



Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona

## **UAB Plan for Languages (2011-2015)**

(Acord del Consell de Govern de 26 de gener de 2011)

## **UAB Plan for Languages (2011-2015)**

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

To provide a strategic framework for language policy at the UAB.

### **2. Area of application**

The Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona. The UAB intends to recommend its subsidiary application of some of the criteria in the plan to organisations with which the UAB is a majority stakeholder and that they should serve as a guide for those organisations recognised by the UAB.

### **3. Duration**

The proposed duration of the Plan is 5 years, from January 2011 to December 2015.

### **4. Typology of the Plan**

The Plan for Languages has to be a general framework, a route map, and each centre has to establish its own mechanisms for applying it in the centre- or qualification-specific plans. It is important that there should be indicators for the evaluation of the results.

### **5. Responsibility for monitoring**

The Language Policy Committee (delegated by the Governing Council) will monitor the Plan. It will send an annual report on the actions carried out to the Governing Council.

Each centre must have a language policy representative.

The Language Service will provide technical support for the Plan.

### **6. Necessary resources**

The Plan will contain a budget plan for the actions that need to be carried out. The actions will be prioritised each year so that if there is not sufficient budgetary provision the most important of them can be carried out.

### **7. Structure and content**

The Plan is made up of the following elements:

#### **7.1. General framework**

The UAB Plan for Languages is based on the following general framework:

Catalan is the autochthonous language, and also the official language together with Spanish, of Catalonia and of all levels of education and consequently it is the autochthonous language of the UAB. Its status as autochthonous language makes Catalan a key element for achieving the objectives of excellence and attracting and retaining talent in the University, given that language skills are fundamental to personal and professional development. As a Catalan university, the UAB is also responsible for ensuring the use, dissemination and improvement of scientific output in Catalan.

Spanish is an official language – together with Catalan – of Catalonia and consequently of the UAB. It is therefore important for the University's internationalisation strategy.

English has become the lingua franca of the international academic community and is essential for attracting and retaining talent, achieving the University's objectives of

internationalisation and excellence. As a result of its status as the lingua franca, it is increasingly used as a working language in the University's activities and is an active key to the academic development of our students. This means that it is necessary to formalise the status of English as the lingua franca while differentiating English from the other non-official languages, in accordance with the delivery of classes in English in undergraduate and postgraduate courses as established in the Master Plan (AE 28).

If the role of English as a lingua franca in the international academic community is undeniable, there are other languages such as French, German and Italian, among others, that are also strategic as reference languages in certain fields of knowledge and certain professional environments. Some professions therefore need to ensure plurilingual competence.

In the University's internationalisation strategy, French plays an important role for geostrategic reasons, proximity and tradition. Chinese and Korean are also important now for communication and promotion of the University given the strategic decision to engage with China and Korea.

Finally, one of the University's biggest assets is its linguistic capital: the concept of the university has always been linked to multilingualism, as an enrichment factor that brings together the people who produce and consume knowledge. Languages and cultures that exist side by side enrich the university community and the courses, centres, institutes, research groups and services related to those languages are a source of research, knowledge transfer and innovation.

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

### **Mission**

The Plan for Languages is the instrument that establishes the language policy objectives and actions that are necessary for carrying out the mission of the UAB.

### **Vision**

The Plan for Languages must help the UAB to become:

- A model of language quality and efficient communication in teaching, research and institutional communication.
- A promoter of research, knowledge transfer and innovation in the field of languages.
- A local and international reference for the construction and application of a model of governance for multilingualism in universities.
- A recognised case of commitment to linguistic sustainability.

### **Values**

In its Master Plan 2010-2012, the UAB has proclaimed as the values of the University institutional loyalty, excellence, a critical and innovative spirit, diversity, solidarity, social and cultural commitment, responsibility, efficiency, transparency, participation and sustainability. The Plan for Languages is based on the following values which derive from the values of the UAB:

- Promotion of the Catalan language as an autochthonous language in teaching, research and knowledge transfer. This derives from the values of social and cultural commitment and sustainability.
- Promotion of English, as the lingua franca of the international academic community, in teaching, research and institutional communications. This derives from the values of excellence and responsibility.

