Institut Ramon Llull

Catalan Language and Culture Abroad



institut ramon llull

Why Ramon Llull?

Ramon Llull (Palma de Majorca, 1232-1316) was a prolific and multi-faceted author who expressed his thoughts in Latin, Catalan and Arabic. His intellectual profile is complex and atypical: he was, at the same time, Christian philosopher and apologist, theologist and mystic, as well as the author of scientific and literary works.

Llull was also one of the first writers to use a vernacular language, in his case Catalan, to discuss theological, philosophical and scientific subjects normally reserved for the Latin.

Given that Ramon Llull is one of the most universal Catalan figures, dating back centuries, it is fitting that the institution established to promote knowledge abroad of the Catalan culture and language, would choose to adopt his name.

"Ramon Llull fathered Catalan high literature precisely because he not only reinvented the Catalan language—as Shakespeare, Dante, Goethe, Montaigne reinvented theirs—but because like Cervantes and Walt Whitman he reforged the relationship between mythmaking and the individual spirit."

Harold Bloom
"Ramon Llull and Catalan Tradition," 2006

Cover photograph:
Fura dels Baus, *Prometheus Awakes*, London 2012 Festival.
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Catalan Culture

The newest currents in the arts and humanities have always had a strong presence in Catalonia, given its geographical location and the magnetism of the city of Barcelona. Catalan culture has shaped its own unique and universal identity, producing outstanding figures in almost every area of culture.

Medieval Catalonia gave rise to the Catalan language, one of the linguistic cornerstones in European culture–with works by important writers such as philosopher **Ramon Llull**, poet **Ausiàs March** and novelist **Joanot Martorell**–and also to the blossoming of Romanesque art, prime examples of which form part of the Museu Nacional d'Art de Catalunya's permanent collection.

Following the 19th-century Catalan Cultural Renaissance, the 20th century was a veritable golden age of Catalan culture, producing writers such as **Josep Pla**, **Mercè Rodoreda** and **Salvador Espriu**; *Modernista* architectural works by **Antoni Gaudí**, **Josep Puig i Cadafalch**, and **Lluís Domènech i Montaner**; musicians **Pau Casals**, **Robert Gerhard** and **Frederic Mompou**; as well as opera tenor **Josep Carreras**, soprano **Montserrat Caballé** and viol master and conductor **Jordi Savall**.

Within the art sphere, Catalonia boasts internationally renowned artists such as **Joan Miró**, **Salvador Dalí** and **Antoni Tàpies**, as well as **Pablo Picasso**, who spent a formative period of his artistic life in Barcelona, where the prestigious Picasso museum is now located.

On another front, Barcelona has become a paradigm of modernity and one of the European capitals of design, as a result of the state-of-the-art work of well-known architects and young professionals in the architecture and design fields.

Catalonia today is the heir to this rich cultural tradition and a very special innovative sensibility, witnessed in the performance works of the **Fura dels Baus**, **Calixto Bieito**'s *mise-en-scènes*, **Jaume Plensa**'s sculptures for public spaces, **Joan Fontcuberta**'s photographs, **Jaume Cabré**'s novels, **Albert Serra**'s films and the exquisite cuisine created by chefs **Ferran Adrià** and the **Roca** brothers, all of whom are excellent international ambassadors of Catalan culture.

The Institut Ramon Llull

The Institut Ramon Llull is a public consortium established in 2002 with the aim of promoting the Catalan language and culture abroad. This mission is accomplished by providing broad international exposure to writers and artists, encouraging artistic and cultural exchanges, and supporting Catalan language and literature studies in universities. Currently, the consortium is formed by the **Government of Catalonia** and the **Barcelona City Council**.

The Institut Ramon Llull's work is structured in three main areas of activity promoting the following: visual arts, architecture and design, performing arts, music and film (Department of Performing and Visual Arts); Catalan literary and scholarly works (Department of Literature and the Humanities); and Catalan studies in academic settings (Department of Language and Universities).





The Institut's work in other Catalan-speaking areas (see map to the right) is represented by the **Ramon Llull Foundation**, with its main office in Andorra. This foundation comprises the Institut Ramon Llull, the Government of Andorra, the General Council of the Eastern Pyrenees, the city of Alghero (Sardinia), the Ramon Llull Network of Valencian Cities, and the Ramon Llull Network of Balearic Island Cities.



The Catalan Language Abroad

The Institut Ramon Llull promotes the study of Catalan language and culture in universitites abroad, with which it signs agreements to establish Catalan studies, providing support to the universities, teachers and students through various programs and funding lines.

It encourages advanced studies and research on Catalan language and culture through study centers and chairs for visiting professors at prestigious universities abroad and supports the initiatives of international Catalan cultural associations and societies.

