

UOC's Educational Model



Laia Canals
UOC
ecanalsf@uoc.edu

Turku, August 26th 2015

UOC was founded as a fully online university in 1995

Studies



- > **17** bachelor's degrees
- > **37** university master's degrees
- > **3** doctoral programmes
- > **35** UOC-certified master's degrees
- > **42** postgraduate programmes
- > **7** departments
- > **1** Doctoral School
- > **1** School of Languages

Students



- > **52,513** students
- > **58,094** graduates

> 54% of students are women

Faculties

- › Faculty of Arts and Humanities
- › Faculty of Economics and Business
- › Faculty of Health Sciences
- › Faculty of Information and Communication Sciences
- › Faculty of Computer Science, Multimedia and Telecommunications
- › Faculty of Law and Political Science
- › Faculty of Psychology and Education Sciences

Schools

- › Doctoral School
- › School of Languages

Research Centres

- › Internet Interdisciplinary Institute - IN3
- › eLearn Center - eLC

Teaching and learning:

- Registration
- The Library
- Continuous assessment
- Teachers have access to tools and applications to evaluate and grade student learning

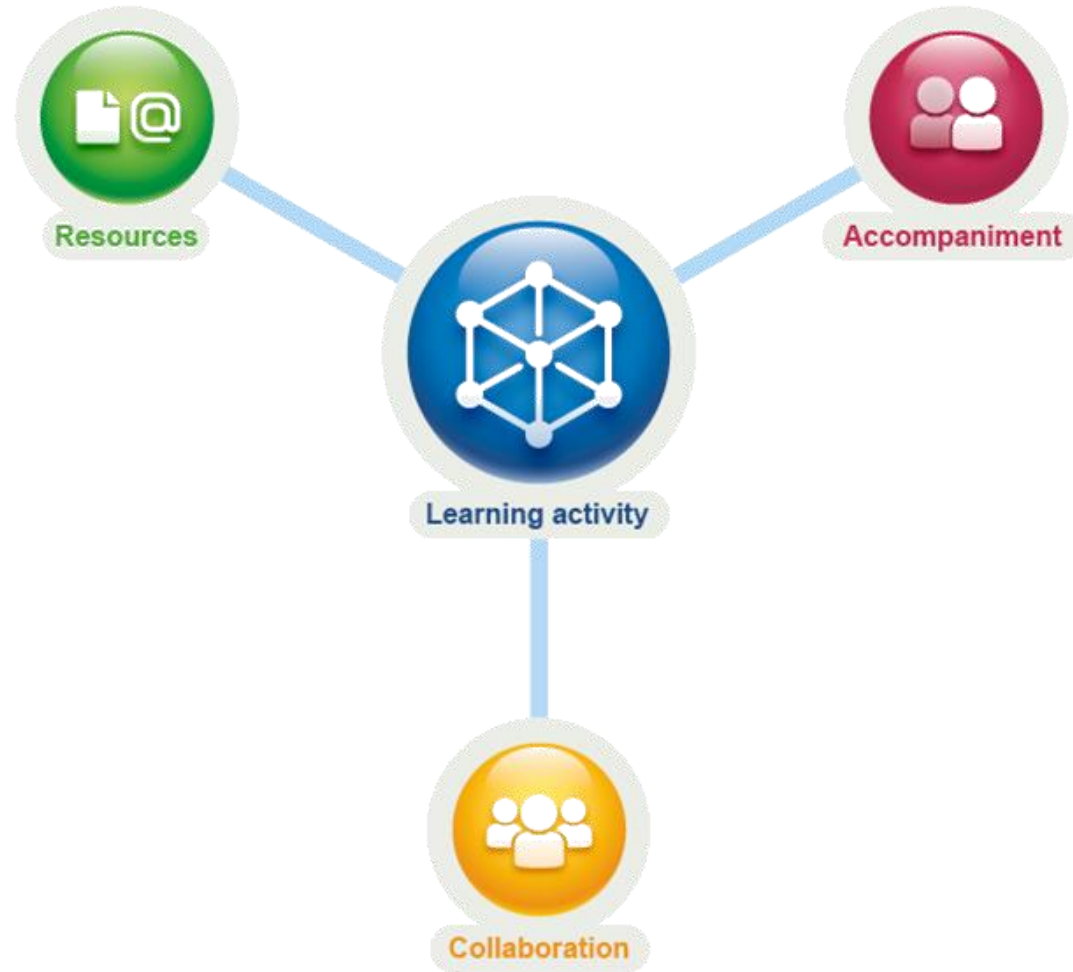
Management:

- Students are assigned to each virtual classroom by means of an application that puts them into groups
- Communication student-professor, student-to-student, professor-to-professor, researchers-management staff is online

A 24/7 presence: 20 support centers which provide personalized attention and study resources.

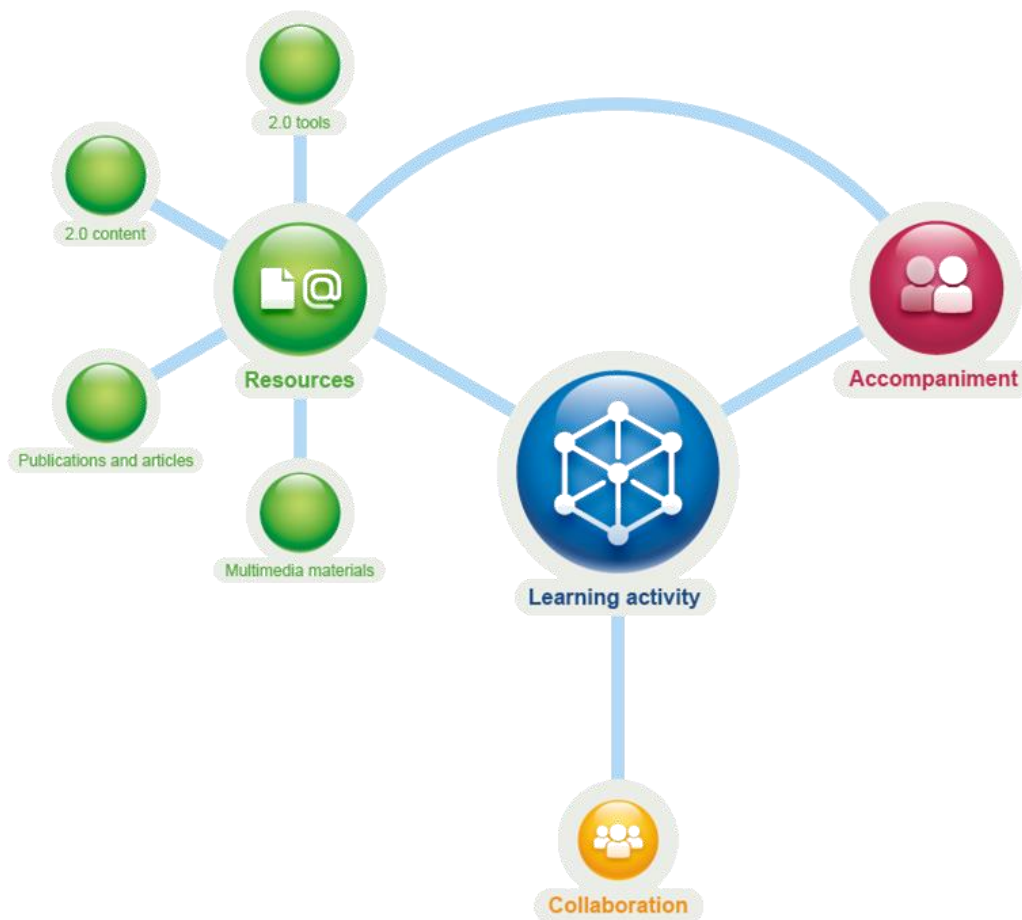
Two main students profiles:
-35-45 (92% in the marketplace)