- Recognition of multilingualism in the University, plurilingualism and intercultural competence in the university community, as strategic assets for the internationalisation of the UAB. This is derived from the values of critic and innovative spirit, excellence, diversity and sustainability.
- The transparency and effectiveness of linguistic rights and responsibilities: of Catalan as the autochthonous language, Catalan and Spanish as official languages, English as the lingua franca of the international academic community and other languages in specific contexts. This derives from the values of responsibility and transparency.

### **7.3. Strategic objectives**

The strategic objectives of the UAB Plan for Languages are in line with the strategic objectives that the University has established in its Master Plan for the period 2010-2012: attracting and retaining talent and the internationalisation of the campus.

They also take account of the objectives for the improvement of language skills that the Generalitat de Catalunya established in its variable financing by objectives of Catalan public universities for the period 2008-2010.

The strategic objectives of the Plan for Languages are:

- To consolidate the use of Catalan as an autochthonous language in all ambits of the University.
- To increase the amount of teaching undertaken and research published in English.
- To increase the linguistic capabilities of the University in dealing with the people associated with it.
- To ensure language quality in the University's communications.
- To improve the capacity for intercultural interaction of the university community.

### **7.4. Areas and lines of action**

The Plan for Languages is organised according to the four main areas for action established in the UAB Master Plan 2010-2012 and along three main lines that are specific to the Plan for Languages.

#### **Areas**

- People
- Innovation and creation of value
- Environment
- Resources

#### **Lines**

- Institutional and management line
- Teaching and research line
- Mobility and reception line

### **7.5. Actions**

The content of the actions is determined according to the strategic objectives (see section 7.3). These actions must be attainable within the period of the Plan and may be of four different kinds:

- Diagnostic
- Regulatory
- Implementational
- Support

An annual action plan will be established to take account both of the needs at any given time and the available budget.

## **Actions of the Plan for Languages for 2011**

\*\*\*, \*\* and \* indicate the degree of priority, from more (\*\*\*) to less (\*).

[N] Actions included in the Plan for Languages 2011-2015 that are not contained in the 2008-2010 Plan

[A] Actions that are maintained with respect to the 2008-2010 Plan.

1. Institutional and management line	2. Teaching and research line	3. Mobility and reception line
<b>A. People</b>		
<p><b>***1.A.1. Draw up a work plan for the integration of English into information systems: web, registration systems, etc. [N]</b></p> <p><b>***1.A.2. Create a language profile for the PAS staff positions and the availability of English in other key positions. [N]</b></p> <p><b>***1.A.3. Create incentives for the adaptation of the UAB to Law 29/2010, of 3 August, on the use of electronic media in the public sector in Catalonia, in relation to language use in the University. Regulate admission and emission of communications, certificates and other standard documents in English. [N]</b></p> <p><b>**1.A.5. Study the possibility of introducing English and Spanish in the basic signing on the campus buildings. [N]</b></p>	<p><b>***2.A.1. Modify the UAB computer applications to facilitate the transparency of information on teaching languages. [A]</b></p> <p><b>***2.A.2. Adapt language training available to the university community to the objectives of internationalisation and attraction and retention of talent by the UAB. [A]</b></p> <p><b>***2.A.3. Adapt the programme of training in third languages for administrative and support staff (PAS). [A]</b></p> <p><b>***2.A.4. Adapt the subsidy policy for Catalan language courses for the university community. [A]</b></p> <p><b>***2.A.5. Offer tests for accrediting the languages levels among the university community. [N]</b></p> <p><b>***2.A.6. Apply decree 128/2010, of 14 September on accreditation of language knowledge for teaching staff in the universities of the Catalan university system. [N]</b></p> <p><b>***2.A.7. Offer a fully subsidised level test in</b></p>	<p><b>***3.A.1. Adapt the offer of Catalan courses that are fully subsidised up to level A2 for UAB students. [A]</b></p> <p><b>**3.A.2. Improve information about language rights and responsibilities for international students. [N]</b></p> <p><b>*3.A.3. Improve access to online resources for learning Catalan for mobility students. [N]</b></p>

