

# THE INTERNATIONAL GRADUATE SCHOOL OF CATALONIA (IGSOC): AN INSTRUMENT FOR THE INTERNATIONALISATION OF THE CATALAN UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

**Abelard Vilardell Jové\***

**In a move towards internationalisation, and with the aim of attracting more foreign students, irrespective of their nationality, to the advanced and competitive degree programmes offered by Catalan universities, the Department of Universities, Research and the Information Society (DURSI) has created an institution specialising in the promotion of third cycle (postgraduate) courses in Catalan universities. The following is a description of the process whereby IGSOC was constituted, its early steps and its outlook for the future.**

---

## Contents

1. Introduction
2. The IGSOC Foundation
3. Report on the IGSOC Launch Programme
  - 3.1. Associate Programmes
  - 3.2. Fellowships
  - 3.3. The Highly Qualified Visiting Professor Scheme
  - 3.4. International Masters programmes
  - 3.5. Other actions
4. The IGSOC international community
5. Outlook for the future

---

\* Abelard Vilardell Jové is executive director of IGSOC

## 1. Introduction

The emerging European Higher Education Space, as far as the graduate studies level is concerned, is a space which allows more open competition among the European university systems, as well as among individual university institutions. In this respect, the move towards the European Higher Education Space is based on the division of university studies into two cycles: undergraduate (leading to a bachelor's degree) and post-graduate (leading to a Master's and/or PhD degree), as in the Anglo-American tradition. This marks a major structural change in respect of the continental European academic tradition, but one which is considered to be crucial if the European university system is to be made more competitive. On an international level, the format is simplified and post-graduate studies are opened up to non-European students who hold a bachelor's degree; on a European level, it fosters a new type of vertical student mobility: in other words, students who obtain a bachelor's degree in their own country and decide to pursue their post-graduate studies entirely in another European university outside that country, obtaining a Master's and/or PhD degree.

In this context, there is a clear need in Catalonia to make the most advanced and competitive segment of Catalan university courses more attractive to foreign students of all nationalities. To this end, in March, 2002, the Department of Universities, Research and the Information Society (DURSI) set up the Programme to launch IGSOC (International Graduate School of Catalonia), an institution specialised in promoting third-cycle courses of study in those Catalan universities wishing to become international in character.

Accordingly, last July the IGSOC Foundation was formally created, its aim being to contribute actively to a

sizeable segment of Catalonia's post-graduate studies being projected on the European and world stage.

---

**The aim of IGSOC is to contribute to a sizeable segment of Catalonia's postgraduate studies being projected on the European and world stage.**

---

## 2. The IGSOC Foundation

On 13 May, 2003, the Governing Council of the Generalitat authorised the constitution of the IGSOC Foundation, which formally came into existence on 18 July, 2003.

The Foundation is presided over by the Minister for Universities, Research and the Information Society and its board of trustees is composed as follows:

- five members appointed by the Inter-University Council of Catalonia (CIC): currently, the Rectors of the UAB, the UPC, the UPF and the the URV, and the President of the Social Council of the UB.
- one member from the the Catalan Research Foundation (FCR): the Director General.
- one member from the Patronat Català pro Europa (PCPE): the Executive Director.
- one member from Casa Àsia: the Director General.
- one member from Institut Europeu de la Mediterrània (IEMed): the Director.
- one member from the savings bank, Caixa de Catalunya: the Head of the Corporate and Institutional Finance Department.

- three members designated by the Department of Universities, Research and the Information Society (DURSI): the Director General of Universities, the Director General of Research and the Director of the Agència per a la Qualitat del Sistema Universitari Català (AQU).

