

# Study Guide Barcelona

ERASMUS+ IB Campus Tour Barcelona  
Discovering Study Opportunities

Goetheschule Essen  
July 2024

Students of IB-DP May 2025



# BARCELONA



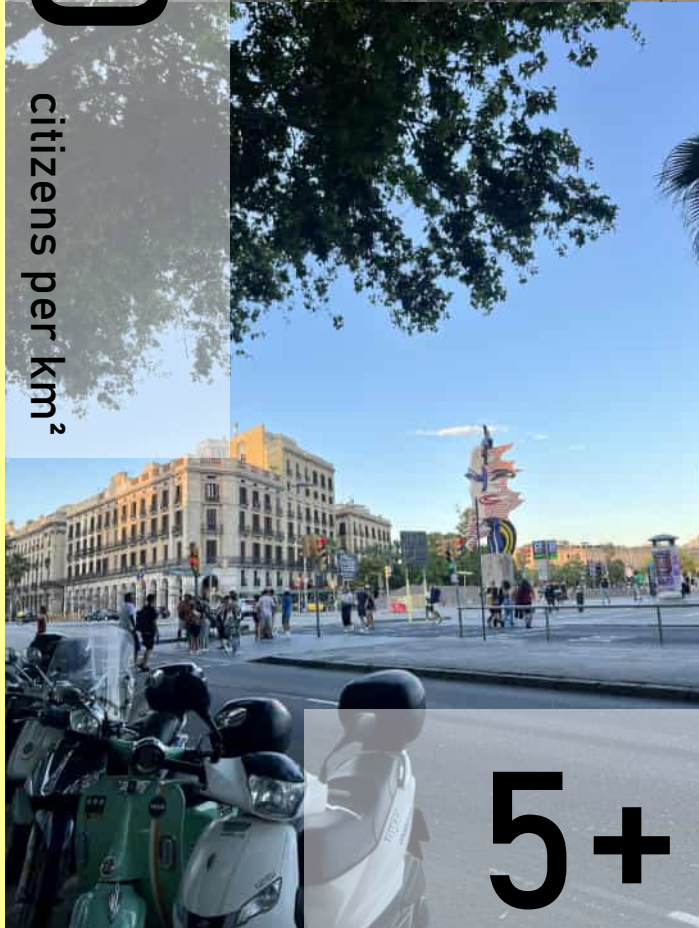
16,000

citizens per km<sup>2</sup>

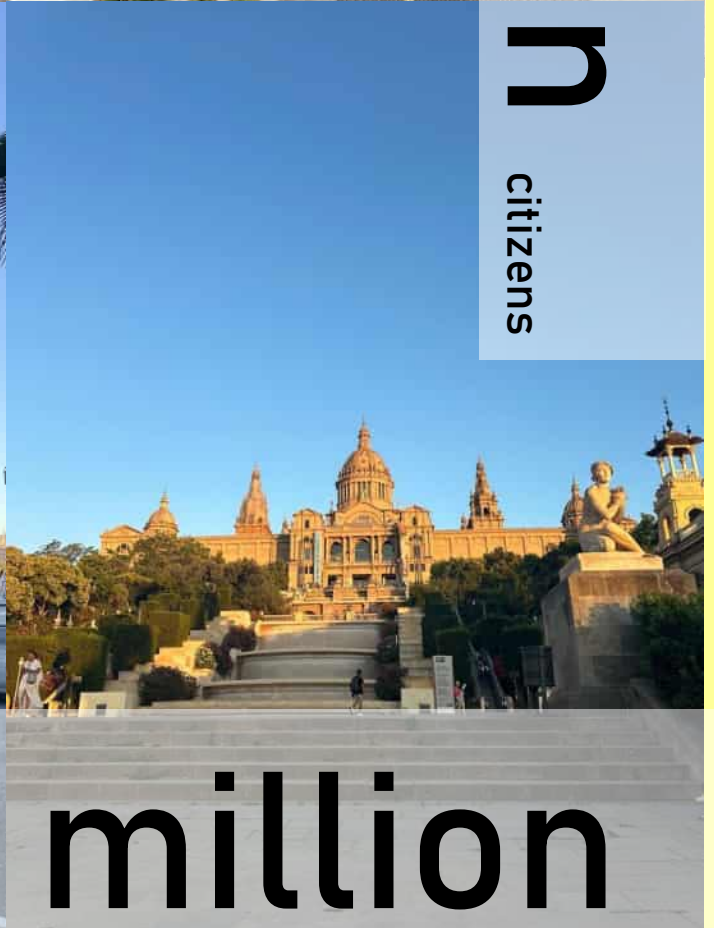


1.6 million

citizens



5+



million





100 km<sup>2</sup> area

12 million

tourists in 2023

inhabitants in metropolitan area

[1-1] [1-2]





# UNIVERSITIES



The *Universitat de Barcelona* is spread across multiple campuses throughout the whole city. The oldest building at *Plaça Universitat* houses the Faculty of Philology and Communication. For students from the EU/EEA, the tuition fees are about 3000€ per year. To get an impression of the costs you will face, you can use the “cost simulator” offered by the university itself. [2-1]

## On estudiaràs?

### Campus de la UB



Picture 2.1

The university offers multiple study programs from various fields which are mostly taught in Catalan and Spanish. Although there are no official language certifications required for

## Graus que s'imparteixen a la Universitat de Barcelona

Curs 2024-2025

Arts i humanitats	Crèdits	Notes de tall	Notes de tall
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Arquitectura	120	5,00	5,00
Belles Arts	120	5,00	5,00
Comunicació	120	5,00	5,00
Enginyeria	120	5,00	5,00
Humanitats	120	5,00	5,00
Informàtica	120	5,00	5,00
Química	120	5,00	5,00
Medicina	120	5,00	5,00
Biologia	120	5,00	5,00
Geografia	120	5,00	5,00
Historia	120	5,00	5,00
Idiomes	120	5,00	5,00
Letres	120	5,00	5,00
Matemàtiques	120	5,00	5,00
Psicologia	120	5,00	5,00
Sociologia	120	5,00	5,00
Teologia	120	5,00	5,00
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Picture 2.2

Arts i humanitats	Crèdits	Notes de tall	Notes de tall
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Arquitectura	120	5,00	5,00
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Belles Arts	120	5,00	5,00
Comunicació	120	5,00	5,00
Enginyeria	120	5,00	5,00
Humanitats	120	5,00	5,00
Informàtica	120	5,00	5,00
