

ETSAV

The background of the cover is a photograph of the ETSAV building. The building is a multi-story structure with a light-colored, textured facade. It features a series of vertical columns that create a covered walkway on the ground floor. Several windows are visible, some of which are narrow and horizontal. A person in a dark jacket is walking away from the camera along the walkway. The sky is a pale, clear blue.

WELCOME GUIDE

Escola
Tècnica
Superior
d'Arquitectura
del Vallés

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Tècnica
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WELCOME GUIDE

WELCOME! BENVINGUTS!
BENVINGUDES!

THE SCHOOL L'ESCOLA
Studying at ETSAV

CAMPUS CAMPUS

Critt
CiSol
Low3
Ressó
Computer Facilities
Library
Modeling Workshop
Employment Bureau
Student Representatives
Canteen

HOW THE SCHOOL WORKS
COM FUNCIONA L'ECOLA

Academic Calendar
Curriculum Syllabus
Teaching Department Tasks
Admission Requirements
The international office
Insurances
Language Courses
The language environment at UPC

THE CITY LA CIUTAT

Sant Cugat
Barcelona
Transport
Housing

OFF-CAMPUS ACTIVITIES

ACTIVITATS FORA DEL CAMPUS
Visiting
Festivities

WELCOME!

BENVINGUTS!

BENVINGUDES!

WELCOME! *Benvinguts! Benvingudes!*

Welcome to the Escola Tècnica Superior d'Arquitectura del Vallès, UPC-BarcelonaTech, a metropolitan school of architecture where values such as **customised attention, interdisciplinary work, experimentation and social commitment** are specially taken into account as part of the excellence in our graduates' comprehensive training.

Take a glance at the website and you will be aware of the school's activities as well as the wide variety of collaborations to which you might have access.

If you join our school's campus life as a student or as part of the teaching faculty or administration and service personnel, you will be part of a community distinguished by its enthusiasm, rigour and curiosity, all of them elements that stimulate creativity.

The 1:10 professor-student ratio makes it possible to provide a more personal approach to teaching, which favours interaction when working in teams and in joint workshops. Additionally, collaboration among professors from different departments — especially in the Architecture and Design Workshop — is a unique experience in the teaching of architecture.

Through our/your school:

- You will go into a network of Spanish and European architecture schools with which we are related in both teaching and researching.
- You will enlist in current projects of different research teams at school.
- You will prove a superb cooperative spirit among students in the school.

ETSAV stands as the metropolitan School of Architecture at UPC_BarcelonaTECH. Founded in the mid 70's, this privileged location provides the ideal frame for the exploration of contemporary topics in Architecture & Urbanism. Deeply rooted in its territory, ETSAV treasures a very international profile too:

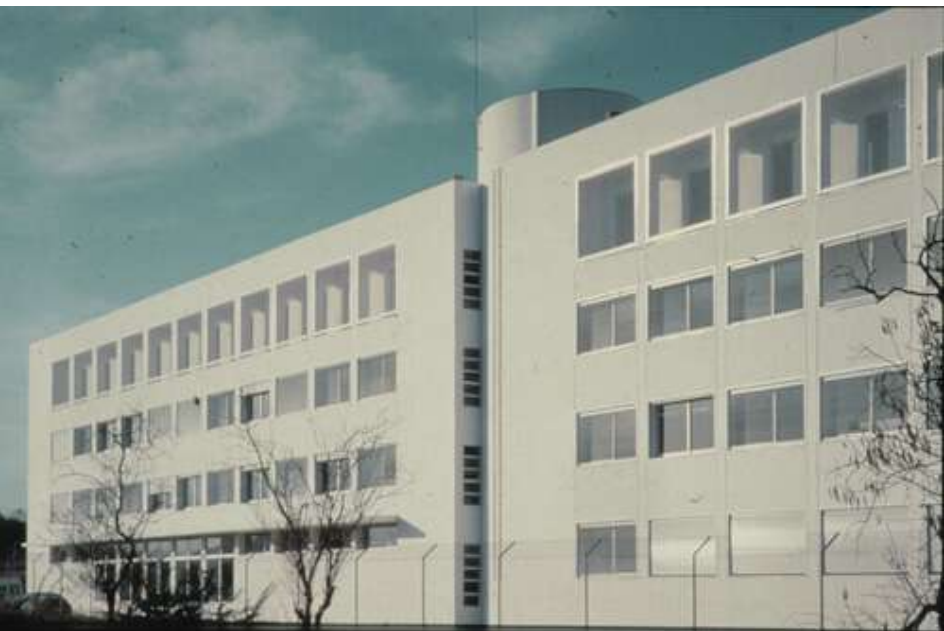
- ETSAV is the Alma Mater of the Pritzker Architecture Prize 2017 Laureates, Rafael Aranda, Carme Pigem and Ramon Vilalta, RCR Arquitectes;
- We offer one of the highest academic exchange ratios at UPC, with some 100 incoming students every year from 70 universities all over the world;
- ETSAV is the European partner for the Architecture Study Abroad Program of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, USA;
- We also export our unique interdisciplinary teaching approach, being a dual degree with UniKORE, Italy, and also with École Nationale Supérieure d'Architecture de Montpellier, France.