-18-25 rapidly increasing number of these type of students in recent years

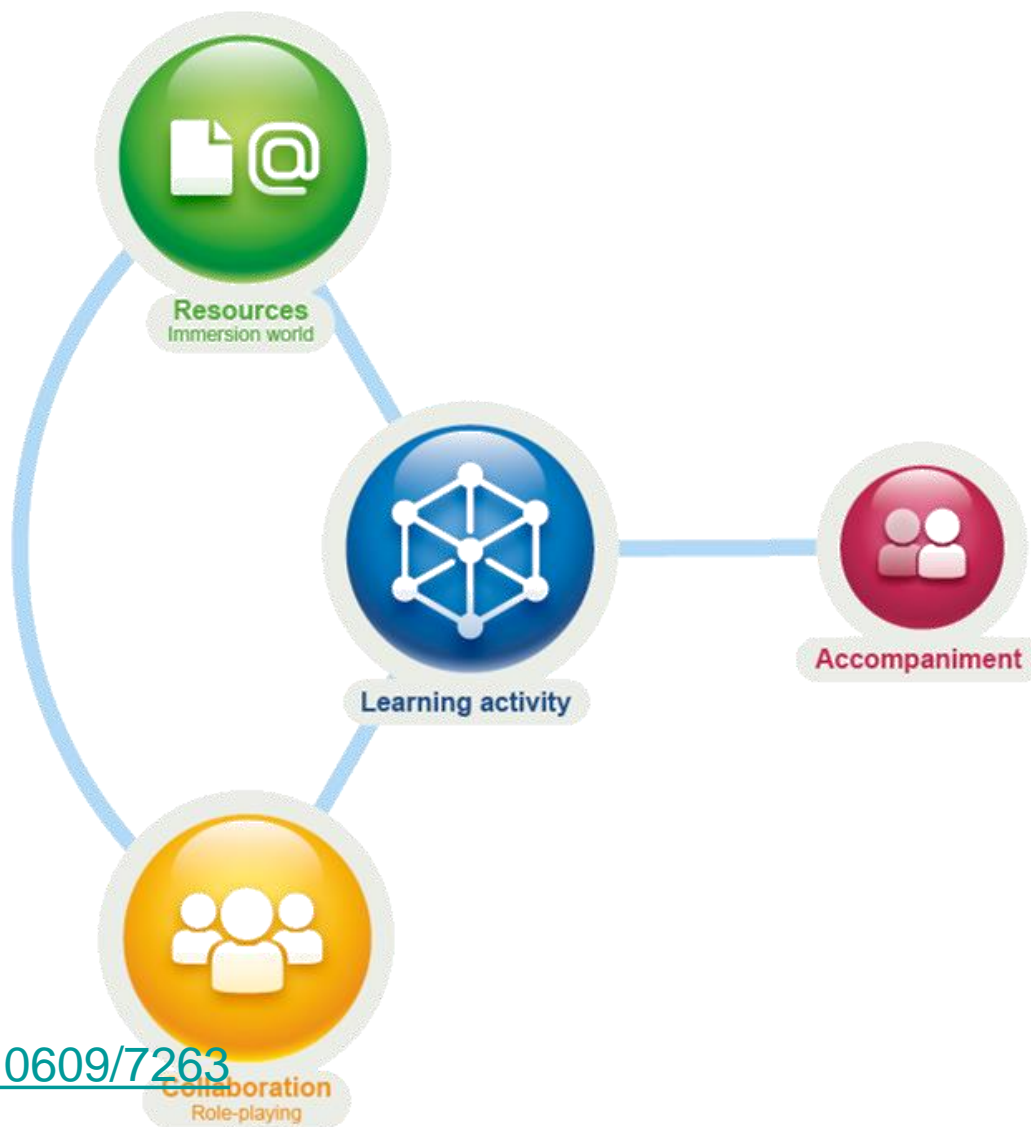


The educational model of the UOC...