Química	120	5,00	5,00
Medicina	120	5,00	5,00
Biologia	120	5,00	5,00
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Historia	120	5,00	5,00
Idiomes	120	5,00	5,00
Letres	120	5,00	5,00
Matemàtiques	120	5,00	5,00
Psicologia	120	5,00	5,00
Sociologia	120	5,00	5,00
Teologia	120	5,00	5,00

admission, one should be able to understand the aforementioned languages to follow the lectures. An overview of the study programs like this one provides information on credit points, grade boundaries, duration of the course etc. Furthermore, the university has arrangements with 2642 universities around the world allowing stays abroad and international programs and projects. [2-2]

The university is one of the oldest universities in Spain (est. 1450) granting its older buildings a distinct and memorable architecture. The inner courtyards provide a pleasant and cool atmosphere while studying and offer good places to relax and socialise during breaks.





# LIVING



Boulevards such as *Las Ramblas* in the heart of Barcelona are known for their lively atmosphere. Besides souvenir shops, restaurants and super markets, the alleys offer many living possibilities for students. By either renting or buying apartments close to this street, students are able to experience the full Barcelona flair but should be aware of high costs due to nearby tourist attractions.







In Barcelona, you can find many housing options for students. Due to a great infrastructure you can easily reach the University Campuses from wherever you stay. Joining students' residences and communities benefits you in terms of learning the language as an international student or simply in forming long lasting friendships.



To find apartments in Barcelona, networking is a great option. Talking to locals or other students might help to decide where in Barcelona you might want to live. The city itself offers apartments and residences at different locations and of various living qualities. Popular tourist areas, in particular, usually demand high prices.