Facilities and equipment are basic elements to identify the ETSAV. The quality of services offered to students, as well as the environment in which to perform them, allows intellectual and learning processes which can be carried out very easily. Sant Cugat is a campus of architecture, urban planning and housing that involves the different teaching, scientific and technological aspects related to this field of knowledge, by means of shared synergies of the ETSAV and its Research and Knowledge Transfer Center (CRITI) that includes laboratory space for experimentation and innovation on our campus.

3 Welcome! *Benvinguts! Benvingudes!*







THE SCHOOL
L'ESCOLA

STUDYING AT ETSAV *Estudiar a l'ETSAV*

Some reasons to enroll in architecture programme at the Vallès School of Architecture

The Social commitment of architecture

Architecture has evolved into a more **transversal** profession, with architects increasingly taking on social and environmental responsibilities. At ETSAV, we train professionals with a comprehensive skill set in design, construction technology, sustainability, and representation tools to intervene responsibly in the built environment.

Our focus on **strategic projects** fosters a paradigm shift in both education and professional practice, leading to a more inclusive, adaptive, and resilient way of thinking. This approach enables architects to continuously evolve in their careers, preparing them to tackle the complex and changing challenges of today's world.



A metropolitan school

Located in the heart of the **Barcelona Metropolitan Region**, ETSAV is deeply involved in discussions on urban transformation and sustainability. Our Bachelor and Master programmes on Architecture, taught in Catalan and Spanish, shape well-rounded architects, while our Master of Science in Sustainable Built Environment, and of Architectural Design Ecology, both taught in English, focus on rethinking cities and territories from an environmental and social perspective. Additionally, we offer postgraduate degrees through UPC School, such as the Master's in Parametric Design, preparing professionals for advanced architectural challenges.

Interdisciplinary studios and hands-on learning

Our integrated approach in the **Architecture and Design Studios** (TAP) promotes cross-disciplinary collaboration among faculty and students. Students also gain hands-on experience in real-scale projects, participating in learning-by-doing activities like the awarded Solar Decathlon Europe competition.

Key facts

With around **800 students and 100 faculty members**, ETSAV offers close attention and high academic performance (95% success rate in the Bachelor's programme and 93% in the Master's). We also have over 350 internship agreements with companies and public institutions every year. Finally, UPC's architecture programmes rank 26th worldwide and 12th in Europe, according to the QS World University Ranking by Subject 2024.















CUR SOLAR



CAMPUS
CAMPUS

Critt

The Research and Technology Transfer Centre.

Linked to the ETSAV main building, it is a space aimed to carry out projects of collaboration with other institutions, research projects where the recent graduated architects can have their first professional experience, and it's used as a breeding ground for future professionals; so that, the ETSAV vindicates this collaboration with local institutions and the industrial network linked to the architecture as taking part of its basic aims based on the architecture and urban planning research.

