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**2016-2020**

# **UAB Plan for Languages**

**Pla de llengües de la UAB**

**Plan de lengües dera UAB**

**Programa de linguas da UAB**

**Plan de lenguas de la UAB**

**UABko hizkuntza-plana**

**Plan d'action pour les langues**



**UAB**  
Universitat Autònoma  
de Barcelona



## **1. Objective of the Plan for Languages**

To provide a strategic framework for the language policy of the UAB during the period 2016-2020.

## **2. Area of application**

The area of application is the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona. The university also recommends that as a subsidiary action some of the criteria of the plan are applied in entities in which the UAB is a majority stakeholder and that the plan should provide guidance to those entities recognised by the UAB.

## **3. Duration**

The period of the plan is five years from January 2016 to December 2020.

## **4. Type of plan**

The Plan for Languages is understood as a general framework or route map in which each area has to establish mechanisms for creating specific plans in accordance with the specific ambits involved.

## **5. Responsibility for monitoring the plan**

The Language Policy Committee delegated by the Governing Council will monitor the Plan for Languages.

The Language Service of the UAB has been entrusted with providing professional support for the plan.

The language policy representative for each centre is the reference person for channelling questions and queries about language matters in the centre.



## **6. Necessary resources**

The Plan for Languages contains an annual budget for actions to be carried out. These actions are prioritised each year, so where there is not sufficient budget for all planned action to be carried out, the most important ones can go ahead.

## **7. Structure and content**

The plan is divided into the following sections:

### **7.1. General framework**

The UAB Plan for Languages is set out according to the general framework described below.

Catalan is the preferred institutional language, and the official language (together with Spanish) in Catalonia and at all educational levels in Catalonia, and consequently it is the preferred language of the UAB. Being the preferred language makes Catalan a key element for achieving the objectives of excellence and the capture of talent and loyalty-building at the university, since language skills are fundamental for personal and professional development. As a Catalan university, the UAB is also responsible for ensuring the use of the Catalan language and the production and dissemination and improvement in scientific production in Catalan.

Spanish is the other official language of the UAB and also a centre of reference in Spanish philology. Together with English, it is essential for capturing talent and building loyalty and for achieving the university's objectives of international projection and excellence.

English has become the lingua franca of the international academic community and is increasingly used as an effective working language in the university's activities and in the professional field. It is therefore a key asset for the academic activity of our students. Formalising the status of English as a lingua franca is therefore one of the activities of the plan.



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While the role of English as the lingua franca of the international academic community is clear in the international projection strategy of the university, French also plays an important role geo-strategically and also for reasons of proximity and tradition. In addition, French, German and Italian are languages of reference in certain fields of knowledge and professional environments, while other professions demand multilingual competence.

Currently, Eastern Asian languages, such as Chinese, Japanese and Korean, are also important as a result of the university's strategic interest in that part of the world.

Finally, another major asset of the university is its linguistic capital: the concept of universities has always been linked to multilingualism as factor for enrichment and contact among the people who generate and consume knowledge. Together, languages and cultures enrich the university community and the courses, centres, institutes, research groups and services related to languages are the source of research, transfer, knowledge and innovation.

## **7.2. Mission, vision and values**

### **7.2.1. Mission**

The Plan for Languages is the document that sets out the objectives and necessary actions on matters of language policy for the UAB to be able to pursue its mission.



### **7.2.2. Vision**

The Plan for languages should help the UAB to become:

- Model of linguistic quality and efficient communication in teaching, research and institutional communications.
- Impetus for research, knowledge transfer and innovation in language matters.
- Local and international reference in the construction and application of a model of governance of multilingualism at the university.
- Recognised case of commitment to language sustainability.

### **7.2.3. Values**

The Plan for Languages holds the following values:

- The promotion of Catalan as a preferred and official language in teaching, research and knowledge transfer.
- The recognition of Spanish as an import language for the international projection of the UAB.
- The promotion of English as the lingua franca of the international academic community, in teaching, research, administrative documentation and institutional communications.
- The recognition of the university's multilingualism and of the multilingualism and intercultural competence of the university community as strategic assets for the international projection of the UAB.
- Transparency and effectiveness of linguistic rights and responsibilities which derive from the status of languages: Catalan as the preferred language, Catalan and Spanish as official languages, English as the lingua franca of the international academic community and also other languages in their specific contexts.



### **7.3. Strategic objectives**

The strategic objectives of the UAB Plan for Languages are in line with the strategic objectives of set out by the university, and are principally the following: consolidate quality teaching, extend the local and international impact of the university's own teaching and increase the quality of research.

The objectives of improving languages competences set out by the Generalitat de Catalunya for variable funding by objectives in Catalan public universities are also taken into account.

The strategic objectives of the Plan for languages are the following:

- Increase language skills among students.
- Improve the capacity for intercultural interaction in the university community.
- Contribute to and increase the number of local and international students, broadening the linguistic offer of the community in relation to the university community.
- Contribute to increasing the volume of research published in English, Catalan and Spanish and in other languages of importance in certain areas.
- Contribute to increasing the impact of the university's actions by ensuring linguistic quality in the documents that it issues.

### **7.4. Lines of action**

The Plan for Languages has three main lines of action:

- Institutional and management line.
- Teaching and research line.
- Mobility and linguistic orientation line.



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## 7.5. Actions

The nature of the actions is determined by the strategic objectives (see section 7.3). These actions have to be achievable within the period of the plan and may be of four different types:

- support,
- implementation,
- diagnosis,
- regulation.

Each year a plan of action is established to take account of the needs at any particular time and the budgetary availability.

For the initial period of the new Plan for Languages there is particular emphasis on support measures and it is considered that diagnosis and regulation are generally less necessary than they were a few years ago, although there may be some exceptions.