As a prospective student, you should start your research early. You might use popular websites to have a wide selection of flats. Be aware of contract durations, mandatory compliance periods, deposit rules, legal payment methods, real estate fees, potential temporary contract limitations and do not hesitate to request your contracts in English. [3-1]



# COSTS



Approximately **1,200€** per month



Different discounters offer high-quality food at low prices. You can save a lot of money by buying at an *ALDI* or *LIDL*, instead of visiting the small supermarkets in the areas dominated by tourism. Those tend to be tourist oriented and overpriced.



When buying at the right store, food and drinks are not expensive. It is easily possible to prepare dinner and breakfast for less than 10€ per person.

Any necessary student utensils such as pens, paper etc., can be bought at local stationary shops.



Little copy shops, located at almost any corner, allow students to print or copy anything they wish at a low price.

ALDI			
Carrer Tallers 74, 08001 Barcelona			
Horario de apertura:			
Lu-Sa: 09:00 - 21:00 Do: 12:00 - 20:00			
2 x 0,88 €			
AGUA MINERAL BL	1,76 €	3	
6 x 0,39 €			
AGUA MINERAL C/ GAS 1	2,34 €	3	
FANTA NARANJA PACK 2x2	3,50 €	4	
COCA COLA ZERO 4x2L	7,30 €	4	
2 x 1,75 €			
LECHE SEMI ASTURIANA 1	3,50 €	1	
BEBIDA AVENA SURT 1 L	0,99 €	3	
2 x 1,74 €			
ZIMO NARANJA EXPRESO	3,49 €	3	
CEREALES DE TRIGO CHOC	1,79 €	3	
2 x 2,25 €			
MUESLI CHOCO / FRUTA	4,50 €	3	
SIGLITOS POLO FLASH	1,39 €	4	
BEBIDA AVENA SURT 1 L	0,99 €	3	
BOLSA BASURA PARA BANO	1,95 €	4	
MISTOL TABLETAS	5,99 €	4	
CONFITURA 425 G	1,89 €	3	
CONFITURA 425 G	1,89 €	3	
LUNGO 20 LD. COM. NESP	3,39 €	3	
RISTYEXFOR 2000 COM.NE	3,39 €	3	
MTEL FLORES 500G	3,19 €	3	
2 x 0,65 €			
BOLSA DE RAFA	1,30 €	4	
BOLSA PAPEL	0,20 €	4	
3 x 0,99 €			
ACEI NEGROS S/HUESO	2,97 €	3	
2 x 1,29 €			
PIMIENTOS PIQUILLO ENT	2,58 €	3	
ACEITE DE OLIVO DE OLI	5,15 €	3	
ORGANO HOJA	0,49 €	3	
PIMENTON DULCE/PICANTE	1,19 €	3	
MOLINILLOS PIMIENTA AL	1,59 €	3	
SURT. SALSAS DIPS 307,	1,39 €	3	
PATATAS ARTESANAS	1,55 €	3	
PAT.FRIT CAMPESINAS 180	1,35 €	3	
PAT.FRITAS SAB. JAMON	1,37 €	3	
2 x 0,89 €			
NACHOS TEX MEX 150G	1,78 €	3	
UVA DE MESA ROJA	2,49 €	1	
MANZANA PINK LADY	2,79 €	1	
2 x 1,39 €			
CEBOLLA ROJA 500G	2,78 €	1	
UVA DE MESA BLANCA	2,49 €	1	
2 x 3,35 €			
ARANDANO 300G	5,70 €	1	
4,040 kg x 1,19 €/kg			
SANDIA RAYADA	4,81 €	1	
3 x 2,99 €			
SANDWICH CHO-COOKIES	8,97 €	3	
HELADO VANILLE 1,250	4,99 €	3	
3 x 2,35 €			
YOGUR GRIEGO 1 KG NAT/	7,05 €	3	
MARG. GIRASOL 500G	1,45 €	3	
PHILADELPHIA 350 G	3,55 €	1	
2 x 2,99 €			
TARRINAS	5,98 €	3	
2 x 4,59 €			
NUTELLA 450 G	9,18 €	3	
XXL ALCACHOFAS TARRO C	2,49 €	3	
OSITOS ORO / AZUCAR, 3	2,49 €	3	
SURTIDO CALDOS 120 G	0,79 €	3	
OSITOS ORO / AZUCAR, 3	2,49 €	3	
Q. SEMI LONCHAS, 200G	1,85 €	1	
GOUDA EN LONCHAS, 400G	2,79 €	1	
1,072 kg x 2,55 €/kg			
NECTARINA APROX 1KG	2,73 €	1	
PATATAS 5 KG	6,89 €	1	
ARTICULO CON 21% IVA	1,99 €	4	
A PAGAR	163,28 €		
210001			
OPERACION CONTACTLESS			
BARCELONA - 24/06/24 16:17			
ALDI BARCELONA PL			
CASTELL			
163,28 EUR			
*****8199			
VENTA Maestro			
COMERCIO: 352586663			
TPV: 00806375093			
Tran: 00135 A0000000043060			
NO REFUNDO			
Pago con tarjeta			
163,28 €			
IVA	NETO	TOTAL IVA	BRUTO
1 0,00%	43,37	0,00	43,37
3 10,00%	83,40	8,34	91,74
4 21,00%	19,02	4,00	23,02
5 5,00%	4,90	0,25	5,15
GRACIAS POR TU COMPRA			
Devolución de artículos de bazar con			
tíquete de compra y embalaje original			
(excepto ropa interior y de baño),			
en un plazo máximo de 60 días sin			
perjuicio de la normativa sobre			
garantías.			
Más información en aldi.es			
ALDI MASQUEFA SUPERMERCADOS S.L.U.			
Carrer Alemanya 5			
08783 Masquefa			
NIF / CIF: E5863667109			
0086 102 011230 0373			
Factura simplificada			
Número: F5008601022024025203			
Fecha: 24/06/2024 16:17:20			
0010086240624102000373			