CiSol

It's a centre of solar research which is aimed to foster the solar sustainable project at ETSAV.

It's a centre of information, exhibition and documentation of products, systems and projects focusing on solar systems. The CiSol offers a solid basis of knowledge on how to make up the architecture of solar technologies.

Its links to CRAL and different ETSAV departments permit that groups of experts work together in a multidisciplinary environment and can assess and work with municipalities and any other private or public firms, CiSol offers consulting energetic services, technological training solar design and applied research projects.





Yellow rectangular sign with illegible text.



LOW3

The LOW3 solar energy self-sufficient house from UPC aims for much more than just energy independence during its operation. Based on a thorough life cycle analysis (LCA) of its materials and components, optimization of its construction process, and a concept adaptable to future changes in use, expansion, technological updates, reuse, and recycling, a new concept of sustainable housing will be created.

Additionally, the developed concept will allow the translation of its principles into an urban configuration with higher density, clearly advocating for a rational use of land in the development of our cities.

The SD EUROPE 2010 project is linked to several existing projects and research groups, both at the Vallès School of Architecture campus in Sant Cugat and at other UPC centers and external collaborating groups, creating maximum synergy between knowledge and disciplines, as well as between research and teaching.

A bioclimatic low-energy concept is combined with both a low environmental impact during the building's life cycle and low-cost construction and technological solutions, which can be improved throughout its useful life.

LOW ENERGY

A passive solar architecture, together with bioclimatic optimization, minimizes the energy demand of the LOW3 solar house. An innovative exploration of the habitability of intermediate spaces is part of the unique housing concept proposed by LOW3. The photovoltaic technology integrated into the building (BIPV), together with solar thermal systems, enables the project's energy self-sufficiency.

LOW IMPACT

Environmental impact is minimized both in its operation and construction, thanks to the use of sustainable materials and the high energy efficiency of the project. The goal is to close material and water cycles as much as possible. Technological solutions that are "low-tech" are pursued, with the use of local and renewable materials and simple, effective construction systems.

LOW COST

Prefabricated modular and flexible construction systems allow for great versatility throughout the project's life cycle. The ease of transformation, expansion, and reorganization of the modules enables adaptation to the changing needs of its occupants, creating a housing system that can be optimized over time.





RESSÓ L'hivernacle

An academic and research project led by architects and professors from the ETSAV-UPC, Coque Claret and Dani Calatayud, that investigates the following topics: dry construction, 100% reversible, reusable, recyclable, industrialized, sustainable, energy efficiency, self-construction, and self-learning. The project takes a main structure of an agricultural greenhouse that generates the envelope, and a wooden roof supported by a scaffold structure is assembled, along with polycarbonate closures. Everything was done at zero cost for the UPC and was created through the dedication of students who were trained in building this greenhouse, donations from companies, and collaborations with the Environmental Department of the Government of Catalonia through the stands at the Construmat 2007 and 2009 trade fairs, which were assembled by the same professors and students. Once the Construmat fairs were finished, the stands were dismantled and converted into parts of the ETSAV-UPC greenhouse.





ES POSSIBLE SOLUCIONAR-LOS TODOS
AMB UNA UNICA
ESTRATEGIA?

COMPUTER FACILITIES *CCLaia*

Students have access to the University's computer facilities. A large number of terminals are placed in corridors in the school.

This school offers a complete set of computer resources so that all registered students can complete practical subjects work for their subject and workshops.

To access a computer you need a username and a password code. Instruction books and manuals are available in the terminal rooms.

The Computer Centre (CCLaia) and laboratory for computer applications to the architecture develops work guidelines intended to use computer applications in the activities related to architecture and in the teaching aspects as well as in services and research.

LIBRARY *Biblioteca*

The library is specialized in architecture, construction, urban planning and in the matters referred to the fields of research of the ETSAV. It holds nearly 14.000 documents (books, maps, final projects, videos, etc.). It gets about 100 magazines by subscription. All documents are accessible.



