

Mediterranean Ecosystems: Biodiversity, Threats and Conservation Actions

2025 | INTERNATIONAL SUMMER PROGRAMME



UVIC

UNIVERSITAT DE VIC
UNIVERSITAT CENTRAL DE CATALUNYA



Study Abroad

INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMMES
UVIC | UVIC-UCC

Summer programmes at University of Vic – Central University of Catalonia (UVic-UCC) are designed for university students from higher educational institutions who wish to carry out further studies as part of their international experiences and who would like to deepen their knowledge of a certain matter.

Our programme

The objectives of the Mediterranean Ecosystems: Biodiversity, Threats and Conservation Actions summer programme is to understand the evolution and the current state of the Mediterranean Ecosystems, increasing the scientific knowledge of students while acquiring strategies to contribute and protect the sensitive ecosystems. It also aims to discover the Mediterranean ecosystems throughout practice and theory needed to complement the workshops and field visits. Our programme is addressed to undergraduate students from the fields of Biology and Natural Sciences, even though other related backgrounds might be considered.

Dates

2 weeks

Programme 30th June - 11 July

Accommodation 29th June - 12th July

Application deadline
(two options according to accommodation needs)

Course and Accommodation: 26th March

Course without Accommodation: 30th May

Module 1 Mediterranean wetlands

Discovering the key features of Ebro Delta

- History and evolution of Ebro Delta
- Habitat features and protection levels
- The role of biodiversity in Ebro Delta
- Critical endangered situations: the case of Iberian Killifish and Pen Shells
- Primary resources performance in Ebro Delta
- Top three main problems: invasive species, erosion, and water use
- Management proposals from stakeholders' views

Trips included:

- **L'Encanyissada:** a green engineering case
- **Món Natura museum:** traditional & conventional fishing
- **Trabucador beach:** the impacts of last storms
- **Riet Vell Reserve:** sustainable methods to manage rice fields
- **Ebro river:** the impact of tourism on a fragile ecosystem
- **CosmoCaixa:** science museum



Module 2 Mediterranean forests

Discovering the Mediterranean natural environments and forest fires

- Mediterranean forests: features, global distribution, and climate adaptations
- Cork oak forests: features, physiology, global distribution, types, and biodiversity
- The cork oak as a product: history, features, uses, current situation, cork extraction, and conservation actions
- Cork oak forests' conservation challenges: global warming, forest fires, and diseases
- Forests management and prevention actions
- Key issues to keep biodiversity

Trips included:

- **The cork oak and the Mediterranean scrub:** main trees and shrub species
- **Cork Museum (Palafrugell)**
- **De Maria Taps:** natural cork stopper company (Cassà de la Selva)
- **Can Vilallonga:** forest grazing as a management tool and cork peeling as an ancestral activity
- **CRAM:** Foundation dedicated to the protection of the marine environment and the species that inhabit it.



Module 3 Mediterranean rocky coast

Discovering the natural environment of the Mediterranean rocky shore environment and the small littoral marshlands

- Mediterranean habitats distribution, biodiversity, and survival strategies
- The littoral system: land connected with the marine environment (cliffs, sandy beaches, and wetlands on rocky shores)
- Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and littoral ecosystems: natural values, protection figures, threats, and solutions
- Littoral ecosystems: management proposals

Trips included:

- **Snorkeling activity at Estartit:** shallow underwater habitats and biodiversity of the Medes Islands
- **Montgrí cliffs and rocky shores of an MPA:** a global view on marine environment threats
- **Baix Ter littoral marshlands:** restoration, conservation, and management. Reserve effects
- **Natural Sciences Museum of Barcelona**



Tuition fees

| 2 weeks | Fee | Partner fee* | What's included? |
|------------------------|---------|--------------|---|
| Course (general fee) | 1.700€ | 1.530€ | lectures and field trips, welcome dinner, cultural program |
| Course + Accommodation | pending | pending | lectures and field trips, welcome dinner, cultural program, accommodation** |

* Partner discount only applied to the Course (general fee).

** Student accommodation in the 22@ district (Barcelona) is optional and *upon availability*

Contact

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