# CULTURE



Each year more than 12 million people visit the city to enjoy Barcelona and its remarkable architecture. Barcelona offers a wide range of cultural monuments and buildings such as the *Arc de Triomf* at the *Passeig Lluís Companys*. It was designed by *Josep Vilaseca* and built as the gateway to the *1888 Universal Exhibition*. Even today, the arc is an iconic landmark of the city and leads to the famous *Park de la Ciutadella* in Barcelona. [5-1]



Unique buildings such as *La Pedrera*, *Casa Milà* or *Casa Batlló* are only a few of the creations of Barcelona's most famous architect *Antoni Gaudí i Cornet* (1852-1926). Gaudí developed his own aesthetic and techniques to express his ideas and thus is known as one of the greatest



representatives of architectural modernism. His most famous project is the *Sagrada Família* in Barcelona. [5-2]







Besides monuments and architecture, Barcelona offers museums to expand one's knowledge about the city's history. Museums such as the *Museu Nacional D'Art de Catalunya* provide remarkable collections of Catalan visual art. Moreover, Barcelona is a hotspot for street art, which amplifies the city's lively atmosphere, driving the city and its people with creative energy.

Every year at midsummers eve, Barcelona celebrates the summer solstice. The night of the solstice is the *Revetlla de Sant Joan*. The holiday is celebrated with loud music and energetic dancing under a sky filled with fireworks. The beach in Barcelona is especially packed with masses of people, serving as venue for the festival.



Furthermore, Barcelona is known for traditional Spanish food, such as tapas. Many restaurants near the beach or inner city offer various



options. However, one has to be aware of where to find authentic tapas. Most of the time, smaller, more secluded restaurants seem to offer more authentic food than bigger food chains that are located at touristic places.





# TRANSPORT



Different forms of transport play a crucial role in the life of all Barcelonians. Throughout the year, more than 600 million journeys are undertaken using public transport. [6-1]