The composition of the board of trustees reflects various objectives. In the case of the CIC, it entails the direct involvement of universities in the project through broad participation at the highest level. The participation of Casa Àsia stems from a shared desire to strengthen the projection of Catalan universities in the major Asian countries, a region regarded by IGSOC as one of great potential, affording expert advice in collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

---

**The selection of the Associate programmes is carried out on the basis of academic criteria, the extent of international dimension already achieved -measured by the number of foreign students enrolled- as well as the formal undertaking, in the case of international students, to provide in English all the necessary course contents leading to the PhD degree.**

---

The participation of IEMed is designed to ensure significant projection in the southern and eastern Mediterranean, building upon the at present scant presence of Catalan universities in the region. The PCPE will contribute its expertise in the field and provide easy access to the Services of the European Commission in Higher Education, Foreign Relations and Research. It is hoped that

the FCR will bring IGSOC in touch with the demands of the most advanced technological production sectors, both those already established in Catalonia and those which will be established in the future, as well as providing strategies to develop the country's scientific and technological system. As for Caixa de Catalunya, projects of common interest will be identified with a view to their being developed jointly by IGSOC and Caixa de Catalunya.

The Executive Committee of the IGSOC Foundation consists of the following members:

- the Minister of Universities, Research and the Information Society.
- the Director General of Universities.
- the Rector of the URV.
- the Director General of Casa Àsia.

The IGSOC Foundation currently has an academic director<sup>1</sup> and an executive director; the statutes of the Foundation also envisage the possibility of setting up an academic advisory council and a council of participating institutions and companies.

### 3. Report on the IGSOC Launch Programme

Prior to the creation of the IGSOC Foundation, DURSI was already actively developing, from March 2002, a programme to launch IGSOC, which has given rise to several initiatives up to July, 2003.

These initiatives can be grouped together as follows: Associate Programmes, Fellowships, the Highly Qualified Visiting Professor Scheme and other actions. The Programme as a whole has resulted in more than 1.8 million € being awarded in the two editions to date of the

---

<sup>1</sup> The director appointed to the position is Professor Rolf Tarrach, professor of Molecular Physics at Barcelona University and former president of CSIC.

**Table 1**  
**Associate Programmes for the academic years 2002-2003 and 2003-2004, according to thematic block, year of association with IGSO, and university.**

Doctoral programme according to thematic blocks	Curs d'associació a la IGSO	Universitat
<b>Management and Economics</b>		
<i>European Doctoral Programme in Entrepreneurship &amp; Small Business Management</i>	2002-2003	UAB
<i>International Doctorate in Economic Analysis (IDEA)</i>	2002-2003	UAB
<i>Graduate Programme in Economics and Management</i>	2002-2003	UPF
<i>PhD Programme in Management Sciences</i>	2002-2003	ESADE
<i>PhD in Management</i>	2002-2003	IESE
<b>Information Technologies</b>		
<i>Doctoral Program in Computer Architecture and Technology</i>	2002-2003	UPC
<i>Doctoral Program in Signal Theory and Communications</i>	2002-2003	UPC
<i>PhD Program in Software</i>	2002-2003	UPC
<i>International Doctoral Program in Information Technologies</i>	2002-2003	UdG
<i>Doctoral Program in Computer Science and Digital Communication</i>	2002-2003	UPF
<b>Medical and Life Sciences</b>		
<i>International PhD Program in Biomedicine</i>	2003-2004	UB
<i>PhD Program in Biotechnology</i>	2003-2004	UB
<i>PhD Program in Genetics</i>	2003-2004	UB
<i>PhD Program in Food Science</i>	2003-2004	UAB
<i>International PhD Program in Basic Biomedical Research</i>	2002-2003	UPF
<b>Sciences and Engineering</b>		
<i>Doctoral Program in Environmental Sciences</i>	2002-2003	UAB
<i>Doctoral Program in Civil Engineering</i>	2002-2003	UPC
<i>PhD Program in Technical and Computer Applications of Statistics, Operational Research and Optimization</i>	2003-2004	UPC
<i>PhD Program in Environmental Sciences</i>	2003-2004	UdG
<i>Graduate Program in Chemical and Process Engineering</i>	2002-2003	URV
<i>PhD Program in Chemistry in Industrial Processes and Products</i>	2003-2004	URV
<b>Physical Sciences</b>		
<i>International Graduate Program in Organic Chemistry</i>	2002-2003	UB
<i>Graduate Program in Advanced Physics</i>	2003-2004	UB
<i>Doctoral Program in Mathematics</i>	2002-2003	UAB
<i>Doctoral Program in Applied Physics and Scientific Simulation</i>	2002-2003	UPC
<b>Social Sciences</b>		
<i>PhD Program in Cognitive Science and Language</i>	2003-2004	UB
<i>PhD Program in Social Sciences</i>	2003-2004	UPF

