

## Bachelor's Degree in Bioinformatics

### FACT SHEET 2017-2018

BDBI provides students with specialized training in Bioinformatics. This Bachelor Program that applies computer sciences and information technology to process data from the field of biology.

#### TRIMESTER DATES 2017 - 2018

	First Trimester	Second Trimester	Third Trimester
<b>Nomination deadline</b>	June, 15 <sup>th</sup>	October, 1 <sup>st</sup>	January, 15 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Application deadline &amp; Course selection form</b>	July, 1 <sup>st</sup>	October, 15 <sup>th</sup>	January, 30 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Compulsory introductory Session</b>	September, 15 <sup>th</sup> 10:00 AM	January, 5 <sup>th</sup> 10:00 AM	TBA
<b>Classes</b>	From September, 18 <sup>st</sup> to November, 29 <sup>th</sup>	From January, 8 <sup>th</sup> to March, 16 <sup>th</sup>	From April, 5 <sup>th</sup> to June, 19 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Add-Drop period</b>	From September, 18 <sup>th</sup> to September, 25 <sup>th</sup>	From January, 8 <sup>th</sup> to January, 15 <sup>th</sup>	From April, 5 <sup>th</sup> to April, 12 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Final exams</b>	From December, 1 <sup>st</sup> to December, 15 <sup>th</sup>	From March, 19 <sup>th</sup> to April, 4 <sup>th</sup>	From June, 22 <sup>nd</sup> to June, 29 <sup>th</sup>

#### APPLICATION PROCEDURE

1. Nomination by the home university via email.
2. Nominated students receive the application materials via email.
3. Nominated students complete and return the application materials + additional documents.  
These documents can be sent through the international relations office of the home university.
4. Accepted students receive a letter of acceptance with the approved subjects.
5. Accepted students can request a student visa at a Spanish consulate (if applicable).

#### VISA REQUIREMENTS

Students who are citizens of an EU or EEA country or Switzerland and have an identity document or a valid national passport do not require a visa. Students staying for longer than three months will have to register with the Registro de Ciudadanos de la Unión Europea (Registry of European Union Citizens).

Students from a country outside the EU or the EEA (with the exception of Switzerland) and whose stay is longer than 90 days must obtain a student visa from the nearest Spanish embassy or consulate before

leaving their home country. In this case, a student visa is mandatory for any foreigner wishing to study in Spain. The process of applying for a student visa requires an acceptance letter from ESCI-UPF.

Please bear in mind the following points:

1. A tourist visa is not sufficient to stay in Spain for study purposes.
2. For stays in Spain of longer than six months, students must ensure they obtain a visa that allows them to apply for a Spanish student residence permit (autorización de estancia por estudios).
3. Students who obtain a 180-day student visa that allows only a single entry to the Schengen Area will not be permitted to extend their stay and will not be able to leave and re-enter Spain.

## **MEDICAL INSURANCE**

Students must take out medical insurance that is valid in Barcelona for the period of their stay.

Students who are citizens of a European Economic Area member country or Switzerland and who are entitled to coverage under the social security system of their country should obtain a European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) from health authorities in their home country.

While the European Health Insurance Card gives EU citizens access to medically necessary, state-provided healthcare during a temporary stay in Spain, the EHIC is not an alternative to travel insurance. It does not cover accidents, private health care, or costs such as a return flight to your home country or lost/stolen property. Moreover, the EHIC does not cover any costs incurred if the holder is travelling for the express purpose of obtaining medical treatment.

All international students, including those participating in the Erasmus programme, are required to have full coverage of risks during their stay in Spain. ESCI-UPF will verify that students have taken out at least accident and travel insurance (Univer Incoming Basic) to complement the coverage provided by the EHIC. These are the minimum requirements.

We also recommend that students consider other insurance packages that are available to UPF students at a special price. These packages cover the cost of medical care up to a set limit.

