

The logo for Universitat de Politècnica de Catalunya (UPF), consisting of the lowercase letters 'upf.' in a white serif font inside a teal square.

Barcelona International  
Summer School

2026



# Welcome

## From our International Programs Academic Director



The UPF Barcelona International Summer School (BISS) provides an opportunity to engage in rigorous, innovative, and research-driven academic study in a truly international environment. Courses are led by UPF faculty actively involved in cutting-edge research across multiple disciplines, giving participants direct exposure to the methods, findings, and debates shaping contemporary scholarship. Through lectures, seminars, field trips, and hands-on projects, students critically examine complex ideas and develop skills to apply knowledge in practical and innovative ways.

Studying in Barcelona offers a unique context that cannot be replicated elsewhere. The city's architecture, history, cultural institutions, and social and economic dynamics create an immersive environment where academic theory meets lived experience. During the month of July, participants will be able to explore local culture, contemporary social issues, and the arts, linking classroom learning with real-world observation and analysis.

The BISS emphasizes both interdisciplinary engagement and personal growth. Students work alongside peers from around the world, gaining firsthand experience of diverse perspectives and approaches. The program challenges participants to step beyond familiar boundaries, tackle intellectual and practical challenges, and cultivate resilience, creativity, and independence.

UPF is committed to academic excellence, intellectual rigor, and transformative learning. The Summer School supports students in developing a distinctive academic profile while expanding their global outlook. It invites participants to embrace challenge, deepen critical thinking, and experience UPF as a unique setting for scholarship, exploration, and personal development.

**Prof. Josep Ibáñez**

A photograph of two young women standing outdoors in a city setting, smiling at the camera. The woman on the left has curly hair, wears sunglasses on her head, a light pink top, and a black bag. The woman on the right has braided hair, wears sunglasses, a striped crop top, and denim shorts. The background shows buildings and a clear blue sky. There are decorative geometric shapes: a teal triangle in the top left, a yellow square in the top right, and a teal triangle in the bottom right.

*I loved our class discussions. They led me to have life-changing perceptions that I will always cherish, especially returning home.*

**Mireya Trelles**

Western Connecticut State University

# Barcelona International Summer School 2026

## Important dates

### Program dates

From June 29 to July 24, 2026.

### Orientation sessions

Online pre-arrival sessions: TBA

Social meet-up and orientation activities: June 27 and 28.

On-site Welcome session: June 29.

### Application rounds

There will be three open periods to accept applications:

- **March Round** will be open from March 2nd to March 15th, 2026.
- **April Round** will be open from April 1st to April 14th, 2026.
- **May Round** will be open from May 4th to May 17th, 2026.



upf.

Barcelona International  
Summer School

### Flexible Summer

Make your summer exactly what you want it to be: short and focused or full-time and immersive.

**Duration:** 1–4 weeks  
**Schedule:** Morning and/or Afternoon  
**ECTS:** 2–16  
**Classes:** Monday to Friday

Our program gives you the freedom to study for **one, two, three, or four weeks**, choosing **morning, afternoon, or both** sessions.

June 29 - July 3	July 6 - 10	July 13 - 17	July 20 - 24
4-week courses			
2-week courses		2-week courses	
1- week courses	1- week courses	1- week courses	1- week courses

### Three types of courses

Each course lasts **1, 2, or 4 weeks**. Combine courses of different durations to **build up your credits** and make the most of your summer.

	Duration	ECTS	Hours	Slot
	1 week	2	15	Morning or Afternoon
	2 weeks	4	30	Morning or Afternoon
	4 weeks	6	45	Morning or Afternoon

# Academic Information

## Design your own schedule

Think of our courses as **building blocks**. You can combine courses to **create a schedule that fits your goals**. Here are a few sample combinations to inspire your own plan:

### A. Short & Intensive – 1 Week, 2 Courses

	W1	W2	W3	W4
Morning				
Afternoon				

**Duration:** 1 week

**Schedule:** Morning + Afternoon

**Courses:** 1-week course in the morning and 1-week course in the afternoon

**Total ECTS:** 4 ECTS

**Total hours:** 30 hours

### B. Full Immersion – 4 Weeks, 3 Courses

	W1	W2	W3	W4
Morning				
Afternoon				

**Duration:** 4 weeks

**Schedule:** Morning + Afternoon

**Courses:** two 2-week courses in the morning and one 4-week course in the afternoon

**Total ECTS:** 14 ECTS

**Total hours:** 105 hours

### C. Deep Focus – 4 Weeks, 2 Courses

	W1	W2	W3	W4
Morning				
Afternoon				

**Duration:** 4 weeks

**Schedule:** Mornings for 4 weeks + Afternoon for one week only

**Courses:** one 4-week course in the morning and one 1-week course in the afternoon

**Total ECTS:** 8 ECTS

**Total hours:** 60 hours

### D. Variety Pack – 4 Weeks, 4 Courses

	W1	W2	W3	W4
Morning				
Afternoon				

**Duration:** 4 weeks

**Schedule:** Morning + Afternoon

**Courses:** two 2-week courses in the morning and two 2-week courses in the afternoon

**Total ECTS:** 16 ECTS

**Total hours:** 120 hours

# Summer School 2026

## Preliminary Academic Offer

Our academic offerings are organized into **tracks** to help you navigate your learning path. By completing at least 8 ECTS within a track, you'll **earn a certificate** that highlights your focused area of study.

### Artificial Intelligence

Artificial Intelligence, Creativity, and Society	4 ECTS
Artificial Intelligence, Digital Markets and Consumers	4 ECTS
Critical Approaches to Artificial Intelligence and Network Society	6 ECTS
From Data to AI: Social, Ethical and Legal Dimensions	2 ECTS

### Global Politics

Shifting Grounds in the Middle East and North Africa?: Understanding International Relations and Foreign Policy in the Region	4 ECTS
Gender, Power, and Violence	4 ECTS
Justicia global y desarrollo sostenible	4 ECTS
The European Union and Spain in the Global World: Policies to Transform our Societies in the context of 2030 Agenda	4 ECTS
Exploring Catalonia: History, Politics, and Society	4 ECTS

### Media & Culture

Power and Passions: Barcelona through the Lens of History	2 ECTS
First-Person Cinema: Narratives of the Self	6 ECTS
El poder de las imágenes: representaciones visuales del poder y la esfera pública	2 ECTS
Barcelona on Stage: Documentary Workshop	6 ECTS
Art and the Law: How Aesthetic Concepts Shape Legal Disputes about Arts	4 ECTS

### Health & Wellbeing

Humanism in Medicine	4 ECTS
From Bench to Bedside: Drug Development, Clinical Trials, and Publishing in Biomedical Sciences	4 ECTS
Nanomedicine Principles	2 ECTS
Contemporary Discourses and Narratives of Aging	2 ECTS
Health Inequalities: Understanding our Worst Epidemic	2 ECTS

### Business & Economy

Culture and Business: Spain's Top Brands	6 ECTS
Getting to know the Economies of the European Union	6 ECTS
Finance for a Sustainable Economy	2 ECTS
Modern Statistical Computing	6 ECTS

#### Courses at ESCI-UPF School of International Business

Culture and Sustainability for Companies in Europe (22.5 h)	3 ECTS
Culture and Sustainability for Companies in Europe (22.5 h)	3 ECTS
International Dynamics and Cross-Cultural Negotiation: Global Environment (22.5 h)	3 ECTS
International Dynamics and Cross-Cultural Negotiation: Corporate Environment (22.5 h)	3 ECTS

### Language Skills

Conversar en Español (Beginners - A1)	4 ECTS
---------------------------------------	--------



# Social Program

Our social program is **unique** as it gives you a chance to engage with the **UPF community** and experience a true taste of what it's like to study at UPF.

Meet fellow students, enjoy cultural and leisure activities, and take part in sports alongside local students: **all included in your summer school fee.**

## Some of our activities:

- Welcome Drinks
- Debate & Dialogue Gatherings
- Film Screenings
- Beach Sports & Yoga
- City Tours & Group Outings
- Networking with Faculty & Students
- Discover local initiatives





# Our Campuses

The BISS takes place across four UPF campuses, which are strategically located throughout the city, providing students with convenience as well as well-connected access.