As an official organization qualified to certify Catalan language proficiency of students abroad, it administers exams that provide accreditation for the various language levels, in keeping with the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages.

In order to ensure the quality of teaching it provides ongoing teacher training and promotes programs designed for students from abroad to round out their language studies in teaching institutions within Catalan-speaking areas.



More than 150 universities worldwide teach Catalan studies

Annual Catalan language exams offered in **75** cities in over **30** countries

Literature and the Humanities

The Institut Ramon Llull promotes the publication in other languages of Catalan literary and scholarly works—with a special emphasis on the classics—by providing grant support to the publishers of those translated works.

It aims to provide exposure of Catalan authors and works within the international setting and encourages their participation in literary and cultural exchanges, and, at the same time, works to place Catalan literature as guest of honour at international book fairs.

The Institut provides support to literary translators from the Catalan language with the aim of encouraging quality translations, ongoing training and recognition for their work.

It facilitates dialogue and interaction among Catalan researchers and scholars and their foreign conterparts, to promote a wide-ranging international exchange of ideas and research.

The Institute Ramon Llull also provides support for a broad outreach of Catalan cultural and scholarly journals through ongoing contact and interaction with similar publications from other countries.


100
translations
per year
Support provided for 150 literary activities annually

Visual Arts, Design, Architecture, Performing Arts, Music and Film

The Institut Ramon Llull promotes the presentation abroad of visual arts, architecture, performing arts, music and film from Catalonia.

It gives wide exposure to Catalan culture through participation in events in cities around the world that are at the forefront in the visual and performing arts spheres.

The Institute promotes the presence of artists from Catalonia in first-rate international contemporary art activities through cooperation agreements with festivals, institutions, international exhibitions, arts centers and museums.

It encourages exchanges between local and international arts organizations and institutions through planned visits for curators, art critics and programmers from Spain and abroad to attend festivals, fairs, exhibitions, premieres and concerts in Catalonia.

The Institut Ramon Llull provides on-line information on its performing and visual arts activities: (Visual Arts): **www.arxiuartistes.cat**; (Music): **http://catalansounds.llull.cat**; **http://newcatalanmusic.cat;** (Playwriting): **www.catalandrama.cat;** (Performing Arts): **www.llull.cat/monografics/performingarts/catala/index.cfm**); as well as information on Catalan presence at fairs and markets within the arts sector.

The Institute provides travel grants through open competition aiding artists and performers to show their works within the international arts and performance circuits and also fosters broader exposure of Catalan audiovisual productions through grants offering support for the subtitling of films and documentaries to other languages.



Every year **300** artists receive IRL grants to present approximately **2000** activities abroad

Grants and Services

Language and Universities

Grants for University-level Teaching of Catalan Studies

Grants for universities outside of Catalan-speaking areas to support the introduction, maintenance and consolidation of the teaching of Catalan studies, through cooperation agreements and by providing support for teacher recruitment.

Recipients: Universities Outside of Catalan-speaking Areas.

Grants for the Organization of Academic and Cultural Activities

Support for the organization of academic and cultural activities (conferences, seminars, concerts, cultural weeks, etc.) at universities abroad that offer Catalan studies programs, with the aim of broadening exposure to, and visibility of, the Catalan language and culture.

Recipients: Universities Outside of Catalan-speaking Areas that Offer Courses in Catalan Studies.

Language Stays

Organizing language stays focused on improving linguistic proficiency in Catalan and broadening knowledge of this culture among foreign students of Catalan through courses, conferences and complementary activities.

Recipients: University Students from Outside of Catalan-speaking Areas.



Catalan Language Certification

The Institut Ramon Llull issues annual public calls for Catalan language certification examinations for speakers living outside of Catalan-speaking areas, in keeping with the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages. The certificates issued by the Institut Ramon Llull offer accreditation in language proficiency, both for academic and professional purposes (within the public administration, companies, institutions) and are equivalent to certifications issued by the Catalan Government's Department of Linguistic Policy.

Teacher Training

The Institut Ramon Llull organizes courses, seminars and conferences focused on methodology, strategies and resources for learrning and teaching Catalan as a foreign language.

Recipients: Teachers of Catalan Studies at Universities Outside of Catalan-speaking Areas

Grants

Literature and the Humanities

Translation Grants

Grants for the translation of Catalan fiction, non-fiction and scholarly works into other languages, to assist publishers of those works in covering translation costs.

Recipients: Publishers.