<http://universitats.cobertis.com/upf/es/>

Students who are citizens of non-EU countries should find out whether there is a mutual health provision agreement between the social security system of their home country and Spain (this is the case for a number of Latin American countries). If such an agreement exists, students can obtain a document from the relevant authorities in their home country that entitles them to free medical coverage in Spain. If not, prior to their departure students must take out private medical insurance for

the duration of their stay at ESCI-UPF. The Allianz insurance company offers packages to UPF students at a special price. For further information, click on the link below:

<http://universitats.cobertis.com/upf/es/>

## **ACCOMMODATION**

Students who intend to look for accommodation on arrival in Barcelona should reserve a hotel or hostel room well in advance. Finding a room can prove very difficult if an advance booking has not been made.

Barcelona Centre Universitari – BCU (RESA HOUSING) is the accommodation service offered by all universities in the Barcelona area. The service offers flats and rooms in Barcelona, in-home stays, residence halls, etc. – all with an assurance of quality, safety and cleanliness.

For more information and online registration, please contact:

Torrent de l'Olla, 219, 08012 Barcelona

Tel: +34 93 238 90 72 Fax: +34 93 228 92 59

Email: [info@bcn-housing-students.com](mailto:info@bcn-housing-students.com)

<http://www.resahousing.com/>

Office hours: Monday to Thursday from 09.30 to 13.30 and 15.30 to 17.30 / Friday from 9.00 to 14.00

Additional accommodation options are listed in the accommodation information document provided to students following nomination.

There are other accommodation possibilities listed in the Accommodation information document provided after nomination.

## **APPROXIMATE COST OF LIVING (PER MONTH)**

### **Accommodation:**

(it depends very much on the type of accommodation)

Renting a flat:	€900 - €1500
Renting a room in a shared flat:	€400 - €600
Students residence (depending on the food services included)	€500 - €900
<b>Food:</b>	€350 - €400
<b>Transport:</b>	€100
<b>Spending money:</b>	€250 - €300

## ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

Students may choose from a list of subjects taught as part of the programme of the Bachelor's Degree in Bioinformatics.

Courses for master's programmes are not open to exchange students.

## LANGUAGES OF INSTRUCTIONS

All classes are taught in English.

## LEARNING EXPECTATIONS

- Class format. The course content is delivered through master classes, computing classes and lab work. There are also seminars, individual and group tutorials.
- Attendance: Attendance rules may change from a subject to another which is always specified in the teaching plan for each subject. Students must attend 80% of practical classes to be graded for attendance and/or participation.
- Grading system. The Spanish grading system assigns numerical grades from 0 to 10. The minimum passing grade is a 5. The final grade is calculated based on continuous evaluation marks – for midterm exams, presentations, exercises, projects, attendance, participation, etc. – and the final evaluation mark (final exam grade). The grading policy is indicated in the teaching plan (syllabus) for each subject.
- Examinations. At the end of term, students must take a final exam that accounts for a specific percentage of the final grade.
- Class size. Classes range in size from 20 to 40 students, depending on the subject.
- Course load. There is no minimum or maximum course load requirement per term. However, all selected courses and the corresponding academic load must be approved by the home university coordinator. Full-time Spanish students generally take four to five courses per term (20 ECTS credits/term, 60 ECTS credits/academic year).
- Level of subjects. The content and level of a subject may be determined by consulting the syllabus and recommended reading (available and updated regularly at <http://www.esci.upf.edu/en/bachelors-degrees/bachelors-degree-in-bioinformatics/bioinformatics-programme/>)
- Each subject is located within the curriculum, and recommended prerequisites are specified in the course catalogue documents for each term which are provided to students after they have been nominated.

- Application and admission to courses. Students must complete an application form after their nomination. ESCI-UPF will send to students a link to submit their application.

## THE GRADING SYSTEM

The Spanish grading system is based on a scale from 0 to 10, where 5 is the minimum passing mark.

ESCI-UPF grading scale:

*Matrícula d'honor* – 10 (A with honours)

This is the highest grade and is awarded to a small number of students whose performance is considered exceptionally good (maximum 5% of enrolled students).