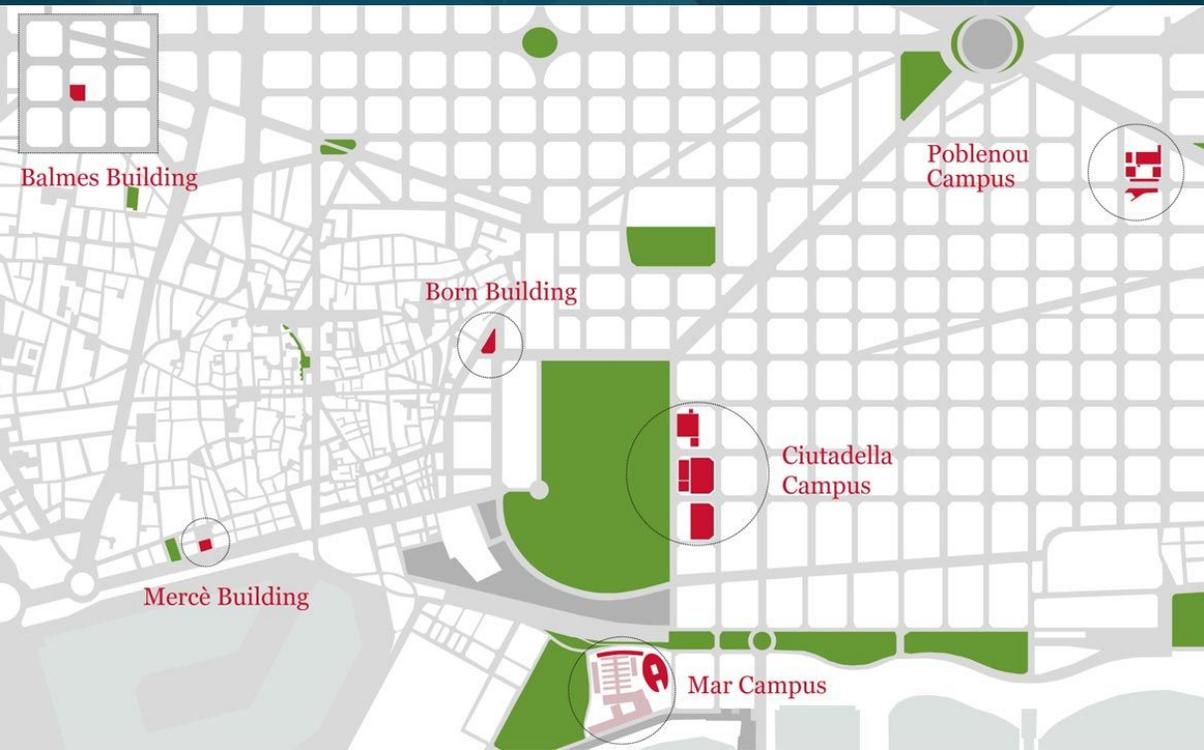
**Ciutadella Campus:** Located in Barcelona's historic city centre, near El Born and Ciutadella Park, this campus hosts programs in Law, Political Science, Humanities, Economics, and Business.

**Poblenou Campus:** Situated in Barcelona's innovation district, close to start-ups and city labs, this campus is home to IT and Communication Studies programs.

**Mar Campus:** Near the Mediterranean, this campus offers modern facilities for Science and Health Studies.

**ESCI – Born Building:** Affiliated with UPF, ESCI is an international business school providing programs in international business and management, located in the Born district.

Nearby public transport: Metro | Tram | Bus | Bike share



# Summer School 2026

## How to Apply

### Admission requirements

- Be enrolled in an **undergraduate** program and have successfully completed at least the first year of studies (typically 2nd, 3rd, or 4th year students).
- Hold a minimum Grade Point Average (GPA) of **3.0 on a 4.0 scale** (equivalent to a 7 out of 10 on a UPF scale or a B+).
- Demonstrate a **good command of the language of instruction** of the chosen course.

