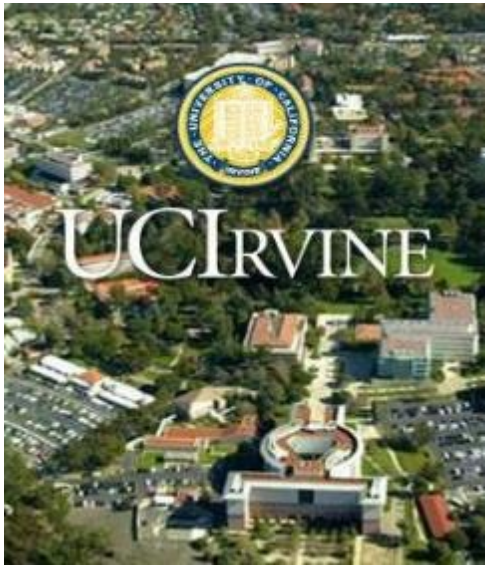
California-Catalonia Program
Balsells Fellowship
Mobility and PhD Studies in California



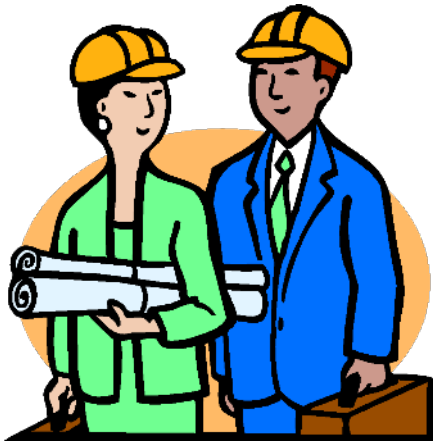
Presenter

Professor Raul Benitez Iglesias
EEBE

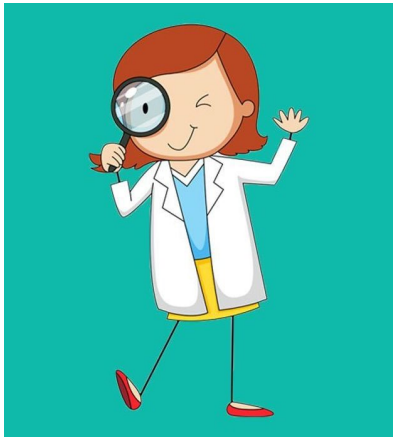
November 2024

What to do after graduation?

- Get a job



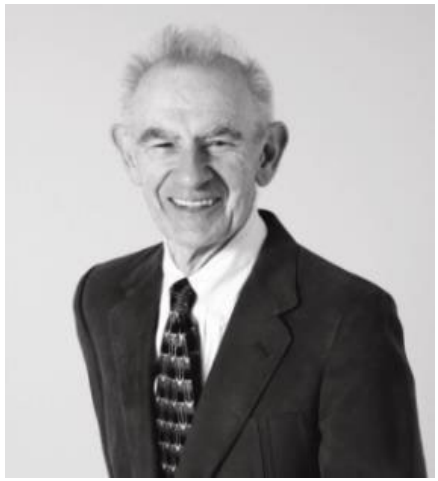
- Learn more, become an expert and **leader** in your field



Historical Perspective

- The Balsells Fellowship began in 1996

Established by
Pete Balsells
(1928-2022)



UNIVERSITY of CALIFORNIA
IRVINE

Peter (Pere) J. Balsells

- Born in Barcelona in 1928
- Moved to United States at age 18
- Graduated from CU Boulder in 1952
  - B.S. degree in Mechanical Engineering
- Started **Bal Seal Engineering Company** in California in 1958 with his wife, Joan
- Started the Balsells Fellowship Program at UCI in 1996
- Francesc Macia Medal in 2003
- Premi Nacional de Recerca, Categoria Mecenatge in 2012
- Creu de Sant Jordi in 2013
- Honorary doctorates from CU Boulder (2014) and UdG (2016)
- Died in Orange County, California in 2022

The Balsells Effect

Recommended video to watch now or later:
A history of Bal Seal Engineering and the Balsells Fellowship

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9v65Udt8r2c

Student Opportunities

Where?

