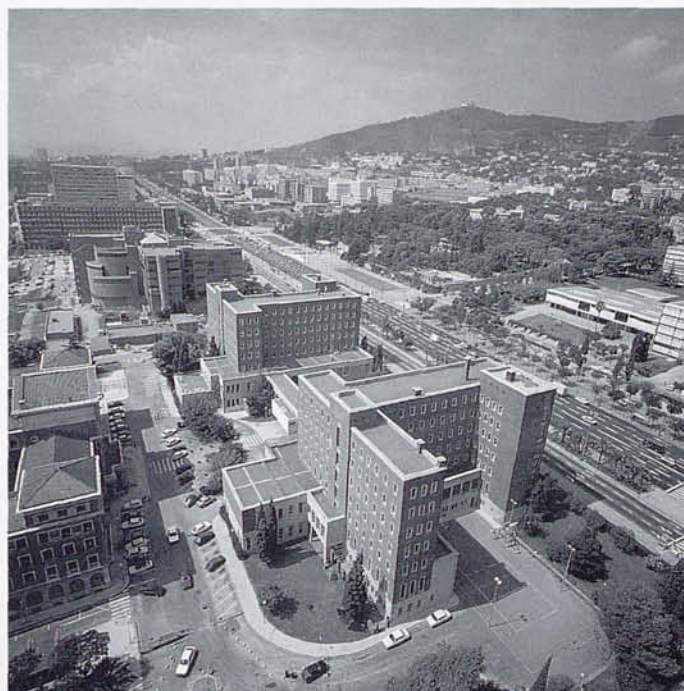


THE UNIVERSITY WORLD IN CATALONIA



IN THE ACADEMIC YEAR 1986-87, THE TOTAL NUMBER OF STUDENTS IN THE DIFFERENT FURTHER EDUCATION CENTRES IN CATALONIA WAS 137,000.

HELENA FERRER I MALLOL HEAD OF THE UNIVERSITY EDUCATION OFFICE

At present, there are three public universities in Catalonia: Barcelona University (UB), the Autonomous University of Barcelona (UAB) and the Polytechnic of Catalonia (UPC). Barcelona University has allowed continuity in university studies in Catalonia since its beginnings in 1401 and its consolidation in 1553, except for the period when Cervera University was the only one in the *Principat* (Principality; the area comprising Barcelona, Girona, Lleida and Tarragona). From 1845 to 1968, the only university in the *Principat* was Barcelona.

In 1968, the Autonomous University of Barcelona was founded in Bellaterra, some 16 km. from Barcelona. The Polytechnic of Catalonia, with its centre in Barcelona, was created in 1971, so as to bring together the various technical schools, high schools and university schools which already existed in Barcelona and other towns around Catalonia. Amongst these are the *Escola Tècnica Superior d'Arquitectura* and the *Escola Tècnica Superior d'Enginyers Industrials* which go back to 1817 and 1851, respectively. The three have branches in other towns

around Catalonia apart from the Barcelona seat. Some of these towns have a long university tradition; for example, Girona's and Lleida's go back to the fifteenth century and Tarragona's to the sixteenth century. As well as the three public universities' own establishments, there are about thirty external centres that are a result of local government initiatives (town halls and provincial deputations) or depend on other public or private organisms and in this way get official status for the courses run there. The so-called "long-cycle" university courses (5 or 6 years), take place in Facul-

tats or *Escoles Tècniques Superiors* and the "short-cycle" courses (3 years) in *Escoles Universitàries*.

The long courses offered at Barcelona university are: Fine Arts, Languages, Philosophy, Geography, History, Educational Sciences, Psychology, Biology, Physics, Geology, Mathematics, Chemistry, Medicine, Pharmacology, Law, Economics and Business Studies and Dental Surgery. Courses in Physical Education are offered in one of the external centres. The University also offers the following three-year courses: Teaching Certificate for E.G.B. (basic education, 6-14 yrs.), Nursing and Business Studies. In external centres it offers Librarian Studies and Social Work.

