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# UNIVERSITAT ABAT OLIBA CEU

*Updated: August 17, 2018*

## OVERVIEW

### PROGRAM SNAPSHOT

Located in Barcelona, Spain, Universitat Abat Oliba (UAO) is a university affiliated to the San Pablo CEU Foundation, inspired by the Asociación Católica de Propagandistas. It offers bilingual programs in Journalism Studies and Business Management, with 50% of their courses in English. Other departments include Economics, Law and Political Sciences, Psychology, Education and Humanities.

### LOCATION

Barcelona is located in the northeast of Spain on the Mediterranean seashores. It is the capital of Catalonia and the main economic area of the country. The city has a population of over 1.6 million people. The climate is mild in the winter and warm, dry in the summer. Today, Barcelona is a modern, cosmopolitan and very dynamic city. It is a pleasant city to live in. The most famous tourist attraction is perhaps the Sagrada Familia, designed by the architect Antoni Gaudí.

### PROGRAM TYPE

Semester or year Exchange program.

### CHANCE OF PLACEMENT

Chances of placement are excellent.

### PROGRAM DATES

Academic Year: early September to early June; SM1: September to early January; SM2 mid-January to early June. It is possible to make arrangements and take the January exams before the Christmas break.

## ACADEMICS

### FAST FACTS

Barcelona, Spain (pop. 1.6 million)

Language of instruction: Spanish, Catalan, English

[University Home Page](#)

[International Student Homepage](#)

[Course Information](#) (click on the specific degree)

[International Relations Office](#)

## PROGRAMS

UAO offers five areas of studies: Communication Science, Law and Political Science, Economics and Business Studies, Humanities, Education Sciences and Psychology.

## ACADEMIC NOTES

Benedictine College students are required to meet the Registrar before going abroad to make sure the courses they intend to take abroad are transferable to Benedictine.

Students can choose from a number of classes in English, Spanish, and Catalan. Exchange students can select classes from different departments. Registration is done upon arrival in Spain. It is possible to make changes to your "Learning Agreement" sometime into the semester.

Students generally enroll in 30 ECTS per semester (five to six courses), and spend 20 hours a week in class. Semesters are 18 weeks in length.

Exam sessions: from end of December to beginning of January, and from mid-May to beginning of June.

Holidays breaks: Christmas break in December, Spring break in April/May.

## TRANSCRIPT DETAILS

Transcripts are generally released in March for Semester 1 and in August for Semester 2 and Full Year. Transcripts are sent to Benedictine College.

## CREDITS AND GRADES

The academic credits system in Europe is different from the US, and is based on ECTS credits. Credit conversion is usually determined based on the number of contact hours as specified in the course syllabus. The unofficial credit conversion rule of thumb from ECTS to US credit hours is as follows: ECTS = 1/2 US (example: 4 ECTS = 2 US credits).

Grades in Spain are expressed on a 10-point scale. This is how approximately Spanish grades compare to US grades:

9.0-10=A (excellent – *sobresaliente*)

7.0-8.9=B/B+ (good – *notable*)

5.0-6.9=B-/C (average – *aprobado*)

Below 5=F (failing – *suspense*)

NB: Spanish professors are difficult graders, and rarely award grades of excellent; most students receive grades between six and eight.

## LANGUAGE NOTES

**Language Notes:** Students who intend to take classes in Spanish must present proof of their Spanish Language skills, either a certificate issued by the home university, or an Official certificate of a Spanish Language course (DELA). Students should prove that their level is at least an A2 in the European Framework for Languages.

During the whole semester, classes of Spanish as a second language (*español para extranjeros* - ELE) are offered to incoming students.

## CLASSES OFFERED IN ENGLISH

The teaching language can be found at the course description level. See Hints For Researching Courses below.

## SPECIAL APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

Students must have a minimum 2.5 G.P.A. to apply.

## HINTS FOR RESEARCHING COURSES

To have a complete view of the academic offer, click on the [degrees](#) link, then click on a specific *Degree* and you will get a description of the major. By clicking on the *Study Plan* tab you will get to the list of courses offered. You can click on a specific course to read the course description, including the teaching language.

## CAMPUS LIFE

UAO is not a residential college, students are responsible for their own housing and meals.

### HOUSING AND MEALS

UAO provides information on different types of accommodation so that students can choose the accommodation that best matches their requirements. The Barcelona Centre Universitari (BCU) provides resources and information for people who come to study in Barcelona, including an Accommodation Service for foreign students.

UAO has agreements made with the Colegio Mayor and university residences for discounted prices.

A cafeteria is available at the UAO's campus from 8:00 AM to 8:15 PM.

### PERSONAL EXPENSES

In addition to lodging and meals students have to budget for books and for their own expenses (traveling during weekends and breaks, social life, etc.)

### ORIENTATION

An orientation week for international students is organized a few days before the beginning of each semester.

### ARRIVAL DETAILS

The International Relations Service is where international students go when they first arrive at the University. The office will provide instructions to new students regarding their arrival.

### STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Students can participate in cultural and sport activities, as well as the Entrepreneurs' Club and socially-orientated voluntary work.

### MINISTRY AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The University's Pastoral Service works towards enriching the dialogue between faith and culture and to discovering the Christian presence in many areas of society. Daily Mass is available on campus. See [here](#) for more information (in Spanish).

## APPLICATION PROCESS AND COSTS

### APPLICATION PROCESS

1. Students must turn in a Study Abroad application to Benedictine College. Forms are available [here](#).
2. After the Study Abroad office confirms the student that his or her application has been accepted, the student must complete the UAO application form and send it to UAO with all the required documents within the following deadlines:
  - no later than June 30th for the 1st semester or academic year
  - until October 30th for the second semester
3. Once students have been accepted at UAO, they receive an official Letter of acceptance. With this they can apply for a student visa to Spain (see below.)

### STUDENT VISA

Exchange students must obtain a student visa prior to departing for Spain. As soon as students are accepted, they should start the process for obtaining their visa. The local Spanish Consulate is the official source of all visa information. Students must apply for visa in advance. Some consulates require to apply between 120-60 days prior to departure, others 90-45 and others have different regulations.

Each consulate has slightly different paperwork requirements. On your consulate's webpage you will find a checklist of needed documents, specific to your application. **You will be required to appear in person at the consulate to apply for the visa.**

### HEALTH INSURANCE

Students will have to get Travel Medical Insurance through Benedictine (\$90). This coverage is essential in case students need to be repatriated for health reasons. You will need a letter from the medical insurance provider stating the provided coverage levels, and the fact that there is no deductible associated with your policy (required by the Spanish government).

### COSTS

Students pay tuition at Benedictine College and can apply their financial aid. In addition to the tuition cost, Benedictine College will charge \$750 study abroad fee, and \$90 Travel Medical Insurance.

Students are responsible for lodging and meals in Spain (see Lodging and meals section above).

Students will also have to pay for their plane ticket, as well as books, visa application fees, and personal expenses.