

Teaching in English at the faculty of business and economics

Coordinators of the proposal

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Background and description

The Faculty of Business and Economics (FEE) has always tried to develop projects with an international component. Since the introduction of new degrees at the FEE in 2009-10, our students have been given the opportunity to take several degree subjects in English. Table 1 shows the evolution of the subjects taught in English and the number of students enrolled.

Table 1. Subjects available in English and number of students enrolled.

SUBJECTS	09-10	10-11	11-12	12-13	13-14	14-15	15-16
Introduction to Microeconomics	16	25	21	17	36	28	24
Statistics I		30					
Mathematics I	16	26	31	29	24	28	17
Introduction to Macroeconomics	16	25	26	24	22	25	21
Principles of Applied Economics	17	27	20	19			22
Mathematics II	16	22	32	32	26	21	21
Business Organization	16		26	15	36	32	34
Commercial Law	16						
Microeconomics		19	21	31	25	36	21
Financial Management: Investment		15	24	17	15	42	18
Macroeconomics		16	16	25	9	18	18
Financial Management: Finance			25	33	25	36	22
World Economy			25	20	17	33	17
Further international trade							
International Finance			45	46	42	52	34
International Marketing			43	53	24	43	29
International Economics			32	35	32	54	31
International Economic Relations			48	31	41	50	39
Law International Market			25	31	25	42	21
Total	113	205	460	458	399	540	389

We can see that the range has increased from 7 subjects in 2009-10 (42 ECTS) to 16 subjects in 2015-16 (96 ECTS). On the other hand, the number of students enrolled in subjects taught in English has varied, though a minimum threshold could be set at of roughly 400.

The subjects taught in English can be divided into two main groups:

- The subjects of the Common Training Plan are compulsory to the three undergraduate programmes (Business and Management; Finance and Accounting; Economics). This allows a sufficient number of groups for one

of them to be taught in English. This programme involves a great effort in teaching organization because the schedules of these courses need to coincide with other groups taking the same subjects but taught in Catalan or Spanish. This is the only way that all students can study these subjects regardless of the group in which they are enrolled.

- ✦ The specialist minor in International Trade has five subjects (30 ECTS) that correspond to the optional credits all students must take in their undergraduate programme. Students may choose to take some or all of these minor subjects.

This programme was presented to the URV's Teaching in English Plan (DANG).

As already mentioned, the main aim of the range of undergraduate courses taught in English is to further develop internationalization at the Faculty. More specifically, there are five sub-objectives:

1. To enable our students who for financial or other reasons cannot go on mobility programmes at other universities to take some of their studies (40% of the credits) in English.

Table 2 shows the evolution of our outgoing exchange students over the last five years. Annex 1 shows the countries where these students have gone to study.

Table 2: Outgoing exchange students

Academic year	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14	14/15	Total
Erasmus	31	48	44	40	31	194
MOU	0	0	4	5	6	15
Sicue	3	7	2	0	0	12
TOTAL	34	55	50	45	37	221

A simple analysis of this data confirms that the number of outgoing mobility students has been decreasing (in 2015-16 there were 36 in total). We believe this decrease in the number of outgoing students can be explained by the economic problems of recent years, even though the Faculty provides a grant from the Fundación Privada Reddis of 500€ for stays of one term and 1,000€ stays of one year.

2. To increase the number of students from other universities who stay at our university. Until we began offering these courses in English, the Faculty received only

students with a good enough command of Spanish. This severely limited the chances of our Faculty being chosen as a destination. As happens in many non-English speaking countries (for instance, in Europe), if a university wants to attract a significant number of incoming mobility students, it has to offer courses in English.

Table 3 shows the evolution of our incoming exchange students over the last five years. Annex 2 shows the countries where these students have come from.

Table 3: Incoming mobility students.