UB: Universitat de Barcelona  
 UAB: Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona  
 UPC: Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya  
 UdG: Universitat de Girona  
 UPF: Universitat Pompeu Fabra  
 URV: Universitat Rovira i Virgili  
 ESADE: ESADE (Universitat Ramon Llull)  
 IESE: IESE Business School (Universidad de Navarra)

DURSI scheme<sup>2</sup>, which is open to bids from the entire Catalan university system.

### Associate Programmes

The Associate Programmes are doctoral programmes in universities which, by means of a selection procedure, receive financial support from DURSI to strengthen their international dimension. The selection of these programmes is carried out on the basis of academic criteria, the extent of international dimension already achieved – measured by the number of foreign students enrolled – as well as the formal undertaking, in the case of international students, to provide in English all the necessary course contents leading to the PhD degree.

The latter requirement is indispensable if programmes are to be made accessible to doctoral students from Asia, the principal exporter of students in the world, as well as to students from numerous countries in various parts of the world within the British sphere of influence. It also reinforces the recruitment of students from central and eastern Europe.

The range of associate programmes offered in 2003-

In the two above-mentioned editions of the DURSI awards scheme, twenty-seven doctoral programmes offered by eight university institutions have been selected.

### Fellowships

The IGSOC fellowship programme is currently the chief source of support for the associate programmes and is characterised by the programme managers being direct-

**Table 2**  
IGSOC scholarship holders 2002-03 – Distribution according to countries of origin (1)

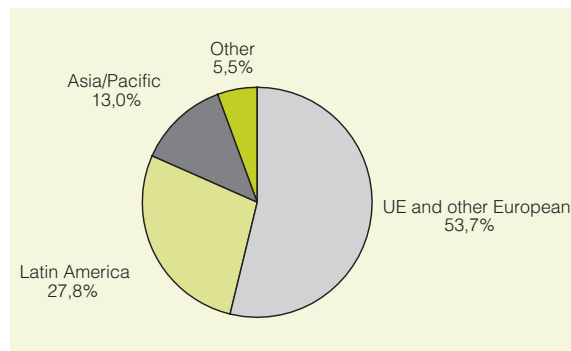
Country of origin	Number	%
EU and other European (2)	29	53,7
Latin America	15	27,8
Asia/Pacific	7	13,0
Others	3	5,5
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>100,0</b>

(1) Countries represented: Germany, Argentina, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada; Colombia; Croatia; United States; France; Greece, India; Iran, Ireland; Italy; Madagascar, Malaysia, Mexico, Netherlands, Poland, United Kingdom, Romania, Russia, Turkey, Uruguay and China.

**Scholarship holders are new entrants to the programmes and scholarships can cover a total maximum period of forty-eight months, renewable annually.**

2004 to the international community is organised around six thematic blocks: Management and Economics, Information Technologies, Medical and Life Sciences, Sciences and Engineering, Physical Sciences and Social Sciences.

**Graph 1**  
IGSOC scholarship holders 2002-03 – Percentage distribution according to countries of origin



<sup>2</sup> Resolutions UNI 1294/2002, dated 13 May, 2002, and UNI 487/2003, dated 29 January, 2003.