Grants for the Promotion of Catalan Fiction, Non-fiction and Scholarly Works

Grants for activities promoting Catalan fiction, non-fiction and scholarly works abroad, including: participation in international literary festivals; literary activities within the framework of cultural events; presentations and promotional plans for new works in translation; monographic pieces in cultural journals; and providing information on authors.

Recipients: Institutions, Publishers, Literary Agencies.

Travel Grants for Writers and Translators

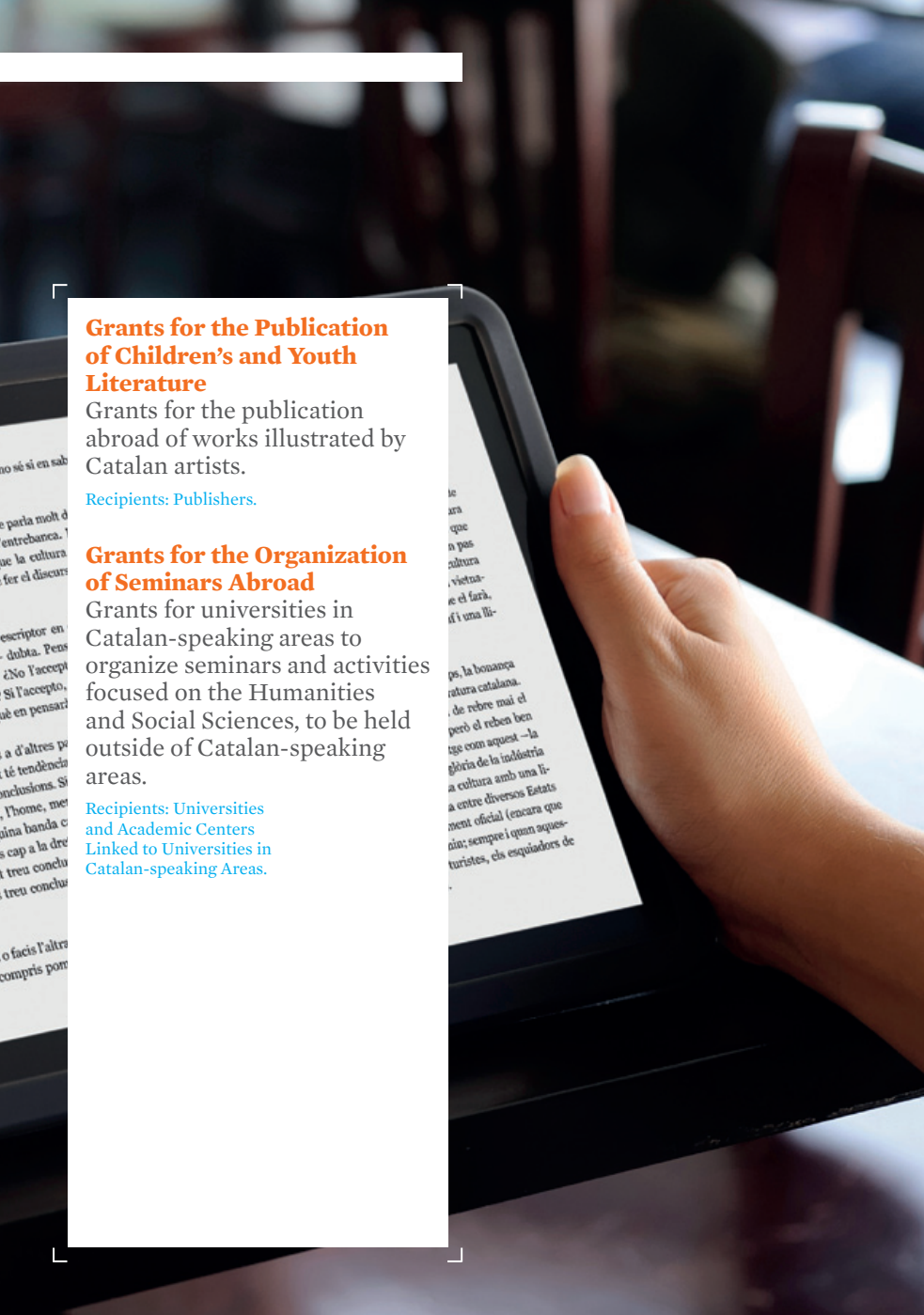
Travel grants for writers and translators to participate in activities abroad: events publicizing new published works in translation; literary festivals and fairs; seminars on literary translation; presentation of talks and lectures at international academic conferences.

Recipients: Writers and Translators.

Residence Programs for Literary Translators

Grants for translators with commissioned translations in progress of Catalan literary works, for working stays in Catalonia lasting between two and six weeks.

Recipients: Translators.



Grants for the Publication of Children's and Youth Literature

Grants for the publication abroad of works illustrated by Catalan artists.

