



Doctoral School

# Doctoral programmes, and research, transfer and entrepreneurship courses





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## Research, transfer and entrepreneurship courses

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The UOC offers these four courses in **English**, for **students, researchers and faculty** to promote **research in the academic, scientific and business fields**.

The research, transfer and entrepreneurship courses are recognized as university activities and thus count as free elective credits for bachelor's degree courses. They also count towards training for competitive grants for doctoral students at any university.

### **Academic Writing:** 2 ECTS credits – 50 hours – Starting in September

This course provides tools for doctoral students and university teachers to improve their writing skills for academic publishing purposes. It is not a course on English grammar and spelling. It is basically focused on the structure and the register of texts as well as task organization and peer assessment aspects.

### **Entrepreneurship for Researchers:** 2 ECTS credits – 50 hours – Starting in September

This course offers knowledge, skills and resources for researchers who want to position the progression of their research in the corporate and productive world. The course is focused on the creation of a business plan for a company based on R&I. It is one of the Government of Catalonia's doctoral courses offered by the University to reinforce transferable skills for business. This course counts for any doctoral students enrolled in a doctoral programme at a public or private university.

### **Introduction to Patents and Intellectual Property Protection:** 2 ECTS credits – 50 hours – Starting in February

This course provides a general overview of intellectual property rights protection and their use by doctoral students. Intellectual property rights here are understood in their wider sense, including royalties and copyright, patents and utility models, brands and design rights, as well as commercial secrets.

### **Training Programme for Doctoral Thesis Supervisors:** 3 ECTS credits – 75 hours – Starting in February

In the Knowledge Society, training researchers to supervise theses – as an introduction to the research culture and the scientific community – is increasingly important. The European Higher Education Area (EHEA) clearly requires that doctoral students be trained in transferable skills, ranging from training techniques to team work. The definitive aim is to provide training in skills that can be used professionally in the labour market. These cover not only intellectual and technical aspects, but also social, leadership and management skills.

In terms of personal and professional abilities, we distinguish between “hard” and “soft” skills. The former are those skills learned through training, teaching or working which allow us to carry out a determined task; whereas the latter are those interpersonal skills linked to emotional intelligence which include self-leadership, self-regulation, authenticity, capacity for reflection, pro-activity, motivation, empathy, time-management and problem-solving.

## Information and Knowledge Society Doctoral Programme

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The Information and Knowledge Society Doctoral Programme was launched in the year 2000. It was among the first to be created in the field of research on the information and knowledge society and the first to be offered entirely online.

Information and communication technologies (ICTs), touted since the mid-20th century and constantly being updated, have gradually crept into all areas of human activity: culture, the economy, teaching, media, business management, public service management, and even the operational aspects of the political system. Analysing how these technologies are used in various contexts and the profound changes they have wrought is key to understanding contemporary society and to exercising any type of professional or academic activity.

The connections between various social, economic, political and cultural systems make it necessary to overcome traditional disciplinary boundaries in order to conduct serious, in-depth analyses. This doctoral programme thus takes an interdisciplinary approach that combines both a variety of theoretical perspectives and several methodological tools. This approach is based on the lines of research developed by the researchers at the University and the IN3.

- Communication and new media
- Information management
- Psychology, technology and society
- Economy, business and labour
- Law and criminology in the information society
- Politics, democracy and human rights
- Culture, society and language

## Education and ICT (e-learning) Doctoral Programme

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The Education and ICT (e-learning) Doctoral Programme offers students the opportunity to write a doctoral thesis within the framework of the research projects developed by the University's research groups and the eLearn Center.

- Responsive Teaching and Learning Processes and Outcomes in Online Education
- Challenges for Sustainable Management and Organization in Online Education
- Technologies for Supporting Teaching and Learning
- Flexible and Open Online Education

The doctoral programme is open to original research contributions in the area of e-learning and ensures methodological quality and commitment to the advancement of knowledge in this field of research.



## Network and Information Technologies Doctoral Programme

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The Faculty of Computer Science, Multimedia and Telecommunications, with support from the IN3 and eLearn Center, focuses its attention on scientific developments in the field of network and information technologies in terms of the following lines of research.