MODELING WORKSHOP *Taller de maquetes*

It offers institutions and companies the service of model building of already existing building projects or infrastructures. It favours the learning of model making in different materials (wood, cardboard, plaster, paper, etc.)

This service is accessible to all students in order to make models for the final projects.

EMPLOYMENT BUREAU *Oficina d'ocupació*

This section is aimed at developing the students' training by acquiring work training contracts, which are accepted as free choice credits in the specific regulations of the School.

Foreign students within academic programs can apply for a training period at the bureau of employment of this school. It manages and directs the students' demands for those contracts and keeps in touch with companies, professional offices, and public organizations to promote education cooperation agreements between them and the students.







STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES *La delegació d'estudiants*

Students Union (Delegació d'estudiants). The students are represented by a number of delegates fixed by the EAV regulations. They are in the different boards and consulting units. They are elected by the students. The delegates from the Union which is a service to inform, assist and assess the students concerning the social academic events.

It's open to accept any offer of initiative to seek out activities of interest.

CANTEEN *La cantina*

The canteen sells sandwiches, lunch menus, pizzas, hot snacks, coffee, beer, soft drinks, etc.

Opening hours:

Monday - Friday

7.45am - 6pm

(The kitchen and coffee machine close at 5.30pm)









**HOW THE SCHOOL
WORKS**
*COM FUNCIONA
L'ESCOLA*

ACADEMIC CALENDAR *Calendari Acadèmic*

Q1 - Autumn semester

First week of September - end of December

Final project submissions take place during the first weeks of January

Q2 - Spring semester

First week of February - end of June

Final project submissions take place during the first weeks of June

CURRICULUM SYLLABUS *Pla d'Estudis*

The courses are structured in 10 periods of four months each. The curriculum has 375 lecture blocks (3,750 teaching hours) distributed this way: 80% major mandatory subjects, 10% free choice subjects and 10% optional subjects.

The projects in architecture deal with real and diverse questions as it is shown in the final projects.

TEACHING DEPARTMENT TASKS *Tasques Docents*

Professors and lecturers come from different UPC departments:

- Architectural composition
- Building construction
- Graphic Architectural expression
- Building structures
- Applied Mathematics and Telematics
- Architectural Theory and History Urban Planning and Landscape Design

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS *Requisits d'admissió*

Foreign students should submit preliminary application forms at the International Relations Office within the dates international exchange programmes procedure.

Our school offers spots available either for autumn and spring semesters; we also have annual agreements with different universities.

For those visitor students who want to apply to our school and are not within any agreement, our school offers 5 spots a year, and applicants must address the boarding staff directly.

THE INTERNATIONAL OFFICE *L'Oficina Internacional*

The International office is located at:

Pere Serra, 1-15

08173 Sant Cugat del Vallès

Tel. +34 93 401 78 63

Website: <https://etsav.upc.edu/ca>

Email: international.office.etsav@upc.edu

Working hours:

Office hours are from 9.00 am to 2.00 pm on weekdays

The school is a member of the AEEA (Association Européenne pour l'Enseignement de l'Architecture) and of ECAADE (Education in Computer Aided Architectural Design in Europe).

Furthermore, it works to expand the cooperation agreements with Latin America and the USA.

ETSAV takes active an part in the Erasmus programme and cooperates with 50 European universities.





INSURANCES *Assegurances*

Nationals from EU countries are entitled to medical treatment in emergency cases if they bring a European Health Card from their country.

LANGUAGE COURSES *Cursos d'Idiomes*

Spanish and Catalan courses specially designed for foreigners are offered to visiting students and professors.

These courses, run by the Language and Terminology Service of UPC, aim at rapidly enabling students to understand spoken Catalan and Spanish and to easily follow lectures.

Students with further interest may enroll for advanced courses and official certification.

THE LANGUAGE ENVIRONMENT *L'Entorn Lingüístic*

Both Spanish and Catalan languages are co-official, the latter benefiting from a certain additional status as the native language of the country.