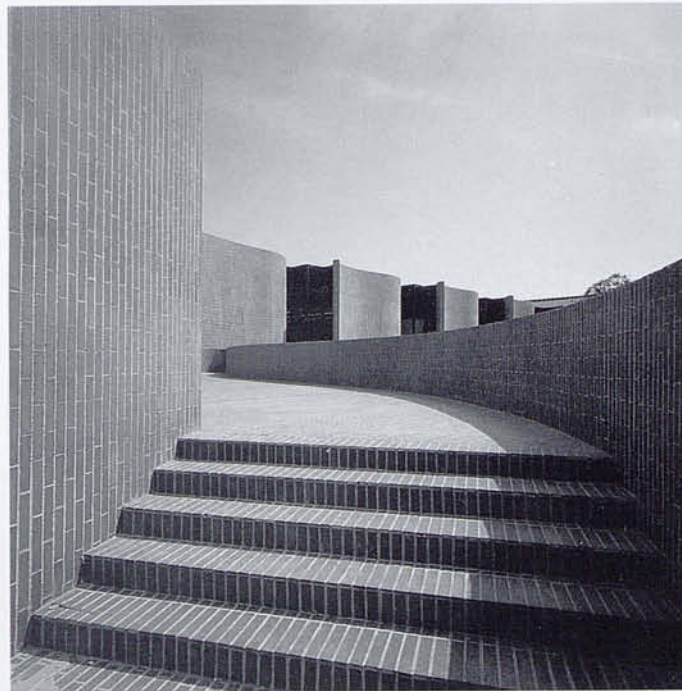
The long courses offered at the Autonomous University of Barcelona are: Languages, Philosophy, Geography, History, Educational Sciences, Psychology, Biology, Physics, Geology, Computer Studies, Mathematics, Chemistry, Medicine, Veterinary Science, Law, Economics and Business Studies, Politics and Sociology and Journalism. The three-year courses offered there are: Teaching Certificate for E.G.B., Business Studies and Translating and Interpreting. The external centres offer Nursing. The long courses offered at the Polytechnic of Catalonia are: Architecture, Computer Studies, Industrial Engineering, Telecommunications and Public and Agricultural Engineering. The three-year courses offered there are: Technical Architecture and Agricultural, Industrial, Mining and Telecommunications Engineering. An external centre offers Knitted Fabrics Technical Engineering.

The three universities also run the corresponding courses leading to the various doctorates.

To keep acquired knowledge abreast of the times or for those wishing to specialize in particular subjects, each year, the three universities organize several postgraduate courses which are funded by the Department of Education of the *Generalitat de Catalunya*.

Mention should also be made of the courses in Tourism and Merchant Navy which can be studied in Catalonia and which have the status of further education although they are not included in any of the universities.

The numbers of students per university during the year 1986-87, separated into those attending the universities' own establishments and those attending the external centres and those taking "long-cycle" courses and those taking "short-cycle" courses, are shown in the following chart:



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Own centres	UB	UAB	UPC	TOTAL
Long	62,512	23,506	11,509	97,527
Short	12,010	5,020	7,468	24,498
	74,522	28,526	18,977	122,025
External centres				
Long	1,866	471	1,099	3,436
Short	4,277	2,005	5,297	11,579
	6,143	2,476	6,396	15,015

So the total number of university students is 137,040 and represents a proportion of 22.8 students per thousand inhabitants, since the population of Catalonia is about 6 million.

Classified according to fields of study, the distribution of this total is as follows:

	UB	UAB	UPC	TOTAL
Humanities	32,031	11,083	—	43,114
Sciences	8,240	4,013	2,179	14,432
Medical Sciences	8,943	4,986	—	13,929
Social Sciences	30,539	10,920	1,099	42,558
Physical Education	912	—	—	912
Architecture	—	—	4,615	4,615
Agriculture	—	—	1,678	1,678
Engineering	—	—	15,802	15,802
	80,665	31,002	25,373	137,040



Responsibility for the universities is shared by the Central Government, the *Generalitat de Catalunya* and the universities themselves according to their statutes. Basically, the state competence covers the regulations regarding titles that are officially recognized throughout the state, the procedure for selecting the teaching staff and deciding salaries and the procedure for accepting students. The *Generalitat de Catalunya* has competence for the creation of universities, centres and courses, approval of the

universities' statutes, the overall annual subvention and the fees applicable for courses leading to officially recognized titles and the coordination of the universities in its territory. Within the limits set by the state regulations and those of the *Generalitat*, the universities enjoy academic autonomy and the maximum academic authority is the *Rector*. The *Claustre Universitari* is the maximum representative organ; three fifths of its members are teaching staff and the rest is made up of students

and administrative and service staff. The usual governing organ in the university is the *Junta de Govern* which is also made up of students and teaching, administrative and service staff. To ensure full participation in the university, each one has its *Consell Social* which approves the budget and the long-term course programmes. Two fifths of its members are representatives of the university's *Junta de Govern* and the other three fifths represent the social interest. ●