- Computer Vision,
- Machine Learning and Pattern Recognition,
- Distributed, Parallel and Collaborative Systems,
- Simulation and Optimization,
- Management of ICT Systems and Services,
- Information and Network Security and Privacy
- Knowledge Technologies
- Learning Technologies
- Software Engineering
- Wireless Networks and the IoE
- Human-Computer Interaction
- Design and Multimedia
- Applications of Geographic Information Systems

The faculty's research groups have research projects funded by national and international competitive calls for proposals, have earned recognition from quality agencies within the university system, have accredited teaching faculty and have an extensive list of publications in prestigious scientific journals and conferences to validate their research.

### Language

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The language used in the the research, transfer and entrepreneurship courses and the doctoral programmes is English. Theses, however, can be written in Catalan, English or Spanish.

### Tuition and fees

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The Government of Catalonia sets the prices each academic year for credits and other academic services for the Catalan public universities and the Universitat Oberta de Catalunya.

The research, transfer and entrepreneurship courses cost €112.43 per credit.



## Admission requirements

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Students interested in submitting an application for one of the doctoral programmes at the UOC Doctoral School can take a test to find out if they are an ideal candidate. Candidates must fulfil any of the following:

- Hold a an official university master's degree issued by a higher education institution in (EHEA) and have passed a minimum of 300 ECTS credits from all their official university studies.
- 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 from all their official university studies, of which at least 60 must be at the master's level.
- 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.

For more information, visit: <http://www.uoc.edu/portal/en/escola-doctorat/acces/requisits-acces/index.html>

## Direction

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### **Dr David Masip**

Director

### **Dr Ferran Adelantado**

Coordinator, Network and Information Technologies

### **Dr Elena Barberà**

Coordinator, Education and ICT

### **Dr Joan Pujolar**

Coordinator, Information and Knowledge Society

## UOC grants programme

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The Doctoral School offers grants to take the doctoral studies in each new intake of any of the three doctoral programmes. The UOC Doctoral School grants for completing doctoral theses require exclusive dedication by the student and their physical presence at the University's facilities.

The maximum duration of the grants is four years and they must be renewed annually. This renewal is on the condition of the student receiving the grant achieving their learning and research objectives. These objectives include the completion of the organized period of research in a maximum of three years and the undertaking of research work derived from the doctoral thesis.

## Admissions

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Candidates who wish to apply for admission to the doctoral programmes should take the following steps:

- Step 1. Consult the research lines, and choose the thesis proposal that best matches your research interests.
- Step 2. Contact the researcher in charge of this thesis proposal and send them a cover letter explaining your background and the contributions you could make to this research line.  
You can find the researcher's email address or the website for their research group from the thesis proposals.
- Step 3. Fill in the access application form and wait to receive your username and password to sign in to the UOC Virtual Campus. If you already have a UOC username and password, you can use them.
- Step 4. Enter your username and password on the UOC website.
- Step 5. Once you are in the Virtual Campus, you can check the information in Secretary's Offices / Enrolment / Admissions and admissions documentation. You can also enter your reception room and read the instructions. After reading the information, feel free to ask any questions related to your admission.
- Step 6. Fill in the admission application form you can find in Secretary's Offices / Enrolment / Admissions and admissions documentation. Indicate whether you are applying for a UOC Doctoral School grant or not and the researcher(s) you have been in contact with.
- Step 7. Once you have all the documents you need, visit the Secretary's Office > Enrolment > Documentation. There you will find links for your academic documents (diplomas and transcripts) and for admission documents (motivation letter, recommendation letter, identification, CV, English-language certificate and a brief personal doctoral project or article).



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## AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

- Spanish Red Cross Gold Medal (2015)
- IMS Global Learning Consortium (Silver) (2014)
- LTI App Bounty Award (2013)
- Telefónica Ability Awards (2012)
- IMS Global Learning Consortium (Bronze) (2011)
- IGC award for Digital Innovation (2010)
- Learning Impact Award for the Best Learning Portal (Leadership) (2009)
- Center of Excellence del New Media Consortium (NMC) (2009)
- IMS Learning Impact Awards (Gold) (2008)
- Generalitat de Catalunya National Telecommunications award (2005)
- European Gold Seal of Excellence (EFQM) (2004)
- SUN Centre of Excellence (2003)
- ICDE Prize of Excellence (2001)
- WITSA Award (2000)
- Bangemann Challenge Award (1997)