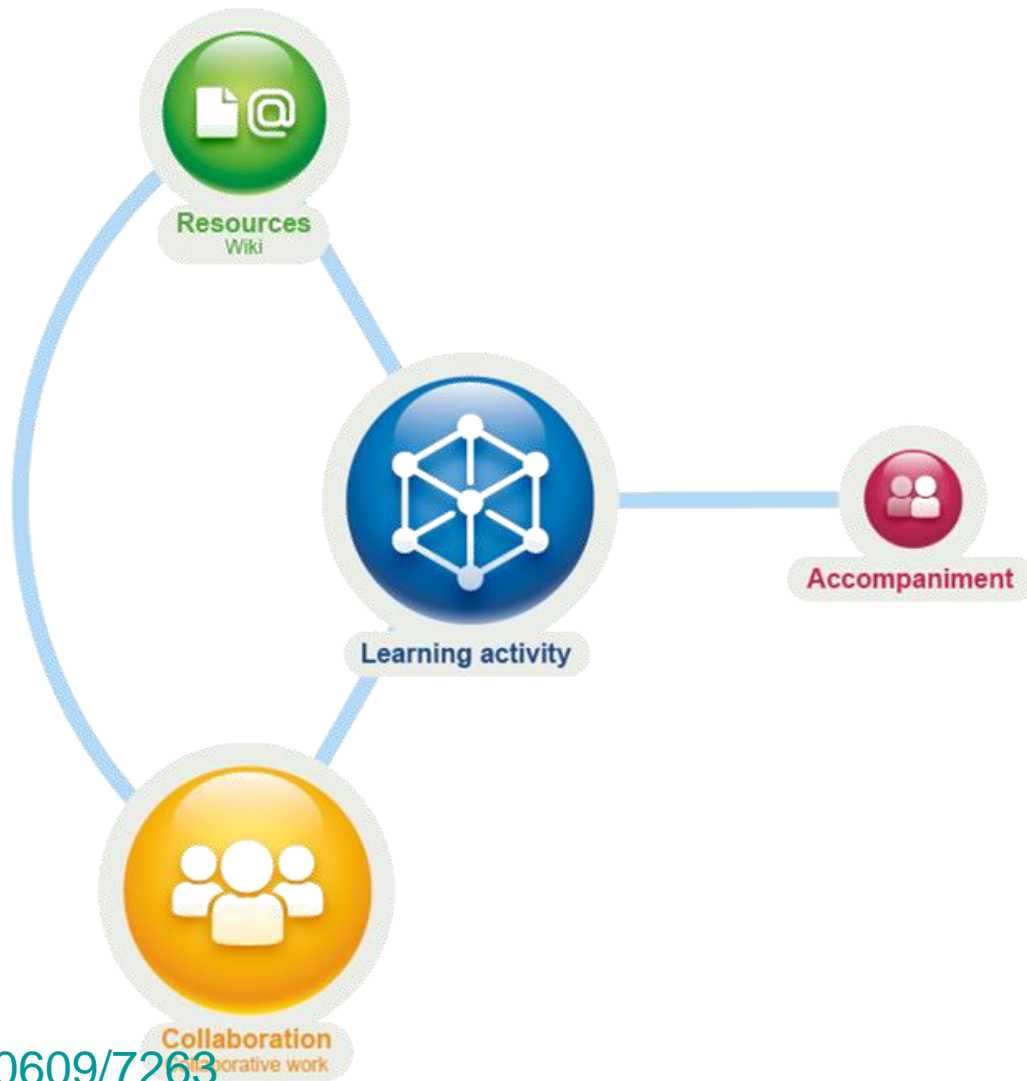
Some examples of adaptation to different learning methodologies and situations



The educational model of the UOC



The educational model of the UOC



The educational model of the UOC



What does this mean for...

Adult education

...the learning process?

- ✓ High level of demand
- ✓ High motivation, seek immediate use, as they are inserted into the labor market
- ✓ Few time to devote to learning, familiar responsibilities
- ✓ Training is not their first occupation
- ✓ People away from the experience of studying (hard to regain study habits)

...the teaching process?

- ✓ Need to plan courses
- ✓ Need to personalize
- ✓ Track, accompany the learning experience
- ✓ Keep motivation high
- ✓ Take advantage of heterogeneity & encourage collaborative work

What does this mean for...

Use of ICT

...the learning process?