While the whole population is fluent in Spanish, the figures for Catalan are 93% understand it, 68% can speak it and 67% can write it.

Both languages are Latin-based and quite close, which enable large interaction between them. They are both quite freely used in everyday life, and it is common to shift from one language to the other and to have bilingual group conversation.

Also, Catalonia is among the European regions that receive the most Erasmus students. These bring increasing language diversity into university life and often develop a broad sense for cultural diversity during their stay.

Teaching languages

60% of teaching at UPC is in Catalan and 40% in Spanish, although there are some courses that can also be taught in English.

The use of either language in teaching is the sole competence of the professor in charge of the subject. Students are free to address the professor in either language.

Each course guide specifies in which language or languages it is taught. You can find the course guides on our website:

<https://etsav.upc.edu/ca/curs-actual/obligatories>



THE CITY
LA CIUTAT

SANT CUGAT *Sant Cugat*

Sant Cugat del Vallès is an old Roman fortress, the Castrum Ocatavianum.

According to the tradition, in the place where Sant Cugat and his followers were martyred there is a funerary memorial which is located at present inside the cloister.

The construction of the new monastery did not begin until the 12th century. By that time, the church was enlarged and the construction lasted until 1337, when the main facade was finished. In 1705, during the Spanish Sucession War. The monastery was occupied by the troops of Philip V and the damage caused by that invasion was repaired by priest Josep Llupià in 1736.

After the Spanish Civil War, the Board of the Monastery was created. Between 1996 and 1994, some important restoration and excavation works have been made in different areas of the monument. As a result, the perimeter of the old Roman wall has been finalized and an internal stair from the 12th century has been found inside the church.

Although the village has often been eclipsed by the importance of its monastery, it grew around the area of the abbey. Up to the 20th century, Sant Cugat was an agricultural village focused on vineyards.

In 1917, the train network from Barcelona to the neighboring village “Les Planes” was enlarged and reached Sant Cugat.

Soon, Sant Cugat became one of the favourite summer villages for the citizens of Barcelona. The increasing amount of those summer visitors forced the construction in the woodlands of “Valldoreix”.

In the 60's the shape of Sant Cugat began to suffer accelerated changes. The number of industries and factories in the area grew and provoked the flow of people from Barcelona.

In 1978, the village of Sant Cugat was officially considered a city. Its geographic situation, very close to Barcelona but surrounded by the mountain of “Collserola”, and the excellent transportation network that communicates the city with Catalonia and Europe, have helped to the development of Sant Cugat.

At present, a large number of technology companies and cultural, financial, services and education associations are located in Sant Cugat.

Nowadays Sant Cugat has become one of the most important and well-known cities of the Metropolitan Area.





BARCELONA *Barcelona*

Barcelona's history stretches back to Neolithic times, with the Romans founding the city as *Barcino* in the 1st century BC. The Roman colony had a defensive wall, remnants of which still exist in the Gothic Quarter. During the early Middle Ages, the city was under Muslim control until the Christian reconquest. It then became part of the Carolingian Empire and a vital center in the Crown of Aragon.

From the 13th to 15th centuries, Barcelona flourished as a major Mediterranean economic and political hub. However, between the 15th and 18th centuries, the city entered a period of decline. In 1714, after falling to Bourbon troops, Catalonia lost its autonomy and rights.

A cultural revival began in the 19th century with the *Renaixença*, reigniting Catalan identity and literature. Industrialization, particularly in textiles, transformed the city. The 20th century saw significant urban development, notably with the creation of the *Eixample* district and iconic modernist architecture by Antoni Gaudí, such as the *Sagrada Família* and *Casa Batlló*. The Spanish Civil War and subsequent dictatorship restricted freedoms, but democracy was restored in 1978. The 1992 Olympic Games marked a major turning point, revitalizing Barcelona. In 2004, old industrial zones were redeveloped, showcasing the city's dynamic approach to the 21st century.