**Table 3**  
**IGSOC scholarship holders 2003-2004. Distribution according to programmes**

Doctoral programme according to thematic blocks	University	New scholarships	Renewals	Total
<b>Management and Economics</b>		<b>6</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>16</b>
<i>European Doctoral Program in Entrepreneurship &amp; Small Business Management</i>	UAB	0	2	2
<i>International Doctorate in Economic Analysis (IDEA)</i>	UAB	2	4	6
<i>Graduate Program in Economics and Management</i>	UPF	2	4	6
<i>PhD Program in Management Sciences</i>	ESADE	1	2	3
<i>PhD in Management</i>	IESE	1	2	3
<b>Information Technologies</b>		<b>6</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>22</b>
<i>Doctoral Program in Computer Architecture and Technology</i>	UPC	1	3	4
<i>Doctoral Program in Signal Theory and Communications</i>	UPC	2	4	6
<i>PhD Program in Software</i>	UPC	1	4	5
<i>International Doctoral Program in Information Technologies</i>	UdG	1	2	3
<i>Doctoral Program in Computer Science and Digital Communication</i>	UPF	1	3	4
<b>Medical and Life Sciences</b>		<b>10</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>14</b>
<i>International PhD Program in Biomedicine</i>	UB	2	0	2
<i>PhD Program in Biotechnology</i>	UB	2	0	2
<i>PhD Program in Genetics</i>	UB	2	0	2
<i>PhD Program in Food Science</i>	UAB	2	0	2
<i>International PhD Program in Basic Biomedical Research</i>	UPF	2	4	6
<b>Sciences and Engineering</b>		<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>17</b>
<i>Doctoral Program in Environmental Sciences</i>	UAB	1	2	3
<i>Doctoral Program in Civil Engineering</i>	UPC	1	3	4
<i>PhD Program in Technical and Computer Applications of Statistics, Operational Research and Optimization</i>	UPC	2	0	2
<i>PhD Program in Environmental Sciences</i>	UdG	1	0	1
<i>Graduate Program in Chemical and Process Engineering</i>	URV	1	4	5
<i>PhD Program in Chemistry in Industrial Processes and Products</i>	URV	2	0	2
<b>Physical Sciences</b>		<b>4</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>15</b>
<i>International Graduate Program in Organic Chemistry</i>	UB	1	5	6
<i>Graduate Program in Advanced Physics</i>	UB	1	0	1
<i>Doctoral Program in Mathematics</i>	UAB	1	4	5
<i>Doctoral Program in Applied Physics and Scientific Simulation</i>	UPC	1	2	3
<b>Social Sciences</b>		<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>
<i>PhD Program in Cognitive Science and Language</i>	UB	2	0	2
<i>PhD Program in Social Sciences</i>	UPF	2	0	2
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>38</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>92</b>

UB: Universitat de Barcelona  
 UAB: Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona  
 UPC: Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya  
 UdG: Universitat de Girona  
 UPF: Universitat Pompeu Fabra  
 URV: Universitat Rovira i Virgili  
 ESADE: ESADE (Universitat Ramon Llull)  
 IESE: IESE Business School (Universidad de Navarra)

ly responsible for the selection of the candidates, and also by a highly decentralised mode of operation, combined with a central information system (application form on the IGSOC website with direct on-line receipt of the applications by the academic programme managers and by the directors of IGSOC).

Thus, those responsible for managing the doctoral programmes award the fellowships directly to the international students, of whatever nationality, taking into account the academic merits of the candidates. The successful candidates will be new entrants to the programmes and the grants may be renewed annually, for a total maximum period of forty-eight months. In cases where renewal is not recommended because of poor academic performance or for any other justifiable reason, the award may be reassigned to another international student and renewed successively for a period equal to the duration of the remainder of the original award-holder's fellowship. The gross value of the grant is 825 € per month for students who have not yet obtained a research aptitude certificate and 990 € for students who have obtained a research aptitude certificate. For every fellowship grant awarded, an additional 1,200 € per year is assigned to the doctoral programme concerned to cover registration and other costs incurred by the fellowship.

The amount assigned by IGSOC to fellowships for the academic year 2003-2004 is 1,025,000 €.

