*

Biannual Fees

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

Fees

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

