

USEFUL INFORMATION FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Find practical information to get ready for your stay at ETSAB-UPC in the website of the Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya-UPC International Relations Bureau – Students Mobility Office:

<https://www.upc.edu/sri/en/students/students-mobility-office/students-mobility>

LANGUAGE

In Catalonia, the main languages used for communication are Catalan and Spanish. Catalan is the native language of Catalonia and shares official status with Spanish. This means that students and lecturers can use either of the two languages.

Around 60% of classes on UPC's degrees are taught in Catalan and 40% are taught in Spanish. In postgraduate courses and master's and PhD degrees, Spanish is prevalent and English is becoming more widespread.

At ETSAB, teachers mainly conduct their classes in Spanish or Catalan. The academic offer in English at the Degree in Architectural Studies is limited to some elective courses, and some groups in Studio courses.

Language requirements for ETSAB Exchange/Visiting students:

Incoming students are not required to submit a proof of Spanish or Catalan language skills. However, ETSAB strongly recommend having a **B1 level of Spanish** (or Catalan) before arrival. Partner universities should take that into consideration for nomination.

If you are an international student, the UPC offers you the Hola! Programme and the UPC Language Programme, two initiatives coordinated by the Language and Terminology Service (SLT) with the aim of meeting language needs at the university: <http://www.upc.edu/slt/en/reception>

CATALAN COURSES

SLT, the Language and Terminology Service at our university UPC offers Catalan courses with special fees for incoming exchange students.

The purpose is to enable students to understand spoken Catalan and to easily follow lectures.

More info at: <https://www.upc.edu/slt/en/learn-catalan/courses>

_ Other resources to learn Catalan online and useful information about Catalan culture can be found in:
www.intercat.cat/

SPANISH COURSES

Learn Spanish at Catalan universities. Make the most of the Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya-UPC's agreements with other Catalan universities and get access to Spanish courses for foreigners at their language schools at the same price as their members.

More info at: <https://www.upc.edu/slt/en/learn-es>

_ For queries about language courses: <https://demana.upc.edu/slt/>

App GCU _ GUIDE TO UNIVERSITY CONVERSATION App (iOS & Android)

<http://www.intercat.cat/en/guiesdeconversa.jsp>



Guías conversación
universit.
Generalitat de Catalunya

Interactive language tool that combines Catalan with Spanish, French, English, Italian, German, Portuguese, Russian, Chinese and Occitan, which will help you to feel confident in all types of situations when you need to communicate (common phrases, lodging, matriculation, library, at the bank, sports service, public transport...).

ACCOMMODATION

The Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya-UPC do not have rooms or flats of its own for the students. There is a very big demand of accommodation now in Barcelona. For this reason many agencies have emerged lately to help people to find accommodation and many of them are reliable, but not all of them. We can recommend you two reliable housing platforms that will help you:

UNIPLACES: <http://www.uniplaces.com/>

HOUSINGANYWHERE: <https://housinganywhere.com/>

These platforms have a wide range of possibilities of housing in Barcelona and surroundings (as in others cities in Europe).

BCU Housing can also help you to find a room or a flat in Barcelona: www.bcuhousing.cat.

If you would prefer to find accommodation in residence hall, you will find information about them at **RESA Residence Halls:** www.resa.es

SPORTS

At UPC there is a Sports Centre both in Campus North and Campus South. Information regarding the different sport activities organized are at: www.upc.edu/esports. In order to receive more information you should contact: info.esports@upc.edu

HEALTH INSURANCE

Students from European Union countries (EU students)

EU students have to obtain their EUROPEAN HEALTH INSURANCE CARD (EHIC), through their Students National Health Service in their country of origin before departure. The European Health Insurance Card is a free card that gives you access to medically necessary, state-provided healthcare during a temporary stay in any of the 28 EU countries, and Iceland, Lichtenstein, Norway and Switzerland.

Furthermore, all EU students will be required to present their European Health Insurance Card for the legal procedure of registration at the police at their arrival.

If you want additional coverage, you can also purchase private health/travel insurance.

Students from non-European Union countries (non-EU students)

Students from outside the European Union are already required to purchase a private health insurance to obtain the Spanish students visa. Once in Spain and depending on the length of their studies here, they should have to renew it or to acquire another one in Spain that can guarantee that they will count with medical care during their stay in Spain.

For more information on Health Insurance, please follow this [link](#) to UPC's International Relations Bureau - Students Mobility Office website

COST OF LIVING IN BARCELONA

An estimated cost of living can be found [here](#)

LIVING IN BARCELONA: other links with useful information

<http://www.bcu.cat/>

<http://www.barcelonaturisme.com/wv3/es/>