### **The Highly Qualified Visiting Professor scheme**

The Highly Qualified Visiting Professor (HQVP) scheme consists of academic participation in the associate programmes by university teachers who are highly qualified in their field of knowledge. The HQVP professor carries out an intensive teaching load under these programmes, with periods of residence ranging from one week to two months.

This line of support is expected to be initiated in 2003-04 with eleven visiting professors, selected within the

framework of the IGSOC 2003 awards scheme. It will be co-financed by IGSOC to the value of almost 50,000 € in respect of the eleven professorships as a whole, covering up to a maximum of 50% of the cost of each visiting professorship.

### **International Masters**

A remarkable phenomenon in the emerging European Higher Education Space is the increasing number of Master Courses, taught in English, which are designed to appeal to European students of other nationalities as well as to students from around the world. It should also be noted that the European Commission's future Erasmus Mundus programme, which is currently in the adoption phase, will encourage various European universities to offer joint Master's programmes leading to a dual qualification; there are plans to select up to 250 such programmes which, for a period of five years, will enjoy the status of EU Master Course and receive major support in the form of student grants.

Within this context and in view of the imminent adaptation of the Catalan university system to the new requirements relating to cycle-based degree courses in the European Higher Education Space, the 2003 edition of the IGSOC awards has encouraged the preparation of International Masters viability studies, with the aim of facilitating a thoroughly grounded decision-making process regarding the Masters courses to be offered during the academic year 2004-2005.

Solely for the purposes of the grants scheme, the International Masters programmes have been defined in terms of their satisfying the following requirements:

- a) They will lead to an unofficial degree known as a Master.
- b) They will be delivered in English.
- c) They will be residential, full-time courses.
- d) They will have a duration of between one and two years.

**Table 4**  
**IGSOC launch programme subsidies. Academic years 2002-2003 and 2003-2004**

In euros

IGSOC SUBSIDIES	Centre	Scholarships 2002-2003	Scholarship grants 2002-2003	Scholarships 2003-2004	Scholarship grants 2003-2004	HQVP (visiting professors)	Ajuts HQVP (visiting professors) grants	Travel Scholarships	Travel scholarship grants	Grants for Other activities	Totals
<b>Doctoral programme</b>											
<i>PhD in Management</i>	IESE	2	22.200	3	33.300						55.500
<i>PhD Program in Food Science</i>	UAB			2	22.200	1	3.375				25.575
<i>Doctoral Program in Mathematics</i>	UAB	4	44.400	5	55.500						99.900
<i>International Doctorate in Economic Analysis (IDEA)</i>	UAB	4	44.400	6	66.600	1	8.400	1	2.500	2.600	124.500
<i>European Doctoral Program in Entrepreneurship &amp; Small Business Management</i>	UAB	2	22.200	2	22.200						44.400
<i>Doctoral Program in Environmental Sciences</i>	UAB	2	22.200	3	37.260			1	2.500	2.600	64.560
<i>PhD program in Cognitive Science and Language</i>	UB			2	22.200	1	3.000				25.200
<i>International PhD Program in Biomedicine</i>	UB			2	22.200	1	6.395			2.600	31.195
<i>Graduate Program in Advanced Physics</i>	UB			1	11.100	1	4.200				15.300
<i>PhD Program in Genetics</i>	UB			2	22.200					1.650	23.850
<i>PhD Program in Biotechnology</i>	UB			2	22.200						22.200
<i>International Graduate Program in Organic Chemistry</i>	UB	5	55.500	6	66.600	1	2.475			1.600	126.175
<i>PhD Program in Environmental Sciences</i>	UdG			1	11.100					470	11.570
<i>International Doctoral Program in Information Technologies</i>	UdG	2	22.200	3	33.300	1	2.625	1	2.500	2.600	63.225
<i>PhD Program in Technical and Computer Applications of Statistics, Operational Research and Optimization</i>	UPC			2	22.200	1	3.260			2.600	28.060
<i>Doctoral Program in Applied Physics and Scientific Simulation</i>	UPC	2	22.200	3	33.300						55.500
<i>Doctoral Program in Signal Theory and Communications</i>	UPC	4	44.400	6	66.600						111.000
<i>Doctoral Program in Civil Engineering</i>	UPC	3	33.300	4	44.400			1	2.500	2.600	82.800
<i>PhD Program in Software</i>	UPC	4	44.400	5	55.500			1	2.000	2.600	104.500
<i>Doctoral Program in Computer Architecture and Technology</i>	UPC	3	33.300	4	44.400	1	2.400	1	2.500	2.600	85.200
<i>Graduate Program in Economics and Management</i>	UPF	4	44.400	6	66.600	1	4.200				115.200
<i>PhD Program in Political and Social Sciences</i>	UPF			2	22.200	1	4.550				26.750
<i>Doctoral Program in Computer Science and Digital Communication</i>	UPF	3	33.300	4	44.400					1.950	79.650
<i>International PhD Program in Basic Biomedical Research</i>	UPF	4	44.400	6	66.600						111.000
<i>PhD Program in Management Sciences</i>	URL-ESADE	2	22.200	3	33.300						55.500
<i>Graduate Program in Chemical and Process Engineering</i>	URV	4	44.400	5	55.500			1	2.500	1.600	104.000
<i>PhD Program in Chemistry in Industrial Processes and Products</i>	URV			2	22.200	1	4.890				27.090
<b>TOTAL DOCTORAL PROGRAMMES</b>		<b>54</b>	<b>599.400</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>1.025.160</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>49.770</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>17.000</b>	<b>28.070</b>	<b>1.719.400</b>
<b>Masters</b>											
	UB										30.000
	UPC										40.000
	UdG										20.000
<b>TOTAL MASTERS</b>											<b>90.000</b>
<b>TOTAL IGSOC GRANTS</b>		<b>54</b>	<b>599.400</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>1.025.160</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>49.770</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>17.000</b>	<b>28.070</b>	<b>1.809.400</b>

