

Service Learning (SL)

University of Barcelona

Various faculties and areas of knowledge: Fine Arts, Biology, Law, Economics and Business, Education, Social Work, Pharmacy and Food Sciences, Philology, Earth Sciences, Medicine and Health Sciences and Chemistry.

Educational Innovation Groups

<http://www.ub.edu/grupapsub/ca>

Programme description

For ten years now, several courses at the University of Barcelona have been fostering service learning (in Catalan, Aprentatge i Servei, or ApS), developing a socially useful educational methodology.

Service learning is an education and research method that combines community service and academic learning into a single project that allows students to learn while working on the real needs around them and thereby improving their environment. It looks to link academic knowledge with practical activity, to offer a learning experience that is also socially useful, and to contribute to the education of the population and future professionals.

Service learning projects can be designed within the framework of a single subject, transversally as part of an education process, as practicum or end of undergraduate or master's degree projects, or can run in an interdisciplinary manner. All these possibilities can help to recognise the student's work academically.

It is an educational proposal that combines learning processes during studies, research and community service in a single project. Service learning is not just a learning strategy to get students to acquire more and better knowledge, even if they optimise their learning, and neither is it a set of volunteering tasks to raise student awareness, although it does include help for the community as a dynamic form of learning.

The ApS team has been working since 2013 on the dissemination and extension of service learning at the UB. It is totally interdisciplinary in nature, since it integrates teaching staff from a variety of faculties and knowledge areas: Fine Arts, Biology, Law, Economics and Business, Education, Social Work, Pharmacy and Food Science, Philology, Earth Sciences, Medicine and Health Sciences and Chemistry. The UB is currently developing service learning projects in all these areas.

In 2016-2107, a total of 1,450 students and 94 lecturers from 10 faculties participated and there was interaction with 85 different partners.

Examples include the Faculty of Biology, where the service learning methodology covered issues presented by the UN in its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), as set out in the 2030 Agenda, by including them in the Final Projects of the Faculty's different degree courses (Environmental Sciences, Biology, Biochemistry, Biotechnology and Biomedical Sciences).

*In the case of Nursing, service learning is developed on the Community Nursing course through the *Compartir Idees, la universitat va a l'institut* (Sharing Ideas, University goes to High School) framework project, an educational service in which UB students give workshops to schoolchildren on health issues. Also, on Final Projects, the ApS is promoting physical activity to improve the health of women at the stage of maturity and the onset of aging in collaboration with primary care centres (CAP).*



*The *Identitats i miralls: com ens veiem i com ens veuen?* (Identities and mirrors: how do we see ourselves and how are we seen?) project, run in La Mina neighbourhood by students of Communication and Documentation on the Social Work degree, won the Internet category at the XXI Premis Civisme als Mitjans de Comunicació, awarded by the Government of Catalonia's General Directorate of Civic and Community Action.*

University of Barcelona support programme for refugees and people from conflict zones

University of Barcelona

University of Barcelona, vice-rectors' offices, different departments and faculties

<http://www.solidaritat.ub.edu/refugees/>

Programme description

Since 2015, the University of Barcelona's commitment to the incorporation of refugees and people from conflict zones in university studies has been developed through a series of lines of intervention grouped into the **Support programme for refugees and people from conflict zones**. This programme is coordinated and run by the Fundació Solidaritat UB, and is part of the University of Barcelona's social responsibility which, in the context of a globalised world, involves firm commitment to contributing to the construction of a peaceful and fair society on the basis of cooperation and solidarity.

The actions carried out within the framework of the aforesaid program have consisted, first, of **helping students that are refugees or in comparable situations** to find accommodation, enrol for undergraduate, master's, postgraduate and doctorate degrees, and take language courses for foreigners. These students have also been given psychological care, legal counselling and specific healthcare.

The programme's activities have been run on the basis of networking both on the internal level of the University of Barcelona (involving 12 departments, faculties and/or areas) and externally in collaboration with 21 entities, including local public administrations and NGOs, 36% of which are international.

A second action has been the **Transition course to undergraduate degrees and education in human rights and a culture of peace (2015-2017)**. Co-funded by Barcelona City Council, this is a pioneering programme, the first in Spain and Europe, that aims to help students from conflict zones to take undergraduate, master's or vocational courses in Barcelona.

The course was designed in consideration of previous experiences at the University of Barcelona with refugees (for example, with refugees from the Balkans in the late 1990s), as well as the experience of student refugees and from conflict zones. The course teaches students languages, knowledge of the environment and about university entrance, and introduces them to human rights and peace-making.

It has an initial duration of 300 hours and was run in 2016 with an initial offer of 15 places.

The second edition in 2017-2018 also had an initial offer of 15 places, but an extended duration of 400 class hours.

In addition, the Programme has also run **3 projects** related with refugees: **Mare Nostrum** (financed by the Catalan Cooperation for Development Fund) which, through work with the local public administration and various associations, aims to foster the use of refugees as peace-makers; **InHere** (financed by KA203 - Erasmus+ Strategic Partnerships 2016) which, over a two-year period, seeks to facilitate the integration and access of refugees to European universities; and

RESCUE (financed by KA2 - Capacity Building in the Field of Higher Education) that aims to support universities in Jordan, Lebanon and Iraq in the creation of offices for attending to refugee students.

Also, as a consequence of the dissemination of the initiatives implemented within the framework of the Programme, a broad spectrum of institutions, organisations and members of the University of Barcelona community have approached the Fundació Solidaritat UB to communicate and/or seek support with different **charity programmes**, which are being answered and catalogued.

The Programme has also collaborated and joined in with different **participation schemes** (Xarxa Vives, ACUP, CRUE, Grup de Coïmbra, Barcelona Ciutat Refugi, among others) in the field of refugees.

Finally, we should highlight the **visibility of the Programme in the media** through slots on television, the press and digital publications.



SUMMARY OF 2016 DATA

- » Consolidation of a work group made up **4 people** with specific training in relation to refugees, asylum and human rights.
- » Development of **7 lines of action**.
- » Management of **174 requests for support**.
- » Intense **networking**,
- » **14 students** passed the first edition of the Transition course to undergraduate degrees and education in human rights and a culture of peace.