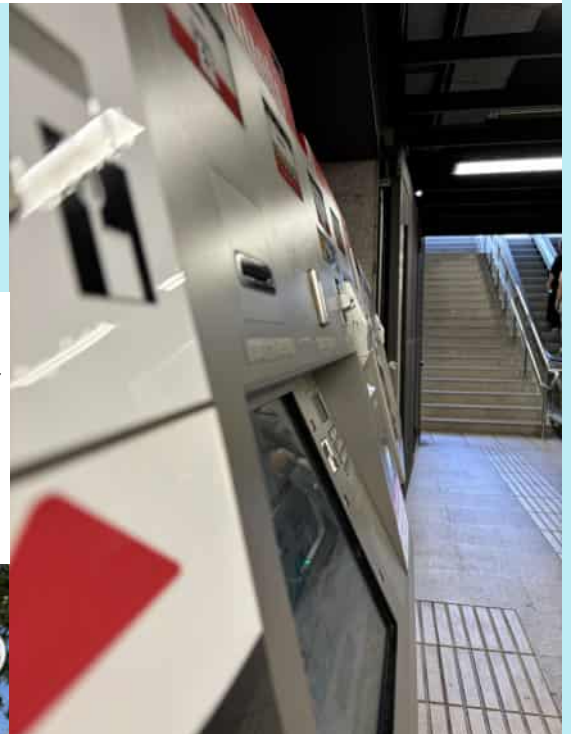
The *Aerobús* connects the Airport with the heart of the city. Every few minutes, 24 hours a day, a bus departs from *Plaça Catalunya* towards Terminals 1 and 2 and back. A one-way ticket costs 7.25€, a return ticket prices 12.50€. [6-2]





During rush hour 167 metro trains are running through 165 stations connected by 125 kilometres of tunnels with frequencies of one train arriving as often as every two and a half minutes. [6-1]

A single journey ticket prices at 2.55€. 10 journeys can be purchased for 12.15€. For regular use, a monthly *T-usual* ticket, starting at 21.35€, is the most efficient. [6-1]



If one prefers active transport instead of overcrowded buses, rental bicycles are a good option. They can be found at every corner and rented with the use of diverse mobile applications.

In case of opting for a rental bike, one can ride safely through the whole city using the well-developed bicycle infrastructure.





# LEISURE



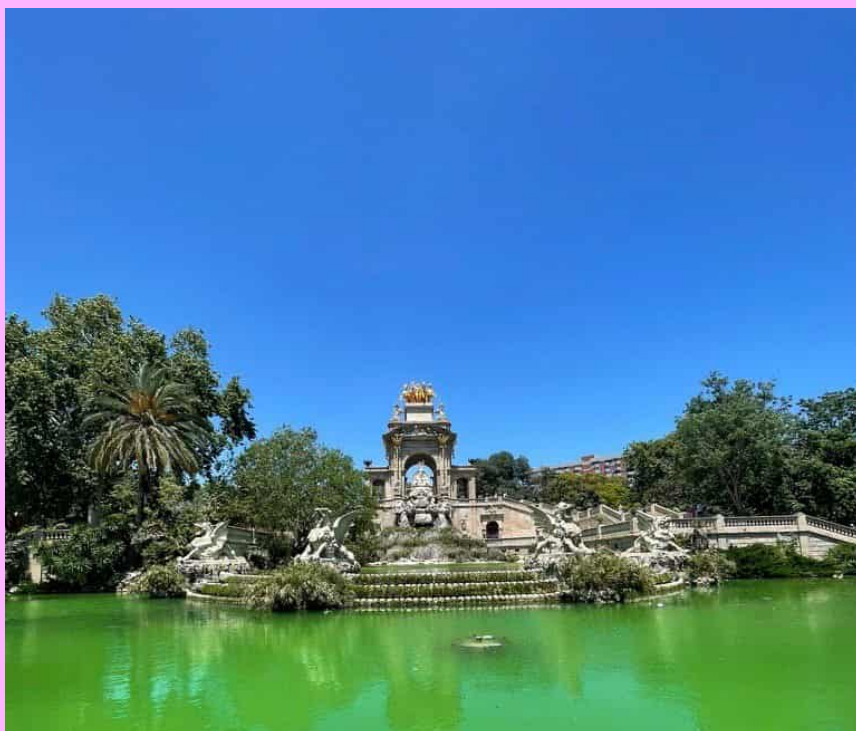
Students in Barcelona have access to a wide range of free time activities. The numerous parks, the beach or the harbour, in particular, function as excellent hang out spots for you and your friends. Picnics, for example, are a popular activity and help students to socialise within their friend groups.