At present, Barcelona has become the most important city in Catalonia and one of the most important in Spain, and is a tourist attraction itself.



TRANSPORT *Transport*

It is quite common for all foreign students attending our university for the first time to get lost on their way. These indications are given to make your way easier.

The easiest way to get here from Barcelona is to take the train. There are two different railway companies in Barcelona: RENFE and Ferrocarrils de la Generalitat de Catalunya (FGC). Make sure you take FGC, because it is the only one that takes you to Sant Cugat. The main train station is on *Plaça Catalunya*, in Barcelona centre.

You can get information about the tickets on the TMB website or search for the T-Mobilitat.

There are two different lines, S1 to *Terrassa N.U.* and S2 to *Sabadell Parc del Nord*. You can take both lines and get off at *Sant Cugat Centre* station.

The ETSAV school is only a 10-minute walk from the FGC station.



HOUSING *Allotjament*

To live, you can reside in a private flat or in a university residence, for example:

Barcelona Centre Universitari (BCU)

C/Torrent de l'olla, 219
08012, Gràcia (Barcelona)
(+34) 93 238 90 49

Unihabit Sant Cugat, UPC (in ETSAV Campus)

C/Avinguda del Carril 70
08173 Sant Cugat del Vallès
(+34) 93 595 39 53





**OFF-CAMPUS
ACTIVITIES**

*ACTIVITATS FORA DEL
CAMPUS*

VISITING *Per Visitar*

Mercantic

A large antiques and vintage market opens most days, with bookshops, collectibles, and weekend events.

Monestir de Sant Cugat

Stunning Romanesque cloister with 144 unique capitals and a Gothic church. Housed museum and audio tours are available.

Celler Modernista

A 1921 Modernist winery-turned-museum, showcasing architecture by Cèsar Martinell and winemaking history.

Barcelona

Barcelona offers a rich mix of modernist architecture, historic neighborhoods, and vibrant culture. You can explore landmarks like the Sagrada Família and Park Güell, both by Gaudí. The Gothic Quarter and bustling markets add charm and local flavor to any visit.



FESTIVITIES *Festes*

Sant Jordi

Sant Jordi is a traditional Catalan celebration held on April 23rd, honoring Saint George, the patron saint of Catalonia. It's known as the day of love and culture, when people exchange books and roses. The streets are filled with stalls, music, and festivities, especially in cities like Barcelona. It's often compared to Valentine's Day, but with a literary twist.

Festa Major

The Festa Major of Sant Cugat is a lively summer festival filled with traditional dances, concerts, and family activities. It celebrates local culture and community with parades, fireworks, and vibrant street events.

Mercadillo (Street Market)

The Thursday market in Sant Cugat stretches around the Monastery (Plaça de Sant Pere, Carrer Major, Plaça d'Octavià and Carrer de la Torre) and runs from 9:00 to 14:00 with around 120 stalls selling clothes, food, home goods, plants, shoes, and more. Every Thursday morning the town center buzzes as locals bargain at this long-standing weekly fair, an essential part of Sant Cugat's community life.









UNIVERSITAT POLITÈCNICA DE CATALUNYA
BARCELONATECH

Escola Tècnica Superior d'Arquitectura
del Vallès



DEGREE - GRAU EN ESTUDIS D'ARQUITECTURA

ETSAV - Escola Tècnica Superior d'Arquitectura del Vallès

1ST & 2ND SEMESTERS

CORE SUBJECTS - TRONCALS

60 ECTS

3RD TO 10TH SEMESTER

COMPULSORY SUBJECTS - OBLIGATORIS

210 ECTS

ELECTIVES 7TH TO 10TH SEMESTER

ELECTIVE SUBJECTS - OPTATIVES

24 ECTS

10TH SEMESTER

FINAL DEGREE PROJECT - TREBALL DE FINAL DE GRAU

6 ECTS



UNIVERSITAT POLITÈCNICA DE CATALUNYA
BARCELONATECH

Escola Tècnica Superior d'Arquitectura
del Vallès