University of California, Irvine

1) Mobility Program

Short-term stays of 6 months to carry out final thesis for Bachelor's or Master's degree and to explore possibility of returning to the U.S. graduate school (M.S. and PhD)

2) PhD Studies

Long-term stays to obtain a PhD degree (and an M.S. degree along the way)

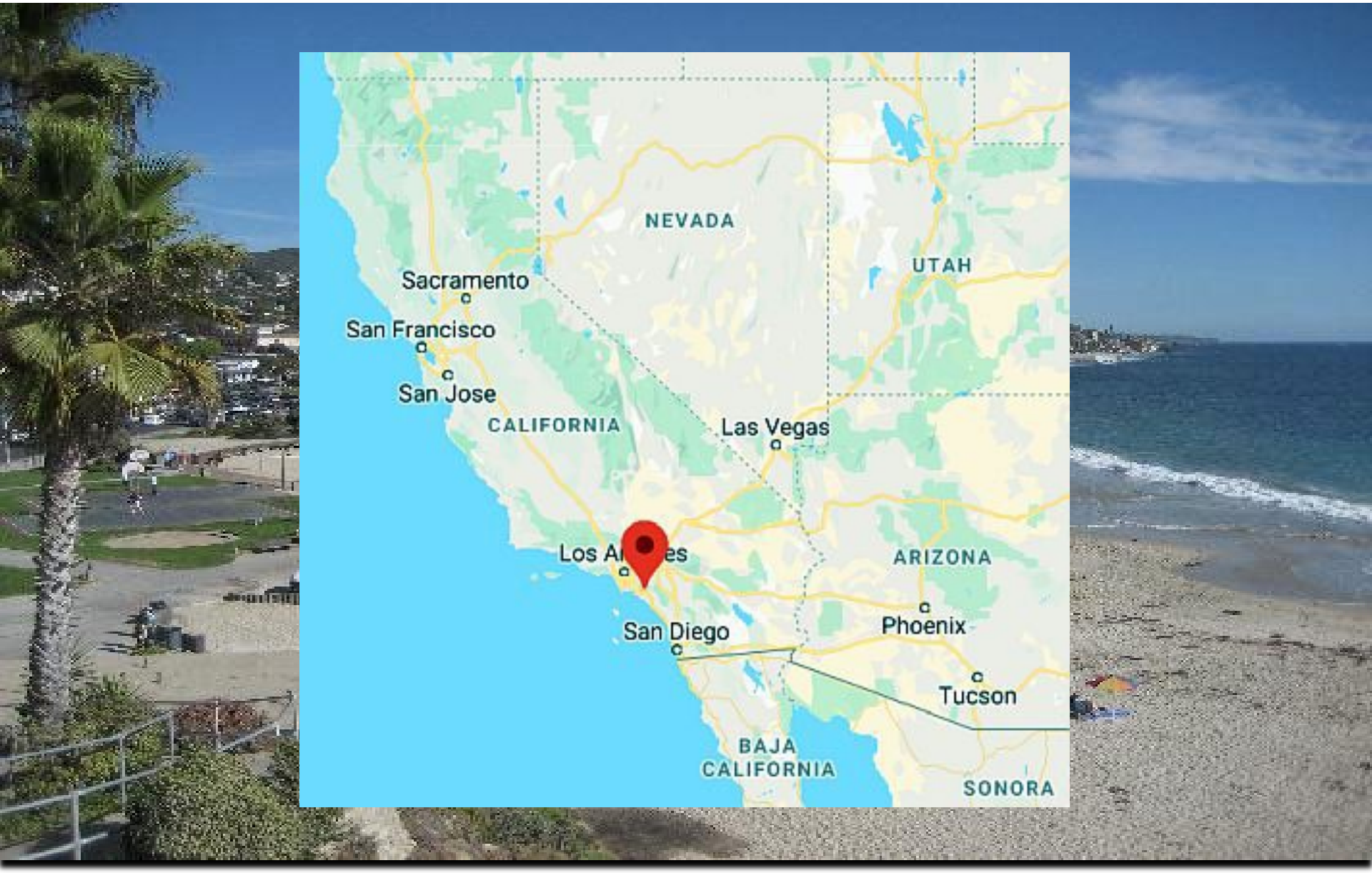
Balsells Fellowships 1996-2023

UC Irvine

169 MS and PhD fellows
15 post-doctoral fellows
90 mobility fellows

Catalan Universities:
UAB, UB, UdG, UdL, UPC, UPF, URL, URV

Irvine - California

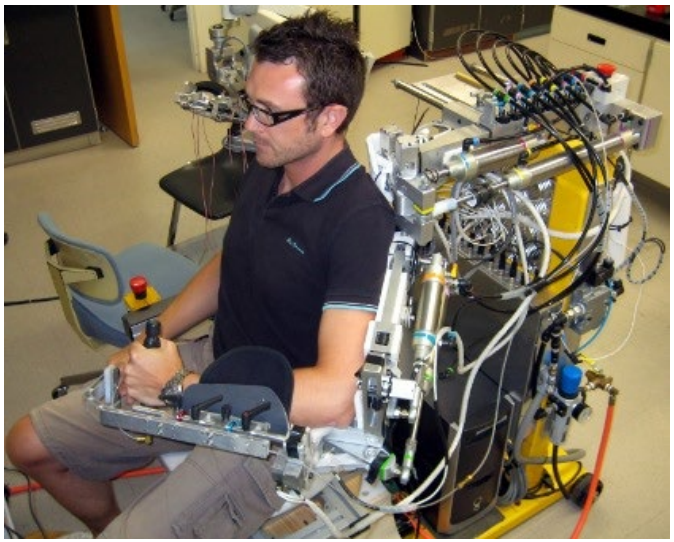


Irvine - Orange County - Southern California

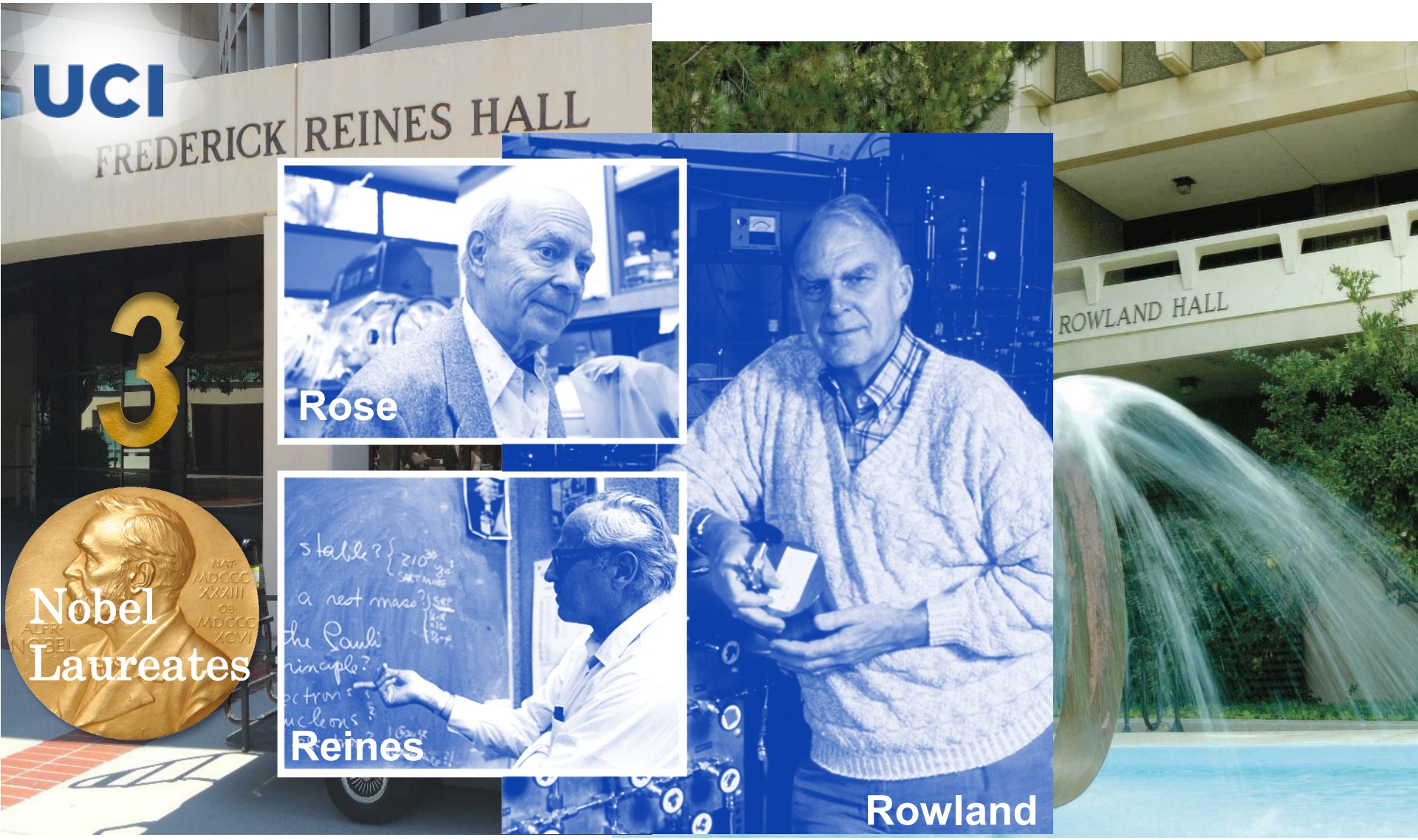
- Pop: 267,000 (Irvine)
  3.2 Million (Orange Co.)