Recipients: Publishers.

Grants for the Organization of Seminars Abroad

Grants for universities in Catalan-speaking areas to organize seminars and activities focused on the Humanities and Social Sciences, to be held outside of Catalan-speaking areas.

Recipients: Universities and Academic Centers Linked to Universities in Catalan-speaking Areas.

Grants

Visual Arts, Design, Architecture, Performing Arts, Music and Film

Travel Grants for Artists

Grants for travel outside of Catalan-speaking areas for artists and performers working in music, theater, circus arts, dance and the visual arts to support performances/ exhibitions within professional circuits abroad.

Recipients: Individuals or Companies with Legal Residence in Catalonia.

Grants for Presentations of Feature Films, Short Films and Documentaries

Travel grants to support the participation of film teams at presentations of feature films, short films and documentaries at festivals and/or exhibitions outside Catalan-speaking areas.

Recipients: Individuals or Companies with Legal Residence in Catalonia.

Translation Grants for Feature Films, Short Films and Documentaries

Grants for the translation of Catalan-language feature films, short films and documentaries produced in Catalonia, to cover translation and subtitling costs.

Recipients: Production Companies and Free-lance Translators/Subtitlers with Legal Residence in Catalonia.

The Institut Ramon Llull cooperates with the following international cultural and academic institutions, among others:

Agora de la Danse, Montréal
Arkitekturmuseet, Stockholm
Ars Musica, Brussels
Baryshnikov Arts Center, New York
Beijing Design Week
BFI, London Film Festival
Bibliotheca Alexandrina, Egypt
Biennale di Venezia
Centre Pompidou, Paris
Columbia University
Documenta, Kassel
Dutch Foundation for Literature
Eurozine, Wien
Feria Internacional del Libro de Guadalajara
Feria del Libro de Antropologia e Historia, Mexico DF
Festival Internacional Cervantino, Guanajuato
Festival Iberoamericano de Teatro de Bogotà
Festival Internacional de Cine de Guadalajara
Festival Internacional de Cine de Mar del Plata
Festival International de Jazz de Montréal
Festival off d'Avignon
Festival Pau Casals, Puerto Rico
Festival Transamèriques, Montréal
FILI – Finnish Literature Exchange
Film Society of Lincoln Center, New York
Flamenco Biënnale Netherlands
Foundation of Iberian Music-CUNY, New York
Frankfurt Book Fair
Göteborg Book Fair
Guildhall, London
Harvard University
Hay Festival, Beirut / Cartagena de Indias
Hebbel Theater, Berlin
Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Hosei University, Tokyo
Huddersfield Contemporary Music Festival
Humboldt Universität zu Berlin
International Center of Photography, New York
Irish Museum of Modern Art, Dublin
Jeu de Paume, Paris
Johann Wolfgang Goethe-Universität, Frankfurt
Literature Across Frontiers
Literaturwerkstatt Berlin
Marché de la Poésie, Paris
Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York
Monash University, Melbourne
Montreal World Film Festival
PEN World Voices Festival, New York
Petit Palais, Paris
Polish Book Institute, Kraków
Queen Mary University of London
Rencontres Choréographiques Seine-Saint Denis
Salon du Livre, Paris
Sanktpeterburgskii Gossudarstvennyi Universitet
Schwob – The European Gateway for Books
SESC, Serviço Social do Comércio, São Paulo
Stanford University
Stockholm Kulturfestival
Summer Stage Festival, New York
Tate Modern, London
The Great Escape, Brighton
Uijeongbu International Music Theatre Festival, South Korea
Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México
Università Ca' Foscari di Venezia
Università degli Studi di Napoli – Federico II
Universität Leipzig
Université de Montréal
Université Paris-Sorbonne
Université de Toulouse II – Le Mirail
Université du Québec à Montréal
University of Birmingham
University of Chicago
University of Glasgow
Vive Latino Festival, México DF
Wales Literature Exchange
Writers Omi International Residency at Ledig House

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Palau del Baró de Quadras →

The Institut Ramon Llull's offices are located at the Palau del Baró de Quadras, designed by **Josep Puig i Cadafalch** (1867-1956), a leading Catalan *Modernista* architect and peer of **Antoni Gaudí** and **Lluís Domènech i Montaner**.

Puig i Cadafalch built the Palau del Baró de Quadras between 1904 and 1906, during the peak years of his career.

He created this small Catalan Art Nouveau jewel by renovating an already existing building; the facade, together with the two ground floor entrances, the interior courtyard, and the stairway leading to the first floor are outstanding examples of architectural elements from that era.

www.llull.cat

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Generalitat de Catalunya

Ajuntament de Barcelona



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