### Exceptional Admissions

In exceptional cases, postgraduate students or professionals who can provide evidence of relevant experience and a strong motivation to participate may be admitted to certain courses, even if they are not enrolled in a degree program at the time of registration. The fulfillment of these requirements will be assessed by the BISS Academic Director.

### Application process

- 1. Check Eligibility Requirements**  
Review the course descriptions carefully to ensure you meet all prerequisites before applying.
- 2. Assemble Your Application Materials**  
Prepare all required documents in the correct formats before starting your application, including your Academic Transcript, passport and insurance.
- 3. Maintain Deadlines and Apply Early**  
Check our [website](#) for deadlines of each intake round and submit your application as soon as possible to secure your place.
- 4. Connect with our support team**  
If you have any questions or need guidance during the process, write us an email or [book a videocall with our team](#).





## Program Fees 2026

The following 2026 prices are provisional and subject to official confirmation in December 2025.

### Program Registration Fee

€150\*

\*Students from **UPF partner universities** are exempt and do not need to pay the registration fee.

Individual Courses	Fees	Bundles	Fees
1-week course	€566.50	Any two courses totaling 8 ECTS or more	€1,493.50
2-week course	€772.50		
4-week course	€927.00	Any three courses totaling 8 ECTS or more	€1,802.50

### Services Included

- Pre-arrival online orientation session
- On-site Welcome & Info Session
- Access to course materials and resources
- Access to student services (student digital card, Wi-Fi, IT and library services, academic adjustments and support for students with disabilities)
- Official transcript upon completion of the course
- Local discovery & cultural activities integrated into course content
- Access to the Social Program activities

### Not Included

- Travel to and from the host university
- Accommodation (special rates for our students in nearby student halls and residences)
- Meals are not included, but the campus canteen offers affordable menus.
- Insurance, visa, and handling services are not provided.
- Tuition for courses outside the 2-course track

# Terms and Conditions

## 1. Course of Agreement

By submitting an application, paying the fee and registering for the program, the student ("you") confirms that they accept these Terms & Conditions and agree to comply with them. UPF reserves the right to amend the Terms & Conditions from time to time; the version in force at the time of your enrollment shall apply.

## 2. Eligibility & Admission

2.1 Students must meet the eligibility criteria set out in the BISS application guidelines.

2.2 Admission is subject to program capacity and UPF's acceptance decision.

2.3 You agree to provide accurate and complete application information. UPF may withdraw acceptance if any information is false or misleading.

## 3. Program Content & Schedule

3.1 BISS offers credit-bearing courses in English or Spanish, with flexible combinations of one to four weeks.

3.2 UPF will use reasonable efforts to deliver the courses and the social program as described but reserves the right to alter course schedules, instructors, content or the social program for reasons including low enrollment, instructor availability or force majeure.

3.3 UPF is not liable for changes to course content, instructors, schedule, or the social events that are outside its reasonable control.

## 4. Fees & Payment

4.1 The program fees are as published on the BISS website or in official materials at the time of your application.

4.2 Failure to pay by the required deadline may result in forfeiture of your place.

4.4 Fees do not include travel to Barcelona, accommodation, meals, local transport, insurance or other incidental costs.

## 5. Cancellation and Refunds

5.1 The registration fee is non-refundable. If you cancel more than 30 days before the program start date, you will receive a full refund of the tuition fees, excluding the non-refundable registration fee. If you cancel within 30 days before the program start date, 50% of the tuition fees will be refunded, while the registration fee remains non-refundable.

5.2 No refunds will be issued for cancellations made on or after the program start date, or if you withdraw during the program, unless otherwise agreed by UPF in its discretion. A full refund, including the registration fee, may only be granted in extenuating circumstances.

5.3 UPF reserves the right to cancel the program or individual courses due to insufficient enrollment or other causes beyond its control. In such case, a full refund of the fee will be given (and UPF shall have no further liability).