- ✓ Ubiquitous access
- ✓ Previous knowledge in the use of technology needed
- ✓ Asynchronous communication with the teacher
- ✓ Written communication involves hard work (versus verbal communication)
- ✓ Learning environment: cold, lonely
- ✓ Building a virtual presence

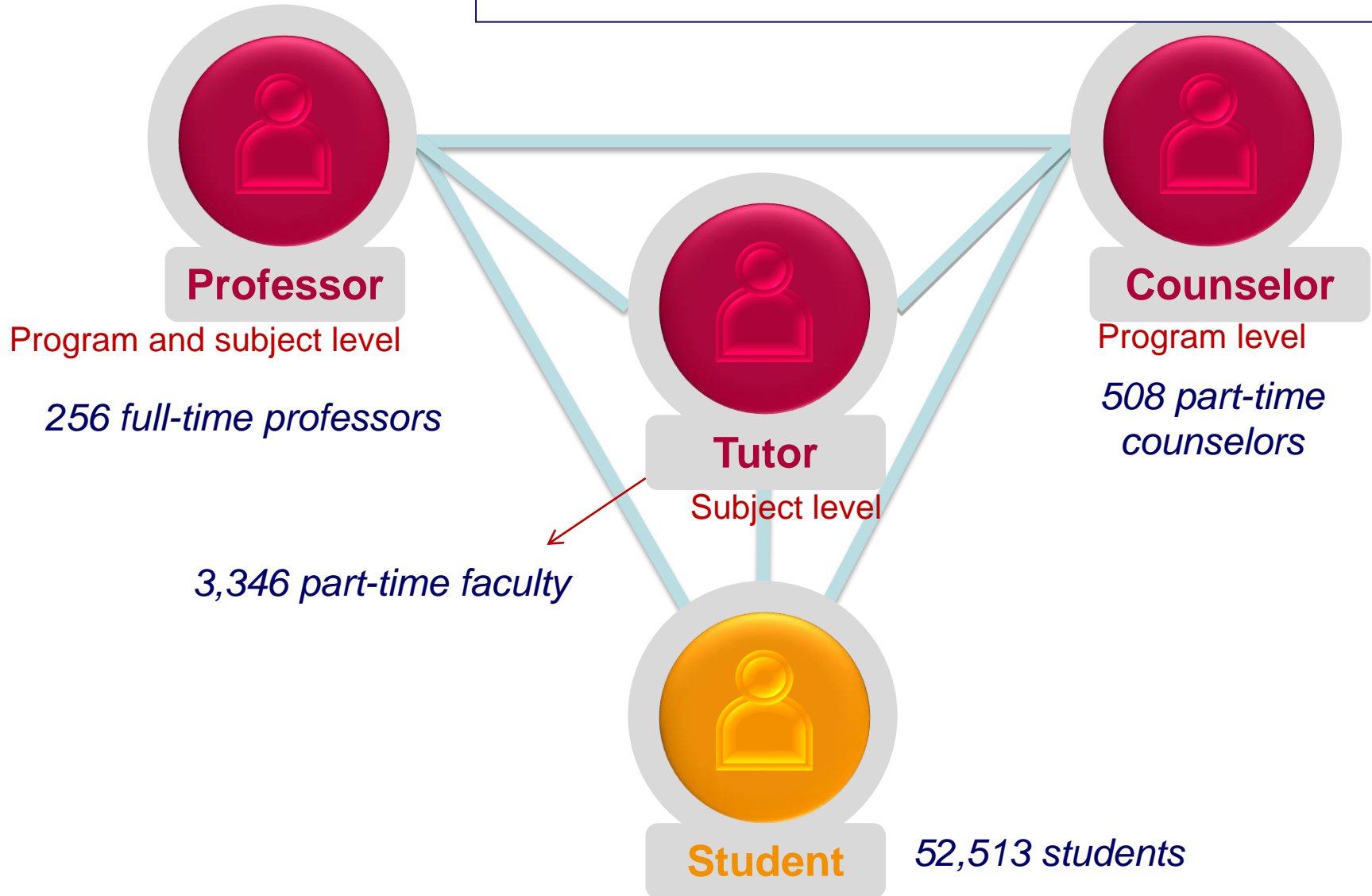
...the teaching process?