Programme	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14	14/15	Total
Erasmus	37	35	32	23	48	175
MOU	1	7	20	5	18	51
Sicue	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL INCOMING STUDENTS	38	42	52	28	66	226

Except for 2013-14, for reasons we cannot explain, the number of foreign undergraduate students has increased considerably. In 2015-16 we had 68 incoming students (plus three students enrolled in the Faculty of Arts and Humanities who studied some subjects at our Faculty). Compared to 2010-11, this implies an increase of almost 80% and represents a large percentage of all the incoming mobility students at the URV. We are convinced that the range of courses taught in English is the main reason for this remarkable increase.

Moreover, the increase in incoming mobility students enables us to keep agreements active, since Faculties are more interested in an agreement when more of their students are involved. This allows us to have more active agreements every year, increase the number of places offered to our students, promote teacher exchanges, and increase our international visibility.

3. To enable our students and incoming mobility students to obtain significant specialisation by offering a specialist minor in International Trade in English. This gives our students the opportunity to specialise in the internalization of the company and international students the opportunity to study a specialization in which they have expressed a strong interest.

Though these courses are offered as components of a specialist minor, they can also be taken as individual subjects.

4. Initially, for students to obtain accreditation for their level of English. Students who gained admission between 2009-10 and 2013-14 could accredit their language proficiency (level B1) by passing 12 ECTS credits taught at the Faculty in English. This changed, however, in 2014-15 when level B2, which can only be accredited externally, became required. Nevertheless, taking subjects in English is clearly also a way to prepare oneself for this accreditation. Also, by taking these courses, students of the Faculty of Business and Economics learn economic and business terminology in English, which gives their curriculum added value.

5. To introduce a new Master's for 2016-17 – the Master's in International Markets – which would be taught partially in English. This would continue to pursue the objectives of promoting *internationalization at home* and attracting foreign students that began with the introduction of the new degrees.

This project would not have been possible without tremendous collective effort and a great deal of organization. However, we would mainly like to thank the many lecturers who have taken part, to recognize their endeavours, and to continue to expand the range of courses taught in English.

Annex 1. Destination of outgoing exchange students.

Programme	Country	10-11	11-12	12-13	13-14	14-15
ERASMUS	Germany	1	8	1	2	2
	Austria	2	2	2	2	1
	Belgium					2
	Scotland	2	3	3	2	4
	Slovakia		2	4	2	
	France	11	13	14	14	7
	Greece		1	1	1	
	Netherlands	3	4	4	2	2
	Ireland	2	2	2	2	2
	Italy	4	7	7	4	5
	Lithuania				2	
	Poland	1	1		1	3
	Portugal		1		2	
	United Kingdom					
	Romania	3	3			
	Sweden	2	1	4	4	3
	Switzerland			2		
	Argentina			1	1	
	Brazil			1	2	
	Canada					2
MOU	Colombia					
	United States				1	4
	Morocco					
	Mexico					
	China			2	1	
	Spain	3	7	2		
	SICUE	TOTAL COUNTRIES	1	1	1	0
	TOTAL OUTGOING STUDENTS	3	7	2	0	0
ALL PROGRAMMES	TOTAL COUNTRIES	11	14	15	17	12
	TOTAL OUTGOING STUDENTS	34	55	50	45	37

Annex 2. Home countries of incoming students.

Programme	Country	10-11	11-12	12-13	13-14	14-15
ERASMUS	Germany	5	2	3	4	4
	Austria			1		2
	Azerbaijan					1
	Belgium					1
	Scotland			2		
	Slovakia		2	1	2	4
	France	9	10	8	6	12
	Georgia					1
	Greece		2			
	Netherlands					3
	Ireland					
	Italy	14	11	9	9	15
	Lithuania		2	3	1	1
	Poland	2	1			2
	Portugal					
	United Kingdom					
	Romania	6	4	1	1	2
	Sweden	1	1	2		
	Switzerland			2		
	Argentina			6		1
	Brazil					
	Canada		2	2		
Colombia		1			3	
United States					1	6
Kazakhstan					2	
Morocco						
Mexico	1	4	9		3	
Chile						2
China			3	2	3	
Spain						
SICUE						
ALL PROGRAMMES	TOTAL INCOMING STUDENTS	38	42	52	28	66