**Table 5**  
**IGSOC 2003-funded viability studies**

University	Viability study
UB - Hospital Clínic (Aula Clínic)	Master in hepatic cirrhosis
UB - Hospital Clínic (Aula Clínic)	Master in chronic respiratory diseases
UB	Master of Laws (L.I.M) International Economic Law and Policy
UPC	EMIT: European Master on Information Technology
UPC	International Master in aquiculture
UPC	Master of Science in Information and Comunication Technologies
UPC - Fundació Politècnica de Catalunya	International Master in software engineering
UdG - Fundació Universitat de Girona: Innovació i Formació	Master in emerging technologies for food conservation and innovation in the food industry
UdG - Fundació Universitat de Girona: Innovació i Formació	International University Master in international cultural cooperation

- e) They will entail at least six hundred hours' teaching and will require the student to carry out a substantial piece of individual applied or research work.
- f) They will apply an assessment system that fully guarantees the accomplishment of the formative objectives of the programme by the students who obtain the qualification.
- g) They will envisage at least one third of the students enrolled being international students; for the purposes of this grants scheme, an international student is one whose nationality is other than Spanish.

**The 2003 edition of the IGSO awards has encouraged the preparation of International Masters viability studies, with the aim of facilitating a thoroughly grounded decision-making process regarding the Masters courses to be offered during the academic year 2004-2005.**

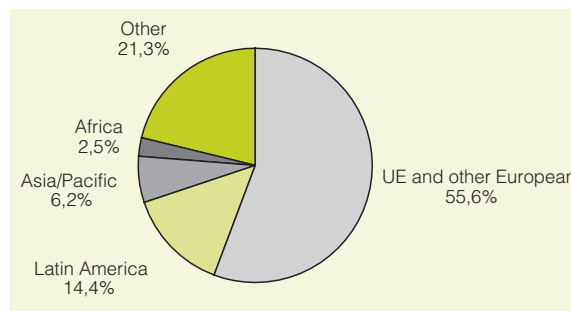
Nine viability studies have been selected and awarded an individual grant of 10,000 € under the co-funding scheme, covering a maximum of 50% of the cost of each viability study (see Table 5).