- ✓ Access virtual campus from anywhere, anytime
- ✓ Previous knowledge in the use of technology needed
- ✓ Written communication involves hard work (versus verbal communication)
- ✓ Learning environment: cold (?): need to create appropriate climate group
- ✓ Building a virtual presence

What does this mean for...	Distance
...the learning process?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Feeling of loneliness ✓ Distrust: not having the teacher in front of you ✓ Asynchrony: more flexibility, own rhythm of study, but: requires self-regulation of time of study ✓ Need for self-discipline and commitment ✓ Autonomous work
...the teaching process?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Implementing strategies to motivate and monitor ✓ Creating a "virtual community" ✓ Initial planning and anticipating situations ✓ No place for improvisation ✓ Need to know students profile to plan adequately

Who are the learners
we are targeting for the
pilot courses/in
Jordanian Universities?

UOC teacher model

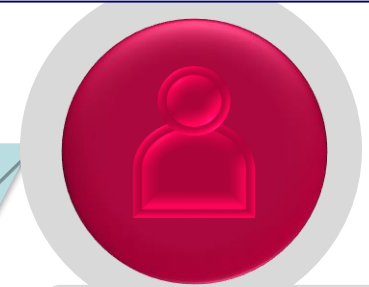


UOC teacher model



Professor

Studies/ Program level



Counsellor

Program level



Tutor

Subject level



Student

Designs the program and the learning plans for all subjects, and take care of quality assurance

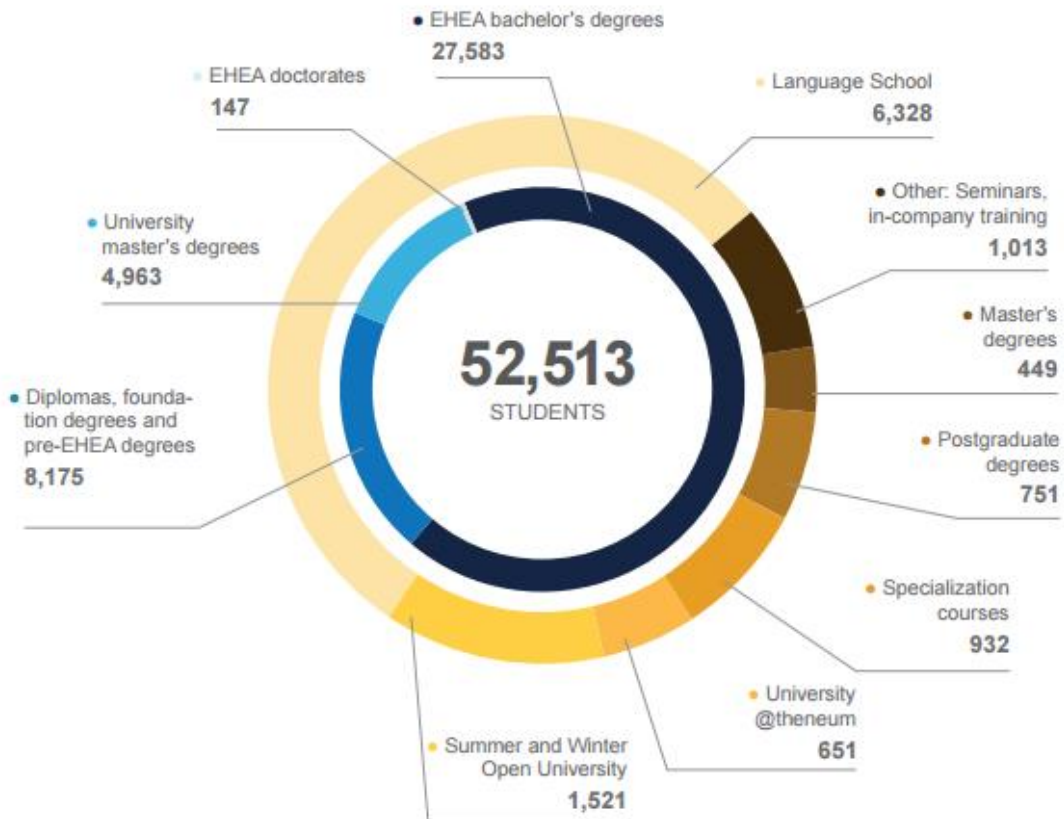
Monitors the given learning plans (by professors), conduct activities, evaluate learning