5.4 If a refund is due, we will contact you to request payment details. Refunds are processed at the exchange rate in effect on the refund date. Bank charges are your responsibility, and the University is not liable for any shortfall due to exchange rate fluctuations.

5.5 UPF recommends that you take out adequate travel and health/accident insurance and that you consider the risk of non-refund if you need to withdraw.

## 6. Visa, Travel, Accommodation & Insurance

6.1 You are responsible for obtaining any visa, immigration permissions, travel arrangements, accommodation, health insurance and other logistics. UPF may provide guidance but cannot guarantee outcomes.

6.2 You must have valid health/accident/ travel insurance covering your stay in Barcelona for the full duration of the program, including any pre-course arrival or post-course departure periods.

6.3 UPF accepts no responsibility for your travel or accommodation arrangements, or for any disruption caused by visa issues, transport delay, strikes, pandemics or other events beyond its control.

## 7. Code of Conduct & Health & Safety

7.1 You must comply with UPF's rules, code of ethics, regulations and any site/facility protocols whilst on campus or participating in BISS activities.

7.2 You must behave responsibly, respect fellow students, staff, property and local laws. Any behavior which in UPF's opinion is harmful, disruptive or illegal may result in your removal from the program without refund.

7.3 You agree to follow any health & safety instructions or emergency procedures issued by UPF or local authorities. UPF is not liable for injury, illness, or loss which arises out of your breach of these obligations or your own negligence.

## 8. Intellectual Property & Use of Materials

8.1 Course materials provided by UPF or its instructors remain the intellectual property of the respective rights-holders. You may use them only for your personal educational purposes and must not reproduce or distribute without permission.

8.2 UPF may use photographs, video or other media taken during the program for promotional or educational purposes; you grant UPF a non-exclusive, royalty-free license to use your likeness in such materials unless you notify UPF otherwise in writing at the time of registration.

(continues)

## **Terms and Conditions (continued)**

8.3 In accordance with the Disciplinary Regime of Students at UPF, plagiarism and any form of academic misconduct, including the unauthorized use of generative AI tools, are strictly prohibited. Any such misconduct in coursework or exams will result in failure of the course and may lead to additional disciplinary action.

### **9. Certificate & ECTS Credits**

9.1 Upon successful completion of the coursework and fulfillment of attendance and assessment criteria, UPF will issue you with a certificate recognizing your participation in BISS.

9.2 Earning the certificate requires completion of the minimum credit or course requirements as published for the program.

9.3 The certificate does not guarantee further academic recognition; recognition of ECTS credits by other institutions is subject to their individual policies.

### **10. Limitation of Liability**

10.1 To the extent permitted by law, UPF's liability to you for any claim arising in connection with BISS (whether in contract, tort or otherwise) is limited to the fee you paid for the relevant part of the program.

10.2 In no event will UPF be liable for any indirect, special or consequential losses (including loss of earnings, data, opportunity, or reputation).

10.3 Nothing in these Terms will limit UPF's liability for death or personal injury caused by its negligence or any other liability which cannot be excluded by law.

