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Pompeu Fabra University joins The Guild of European Research-Intensive Universities

Pompeu Fabra University (Spain) has joined The Guild as its twenty-first member.

Just three decades old, Pompeu Fabra University (UPF) has swiftly conquered a notable position among the best universities in Europe and the world. Named after Pompeu Fabra i Poch (1868 – 1948), engineer and grammarian who consolidated and systematised the Catalan language, the university was created in 1990 driven by the ambition to strengthen academic excellence and contribute to the development of society. Still at the core of its mission today, these aims guide UPF’s innovative teaching model addressing over 12,000 students, whilst reinforcing its commitment to tackling global challenges through the institution’s multidisciplinary expertise.

Delighted with UPF’s membership of The Guild, Rector Jaume Casals considers that “being part of The Guild is a clear statement of UPF’s drive to internationalisation and cooperation with some of Europe’s leading universities. Through The Guild we will leverage our excellence in teaching and research – both crucial to enhancing UPF’s capacity to address societal challenges – by sitting at the heart of social and cultural progress and policy debates that shape the future of Europe’s Higher Education research and innovation landscape”.

The Guild’s Presidents have been impressed by the University’s very strong performance against all the membership criteria. Ranked 10th young university worldwide by the Times Higher Education Global Rankings (2021), Pompeu Fabra University is ranked as the top University in the Iberian Peninsula. Presidents were also inspired by UPF’s capture of European research-funding, particularly in breakthrough research, as UPF is the most successful Spanish institution in obtaining European Research Council (ERC) funding since 2014.

Vincent Blondel, Chair of The Guild, said: “We are extremely pleased to expand further the geographical diversity of The Guild with a member from the Iberian Peninsula. Pompeu Fabra University brings to The Guild a particular experience of achieving global distinction in research, teaching and public impact in a very short time, across the entire disciplinary spectrum. Four years since its creation, The Guild is now fully grown, at 21!”

Following its creation in 2016 with 18 members, The Guild was joined by the University of Bern in 2017 and Babeş-Bolyai University in 2020, bringing together research excellence from some the best universities from across the European continent. By welcoming Pompeu Fabra University as The Guild’s twenty-first member, The Guild reiterates a commitment to

representing Europe's academic institutions, its students and researchers, in a comprehensive and thoughtful manner.

Jan Palmowski, Secretary-General of The Guild, commented: "Pompeu Fabra enriches The Guild as a young, comprehensive university that has managed to establish an outstanding reputation in a short period of time. It adds to the diversity of our membership – of universities founded in the medieval period to universities established in living memory – that all share a commitment to academic excellence in teaching and research, and a dedication to society – we look forward to working with colleagues from UPF!"

Pompeu Fabra University (UPF)

Founded in 1990, UPF is a public university based in Barcelona that is highly competitive in research and aims to transform education to respond to future challenges.

In a context of major global challenges, UPF has undertaken an imperative commitment as a university institution: to help find solutions for the main challenges facing humanity and the planet, which are set out in the [Planetary Wellbeing](#) initiative.

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The Guild of European Research-Intensive Universities

Founded in 2016, The Guild currently comprises twenty of Europe's most distinguished research-intensive universities in fifteen countries, and is dedicated to enhancing the voice of academic institutions, their researchers and their students. The Guild is committed to the pursuit of excellence, the importance of truth-seeking and trust-building as the foundation of public life, and the creation of new knowledge for the benefit of society, culture, and economic growth.

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