**Table 6**  
**Hits on the IGSO website during the period May-June 2003**

Countries	Hits	%
EU and other European countries	1.633	55,6
Latin America	423	14,4
Asia/Pacific	183	6,2
Africa	73	2,5
Others	626	21,3
<b>Total</b>	<b>2.938</b>	<b>100,0</b>

- (1) EU and other European countries includes Germany, Spain, France, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Poland, United Kingdom, Sweden and Switzerland only.
- (2) Latin America includes Argentina, Mexico, Peru and Chile only.
- (3) Africa includes South Africa only.
- (4) Àsia/Pacific includes Indonesia, Japan and New Zealand only.
- (5) Others includes any country not included in the previous groups.

**Graph 2**  
**Percentage distribution of the origin of the hits on the IGSO website (May-June 2003)**



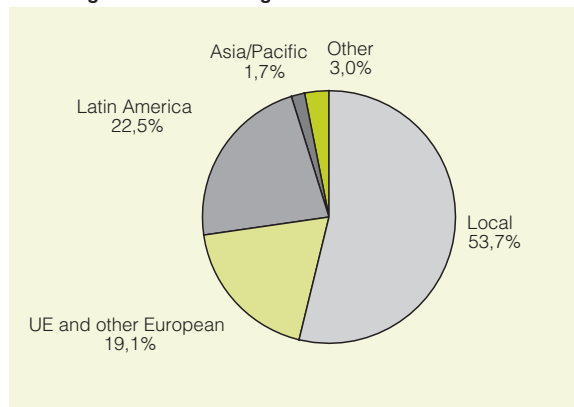
**Table 7**  
**Students for the academic year 2002-03. Distribution according to countries of origin**

Country of origin <sup>1</sup>	Number	%
<b>Catalonia and the rest of Spain</b>	<b>691</b>	<b>53,7</b>
<b>International:</b>	<b>595</b>	<b>46,3</b>
EU and other European countries <sup>2</sup>	246	19,1
Latin America	289	22,5
Asia / Pacific	22	1,7
Others	38	3,0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1.286</b>	<b>100,0</b>

<sup>1</sup> Countries represented: Germany, Algeria, Andorra, Argentina, Austria, Azerbaidjan, Barbados, Belgium, Bielorusse, Bolivia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Denmark, Egypt, Equador, Spain, United States, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Greece, Hungary, Índia, Iran, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Letonia, Madagascar, Malaysia, Morocco, Mexico, Moldavia, Nigeria, Norway, Netherlands, Pakistan, Peru, Poland, Portugal, United Kingdom, Romania, Russia, Sudan, Switzerland, Thailand, Turkey, Ukraine, Uruguay, Venezuela, Vietnam, Chile and China.

<sup>2</sup> Does not include students from Catalonia and the rest of Spain.

**Graph 3**  
**Students for the academic year 2002-03. Percentage distribution according to countries of origin**



### Other actions

Attention should be drawn to the IGSOc dissemination campaign through advertising in international media with a broad circulation, both in traditional and on-line format;

the campaign has focussed on presenting the range of associate programmes available and on projecting the corporate identity of IGSOc, referring those interested to the IGSOc website for further information.

As a result of the campaign, the IGSOc webpage ([www.igsoc.com](http://www.igsoc.com)), which was put into commission at the end of April, has registered around 1,500 hits per month from all over the world.

## 4. The international IGSOc community

Finally, mention should be made of one pivotal feature of IGSOc, which is the extensive participation of international students in the various IGSOc associate programmes.

---

**The short-term challenge facing IGSOc is to put together an attractive and competitive package of post-graduate studies and successfully promote it in the world marketplace.**

---

Since details of the twenty-seven associate programmes for the academic year 2003-04 are as yet unavailable, there follows a breakdown of the data for the seventeen associate programmes offered in 2002-03. Included in the data are the number of students enrolled in doctoral courses as well as those registered in the doctoral thesis preparation stage.