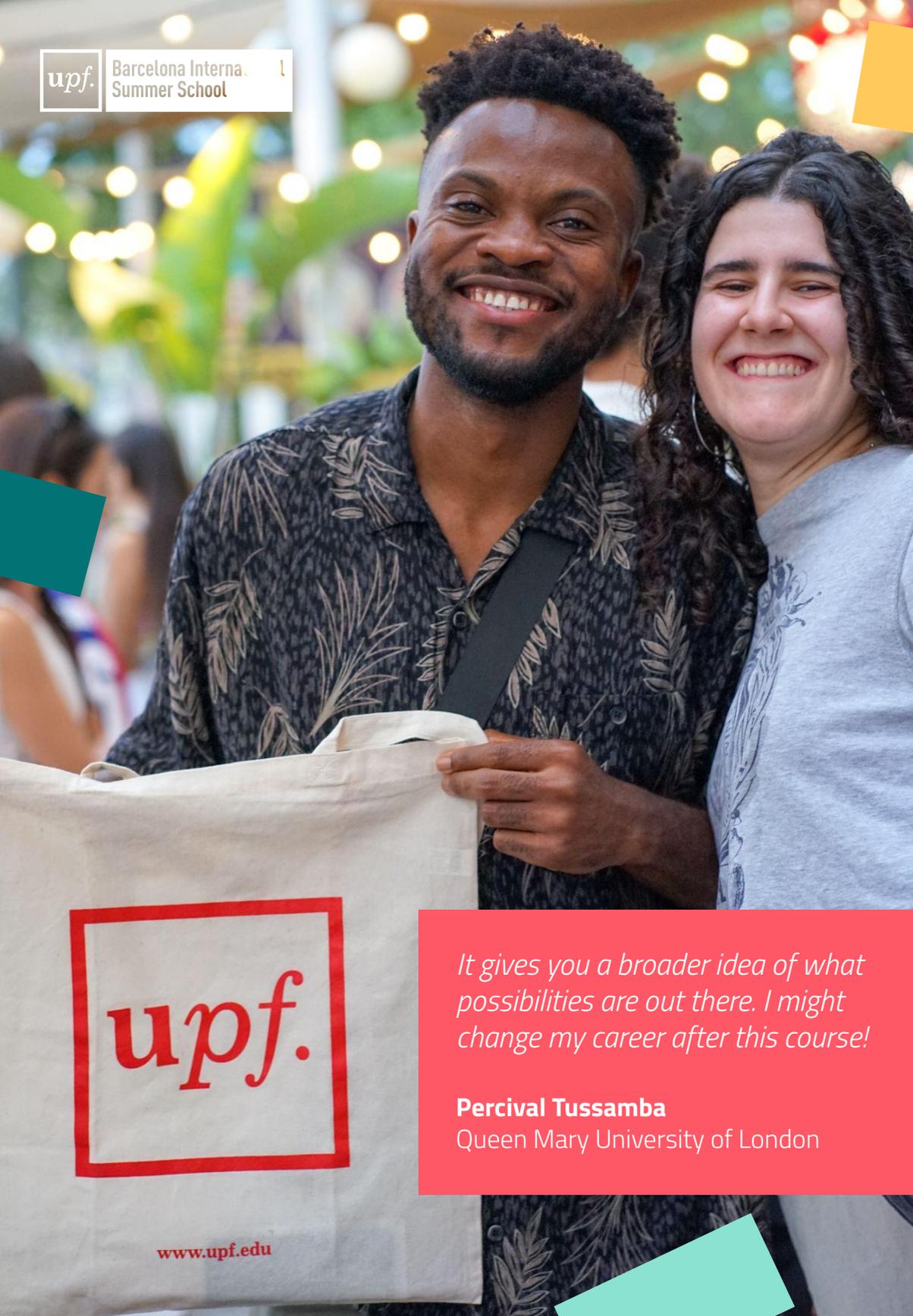
### **11. Data Protection**

11.1 Personal data you provide will be processed by UPF for the purposes of administration of BISS, communication, billing, records and statistical purposes.

11.2 UPF will handle your personal data in compliance with applicable data protection laws. For more details, see UPF's privacy policy. For more information about our privacy practices, please visit [UPF's privacy statement and privacy policy](#).

upf.

Barcelona International  
Summer School



*It gives you a broader idea of what possibilities are out there. I might change my career after this course!*

**Percival Tussamba**

Queen Mary University of London

[www.upf.edu](http://www.upf.edu)



## Contact Us

For any questions, please contact:

**Anna Sala Branchadell**

UPF Barcelona International Summer School Coordinator  
International Relations Service

Phone: +34 93 5422895

Email: [anna.sala@upf.edu](mailto:anna.sala@upf.edu)



[https://www.upf.edu/web/barcelonasummerschool/  
barcelonasummerschool@upf.edu](https://www.upf.edu/web/barcelonasummerschool/barcelonasummerschool@upf.edu)

 @internationalupf

Universitat Pompeu Fabra

[www.upf.edu](http://www.upf.edu)