Small shops, such as *Churrerías* or *Creperías*, are located all around the city and invite you and your friends to try and have a taste. Additionally, a great food spot is the *Mercat de la Boqueria* which is placed on the famous *La Rambla*. The market offers a variety of fresh fruits and traditional Catalan food.







Additionally, visiting museums and participating in historical tours around the city can be great free time activities, not just for international students, but also for locals. Experienced guides often provide fascinating tours through Barcelona while showing and explaining all kinds of monuments and traditional buildings.



Universities such as the *UB*, offer sport activities and provide tennis or soccer courts for their



students. Private fitness studios are also located all around the city. Due to the wide and differing range of equipment and specialisations, every student will be able to find a studio that fits their needs. [7-1]

Students in Barcelona can enjoy special discounts for transport, libraries, museums or restaurants. Those aid young people in moving around the city freely, and provide financial support. [7-2]





# LANGUAGE



Barcelona has two official languages: Catalan and Spanish. Thus, a majority of the city's residents can be considered bilingual. Both languages are highly appreciated but have different roles in every day life. While Catalan is more of a cultural symbol of the specific area and is spoken during

daily life, Spanish seems to be valued as the overall main language. Catalan holds a particularly sensitive place in the hearts of Barcelonians given its cruel repression under Franco's regime in the past century. Due to this, many Barcelonians, especially older generations, value Catalan and their Catalan identity even more. No matter which of both options you choose to speak, in Barcelona you'll be able to communicate without any issues. [8-1]





International students can perceive the language barrier as an obstacle, however official language schools such as the *EOIs* (*Escola Oficial d'Idiomes*) or universities offer courses and thus, provide opportunities to engage in daily life. [8-1]



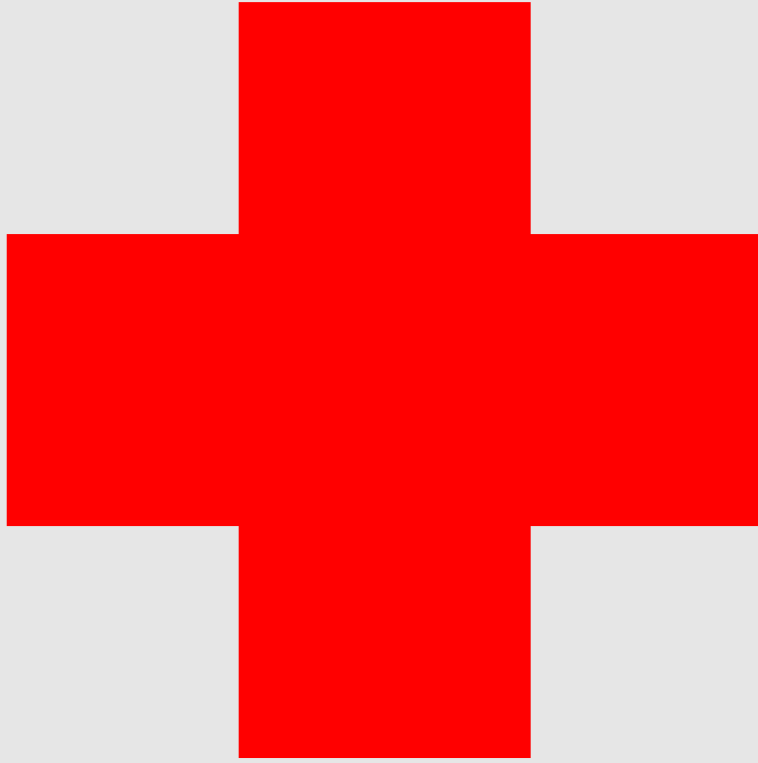
Additionally, the *University of Barcelona* offers studies in English. International students are therefore not obligated to learn Spanish or Catalan, but it is highly recommended. Making friends and experiencing the Catalan culture will be much easier when understanding and speaking one of the official languages.