## 5. Outlook for the future

The short-term challenge facing IGSOc is to put together an attractive and competitive package of post-graduate studies and successfully promote it in the world marketplace.

**Table 8**  
**Number of students. Academic year 2002-03 (according to programmes)**

Doctoral programmes according to thematic blocks	University	Total students	Local students		International students	
			Number	% s/ total	Number	% s/ total
<b>Management and Economics</b>		<b>428</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>29,9</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>70,1</b>
<i>European Doctoral Program in Entrepreneurship &amp; Small Business Management</i>	UAB	45	9	20,0	36	80,0
<i>International Doctorate in Economic Analysis (IDEA)</i>	UAB	63	21	33,3	42	66,7
<i>Graduate Program in Economics and Management</i>	UPF	160	25	15,6	135	84,4
<i>PhD Program in Management Sciences</i>	ESADE	107	63	58,9	44	41,1
<i>PhD in Management</i>	IESE	53	10	18,9	43	81,1
<b>Information Technologies</b>		<b>480</b>	<b>339</b>	<b>70,6</b>	<b>141</b>	<b>29,4</b>
<i>Doctoral Program in Computer Architecture and Technology</i>	UPC	102	74	72,5	28	27,5
<i>Doctoral Program in Signal Theory and Communications</i>	UPC	144	109	75,7	35	24,3
<i>PhD Program in Software</i>	UPC	139	104	74,8	35	25,2
<i>International Doctoral Program in Information Technologies</i>	UdG	64	35	54,7	29	45,3
<i>Doctoral Program in Computer Science and Digital Communication</i>	UPF	31	17	54,8	14	45,2
<b>Medical and Life Sciences</b>		<b>30</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>70,0</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>30,0</b>
<i>International PhD Program in Basic Biomedical Research</i>	UPF	30	21	70,0	9	30,0
<b>Sciences and Engineering</b>		<b>158</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>37,3</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>62,7</b>
<i>Doctoral Program in Environmental Sciences</i>	UAB	62	29	46,8	33	53,2
<i>Doctoral Program in Civil Engineering</i>	UPC	41	15	36,6	26	63,4
<i>Graduate Program in Chemical and Process Engineering</i>	URV	55	15	27,3	40	72,7
<b>Physical Sciences</b>		<b>190</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>75,8</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>24,2</b>
<i>International Graduate Program in Organic Chemistry</i>	UB	78	64	82,1	14	17,9
<i>Doctoral Program in Mathematics</i>	UAB	55	36	65,5	19	34,5
<i>Doctoral Program in Applied Physics and Scientific Simulation</i>	UPC	57	44	77,2	13	22,8
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>1.286</b>	<b>691</b>	<b>53,7</b>	<b>595</b>	<b>46,3</b>

This objective must be achieved in a European, State-wide and Catalan context, in the wake of a sweeping academic reform which will have a particularly marked impact on post-graduate studies such as Masters and PhDs.

A period of transition is thus being embarked upon, leading to new advanced programmes called Masters, which

may be diverse in orientation, as well as to a greater inter-connection between the new Masters courses – focusing more on research – and the PhD programmes. This new academic scene will also incorporate a clear differentiation between «official» (regulated and recognised at State level) and «own» Masters programmes, the latter being offered and recognised by the individual university.

IGSOC will therefore have to tread carefully in this changing landscape, at all times seeking to secure for its range of study programmes the best possible position on the international stage.

Among the more immediate objectives, special emphasis should be given to the following:

- Setting up the Advisory Council and commencing its activities.
- Adapting the forthcoming editions of the annual IGSOC awards to the requirements of adapting to the European Higher Education Space. Forthcoming editions will therefore focus on establishing an initial range of Masters for the academic years 2004-2005 and 2005-2006 and on consolidating the present range of doctoral programmes.
- Strengthening IGSOC's projection on the international stage, forging links with appropriate international bodies and strengthening its projection in South-East Asia.