Gives support and advice during the whole academic life of the student

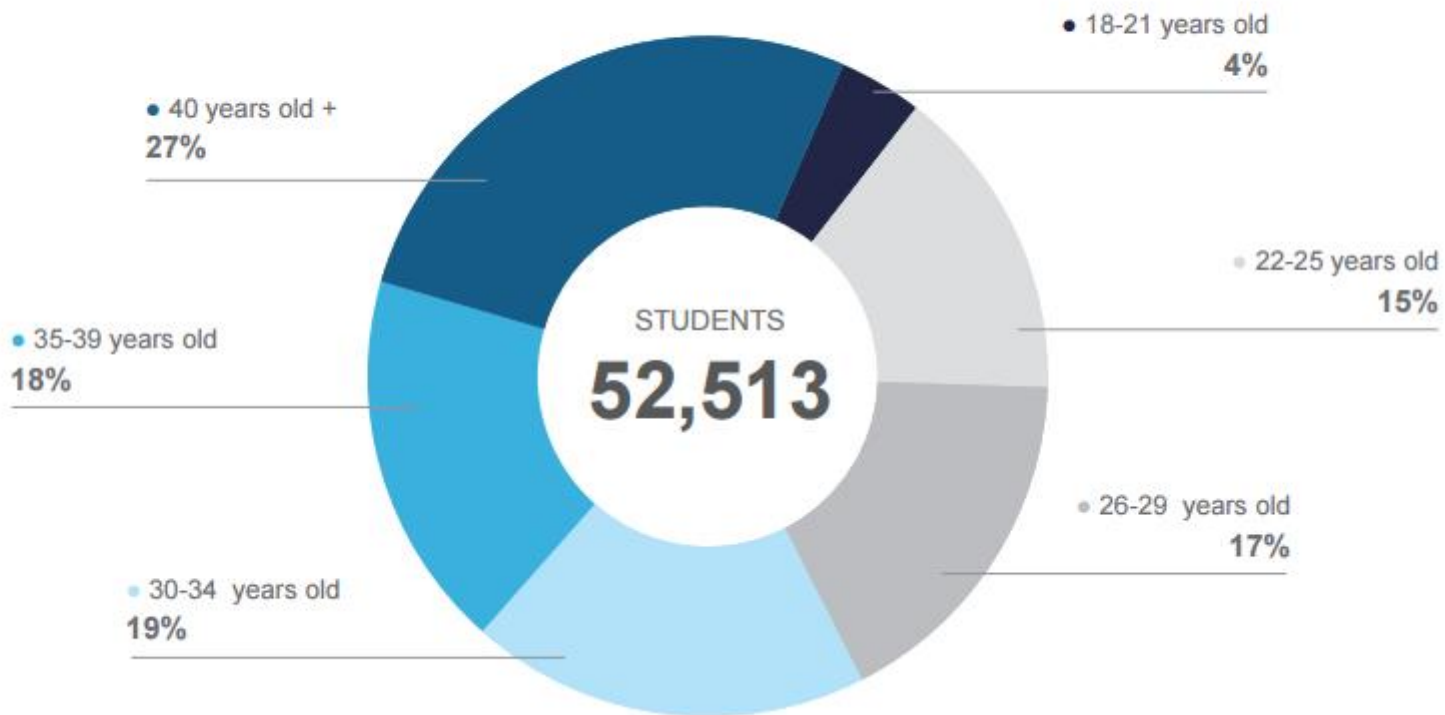


Students

Breakdown of students by course type



Breakdown of students by age



The 8 key topics of the model...evolving with the net

...as a strategy for flexibility and evolution

Areas	← KEY TOPICS → (Teaching scenarios)	
Learning activity	Applicable activities	Investigation activities
Learning resources	Didactic material Text content	Content management Multimedia content
Communication	Asynchronous communication	Synchronous communication
Virtual environments	Virtual classroom Web Computer	Web 2.0 spaces Virtual worlds Other devices
Evaluation	Learning evaluation	Skills evaluation

Table taken from: Universitat Oberta de Catalunya (2009). *The educational model of the UOC. Evolution and prospects.*

Thank you!

Laia Canals

UOC

ecanalsf@uoc.edu



@laiacanals