The displayed library of the *UB* contains various books about the history of Catalan as well as Spanish and offers dictionaries for students. The history of the Catalan language is especially interesting, as it can be traced back to the 11<sup>th</sup> century, and learning about it offers a unique perspective on its importance, and overall Catalan culture and traditions. [8-1]





# HEALTH







Medication can be bought in the *Farmàcias*, which are densely distributed across the whole city. Many of them are open at any time of the day, even throughout the night.

In case of emergency, as in any European country, the medical and fire services can be reached by calling the emergency hotline 112. In life threatening situations, a usually yellow *Ambulància* will be sent by dispatch.

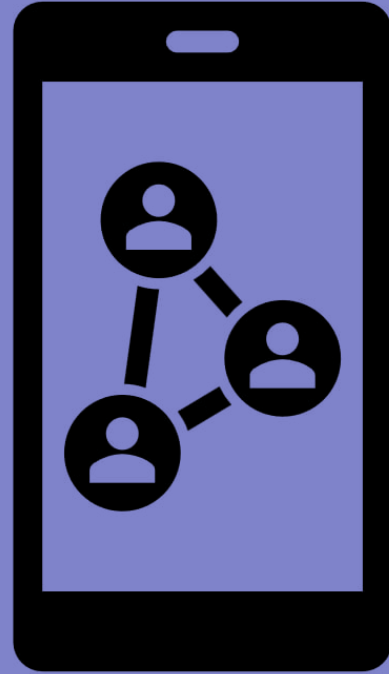
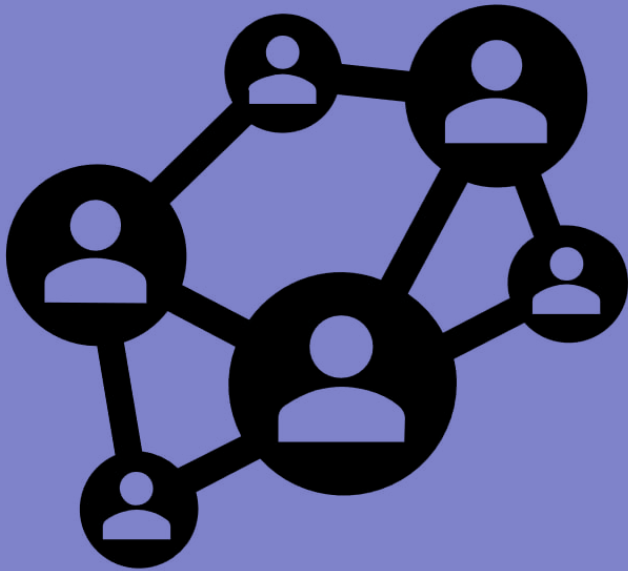


If you do get severely injured, you will be brought to one of more than 50 hospitals in Barcelona, both public and private. Many of the hospitals and its doctors are ranked among the best of their speciality in Spain. The most renowned hospitals are grouped together as the *Barcelona International Hospitals* and are specialised in complex treatments.





# NETWORKING



Barcelona is a multicultural melting pot with many offers regarding networking and making connections. Sharing apartments or flats can be a huge help for foreign or international students in making new friends and local contacts. Talking to people at the university campus is another great opportunity to find peers with similar interest, goals, or aspirations.





Additionally, a popular way of connecting with others is visiting the numerous small coffee shops at any corner in Barcelona. Students go there to study for exams or simply to take a break from university work. These spots provide many opportunities to approach others and get to know your surroundings better.

Furthermore, various international or local organisations provide networking events throughout the entire year. You will have many chances to add contacts to your professional network through formal events that can help to further increase your chances of receiving job offers in the future.

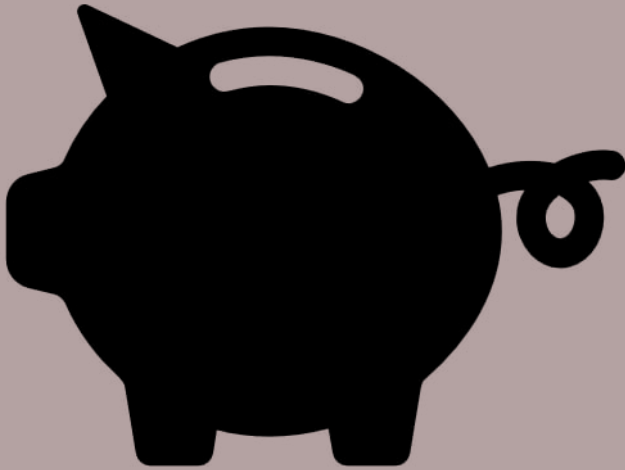


Joining student organisations or clubs is another way to meet like-minded individuals. By engaging in projects or even online platforms, new opportunities will present themselves, and you will gain the confidence to approach and meet new people.