*Excel·lent* – from 9 to 10 (Very good)

Awarded to students whose performance is considered very good.

*Notable* – from 7 to 8.9 (Good)

Awarded to students whose performance is considered good.

*Aprovat* – from 5 to 6.9 (Pass)

Awarded to students whose performance is considered adequate.

*Suspens* – from 0 to 4.9 (Fail)

Students awarded this grade have not passed the subject.

*No presentat* (Not attended)

Awarded to students who did not take their final exam and who therefore have no final grade. This grade blocks access to any re-evaluation of synthesis activities.

*Convocatoria anul·lada* (Cancelled call)

Awarded to students who opted out of assessment. In this case, students need to complete and return an application form before the last day of classes in each trimester.

## COMPUTERS

In the Mar Campus, in the building Dr. Aiguader, students have a library, 5 computer rooms (which can be used when they are free), 5 laboratories and a microscopy room. Also, there is a study hall and a dining room, in addition to cafeteria services of the faculty.

Also, there is a permanent reception service, wireless, point of information for students, space for associations, and different types of laboratories. Also, students can reserve seminar rooms for working group activities.

## STUDENT SERVICES

International Relations Office. This is a service set up to help exchange and visiting international students adapt to life at the ESCI-UPF and in Barcelona.

Academic Counselling. Hafid Laayouni, the head of studies, provides academic assistance to exchange and visiting international students.

Students will have access to the main UPF library (Jaume I building – a 10-minute walk from the ESCI-UPF building). International students may borrow books from the library.

Students will have access to the services provided by the Language Volunteer Service (VL), which seeks to facilitate the linguistic and cultural integration of students and teachers from non-Catalan territories who are studying or teaching at the University. The service focuses on two areas: 1) a linguistic and cultural activity programme, aimed at organizing leisure and cultural activities to help students and teachers integrate, both linguistically and socially; and 2) a support programme for non-Catalan speakers, aimed at promoting linguistic and cultural exchange with students and teachers from outside the Catalan territories.

**International Doers:** this ESCI-UPF student association is committed to create the best exchange experiences for ESCI-UPF international students and they organize activities between the University, organizations and collaborative companies.

Contact information: [internationalDOERS@esci.upf.edu](mailto:internationalDOERS@esci.upf.edu)

Students will have access to programmes within the framework of the International Exchange Erasmus Student Network (ESN POM): the Mentor Programme and Erasmus Social.

<http://www.esnalaupf.org/upf/>

UPF students benefit from various advantages and discounts at sports clubs, travel agencies and language schools.

### **STUDYING SPANISH IN BARCELONA**

The UPF's language programme offers intensive Spanish courses (see website below for fees). The programme provides intensive Spanish training at the beginner, intermediate, advanced and proficiency level. Students can also take optional complementary modules on Spanish for Academic Purposes, Fluency Skills, the History of Barcelona, and the Catalan Language.

Visit the language programme website for further information on academic programmes and fees for UPF students.

<http://www.upf.edu/spanishprogram/>

### **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

**Jordi Puig**, Head of International Relations ESCI-UPF

[jordi.puig@esci.upf.edu](mailto:jordi.puig@esci.upf.edu)

**Hafid Laayouni**, Head of Studies BDBI

[hafid.laayouni@esci.upf.edu](mailto:hafid.laayouni@esci.upf.edu)

**Noelia Puig**, International Relations Office assistant (outgoing students)

[noelia.puig@esci.upf.edu](mailto:noelia.puig@esci.upf.edu)

**Laià Serradell**, International Relations Office assistant (incoming students)

[laia.serradell@esci.upf.edu](mailto:laia.serradell@esci.upf.edu)

### **ESCI-UPF**

#### **International Relations Office**

Email: [esci-intal@esci.upf.edu](mailto:esci-intal@esci.upf.edu)

Tel: +34.93.295.47.10 (ext 231)

Fax: +34.93.295.47.20