1. Institutional and management line	2. Teaching and research line	3. Mobility and reception line
	<p>English to new students. [A]</p> <hr/> <p>**2.A.8. Publish the range of English courses available clearly on the web. [N]</p> <p>**2.A.9. Adapt the policy of partial subsidies for Spanish courses to ERASMUS students. [A]</p> <p>**2.A.10. Improve the information on language resources that the UAB makes available to the university community. [N]</p> <hr/> <p>*2.A.11. Offer a test for French, Italian and German to new students in accordance with budget availability. [A]</p>	
<b>B. Innovation and creation of value</b>		
<p><b>***1.B.1. Formalise the figure of the representative for language policy in the centres. [N]</b></p> <p><b>***1.B.2. Establish a map of linguistic indicators that efficiently offer knowledge and allow evaluation of the language situation at the UAB and act upon it. [N]</b></p> <p><b>***1.B.3. Include the available language data in the University's data systems. [N]</b></p> <p><b>***1.B.4. Be involved in the definition of linguistic indicators used for financing the objectives of universities so that they take account of the basis of items to be evaluated and offer full guarantees that the evaluation adequately reflect the actions carried out by the universities.</b></p>	<p><b>***2.B.1. Offer a <i>minor</i> in Professional English studies. [N]</b></p> <p><b>***2.B.2. Offer language and methodological support for teaching and research staff (PDI) who have to teach in English. [A]</b></p> <p><b>***2.B.3. Offer training and testing to academic staff so that they can accredit the level of Sufficiency in the Catalan language. [A]</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>**2.B.4. Consolidate online learning in the field of languages. [N]</b></p> <p><b>**2.B.5. Consolidate the call for funding of doctoral theses written in Catalan and English. [A]</b></p> <p><b>**2.B.6. Produce and distribute resources that project the UAB as an intercultural university. [N]</b></p>	<p><b>***3.B.1. Establish channels for promoting internationalisation at home taking advantage of the presence of people from around the world within the university community.</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>**3.B.2. Offer preparation for students who go on mobility programmes: level test, courses, tandems, etc.</b></p> <p><b>**3.B.3. Promote language learning among mobility students (language volunteer scheme, cultural and linguistic support volunteers etc.)</b></p>

1. Institutional and management line	2. Teaching and research line	3. Mobility and reception line
<p><b>***1.B.5. Establish the internal circuit for monitoring language indicators used for the financing of university objectives.</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>**1.B.6. Improve the information on the language policy of the UAB: disseminate (intranet, web, e-mails) actions carried out in the area of language policy, in sectorial channels and in a permanent space for the Plan for Languages. [A]</b></p> <p><b>**1.B.7. Carry out and disseminate different terminological resources that facilitate the management of multilingualism at the UAB. [N]</b></p>		
<b>C. Environment</b>		
<p><b>*1.C.1. Expand the range of language services locally. [N]</b></p>	<p><b>*2.C.1. Organise academic events and techniques that contribute to projecting the UAB as a reference in the field of languages. [N]</b></p>	<p><b>**3.C.1. Improve information on resources for learning Catalan for international students.</b></p>
<b>D. Resources</b>		
<p><b>***1.D.1. Diversify the sources of financing for language services offered by the UAB. [N]</b></p>	<p><b>*2.D.1. Produce a report on the possibilities for recognition of language skills for academic staff. [A]</b></p>	<p><b>***3.D.1. Establish mechanisms for adapting resources for linguistic orientation for international and national students to the available resources. [N]</b></p>