# WORKING



For EU and EEA students, a signed employment contract is everything one needs to be able to work in Barcelona. Nevertheless, one should take into account that a registration at the city hall (*empadronamiento*) is a requirement for those who stay longer than three months. There are no restrictions on how many hours you can work, however most students choose to only work part-time and, thus prevent an interference with work and studies.

For non-EU students a visa is necessary and many regulations need to be followed. Work authorisation needs to be obtained and internships or part-time jobs might be your only work option. [11-1]





When looking for a job, students might face many obstacles, such as a shortage list, a complicated, and sometimes slow bureaucracy, and especially the language barrier. Even though Barcelona is known to be a rather international city, most companies prefer employees who speak Spanish, or even Catalan, especially at local shops.



There are many ways to find a part time job. Looking at what is available, reading flyers, accessing online resources and utilizing social media are simple methods one could use. Additionally, networking, going to university career centres or career fairs are great options one should consider when looking for a job.

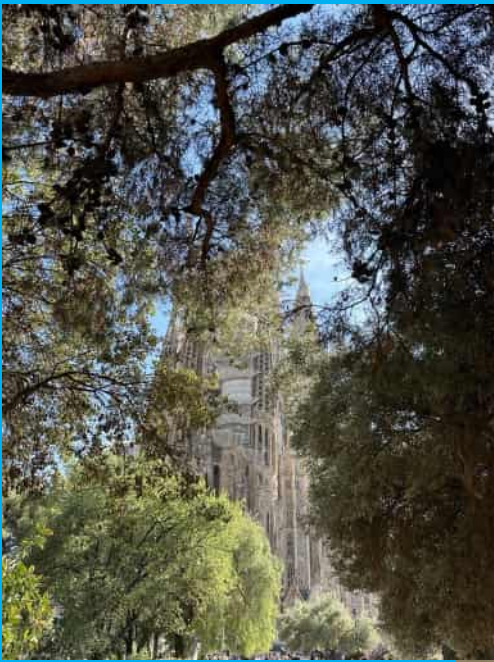




# IMPRESSIONS









## Pictures

Picture 2.1 and 2.2: Graus 2024-2025 Universitat de Barcelona

## Sources

[1-1]: <https://worldpopulationreview.com/world-cities/barcelona-population>

[1-2]: <https://www.catalannews.com/business/item/tourists-in-barcelona-spent-96-billion-in-2023-up-147-from-2019>

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[2-2]: <https://web.ub.edu/en/web/estudiants/international-students>

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[5-1]: <https://www.barcelonaturisme.com/wv3/en/page/1211/arc-de-trionf.html>

[5-2]: <https://www.barcelona.de/en/barcelona-antoni-gaudi.html>

[6-1]: [https://www.tmb.cat/documents/20182/94438/Dades+b%C3%A0siques\\_v2.pdf/45531067-c2c8-410e-ba9c-21b1e0b0f51d?t=1711114197525](https://www.tmb.cat/documents/20182/94438/Dades+b%C3%A0siques_v2.pdf/45531067-c2c8-410e-ba9c-21b1e0b0f51d?t=1711114197525)

[7-1]: <https://www.meet.barcelona/en/visit-and-love-it/points-interest-city/servei-d-esports-de-la-universitat-de-barcelona-92168153138>

[7-2]: <https://barcelonaexpatlife.com/student-discounts-in-barcelona/>

[6-2]: <https://aerobusbarcelona.es/?lang=en>

[8-1]: <https://www.bcn.travel/what-language-do-they-speak-in-barcelona/>

[11-1]: <https://housinganywhere.com/Spain/student-jobs-in-spain#>

## Imprint

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