- 60 km south of Los Angeles
- A hub of high tech companies
- Surrounded by beach, mountains, arts, and entertainment

University of California, Irvine Snapshot

- www.uci.edu
- 37,000 students
- 15 schools and programs
- 2,800 teaching faculty members
- 8th among all U.S. public universities (USNews&WR 2022)



UCIrvine


UCI
FREDERICK REINES HALL
ROWLAND HALL
3
Nobel
Laureates
Rose
Reines
Rowland

Research Centers and Institutes

- Advanced Power and Energy Program
- Beckman Laser Institute and Medical Clinic
- Center for Advanced Design& Manufacturing of Integrated Microfluidics
- Integrated Nanosystems Research Facility
- The Edwards Lifesciences Center for Advanced Cardiovascular Technology
- California Institute for Telecommunications and Information Technology
- Center for Embedded Systems and Cyber-Physical Systems
- Irvine Materials Research Institute
- Center for Pervasive Communications and Computing
- Center for Hydrometeorology and Remote Sensing
- Institute for Design and Manufacturing Innovation
- National Fuel Cell Research Center
- UCI Combustion Laboratory
- Water-Energy Nexus Center
- Institute of Transportation Studies

Donald Bren School of Information & Computer Sciences

www.ics.uci.edu

Figures:

- 3,300 Undergraduates
- 830 Graduate students
- 100 Faculty Members

Departments:

- Computer Science
- Informatics
- Statistics

Donald Bren School of Information & Computer Sciences

GRADUATE PROGRAMS

Computer Science

Software Engineering

Informatics

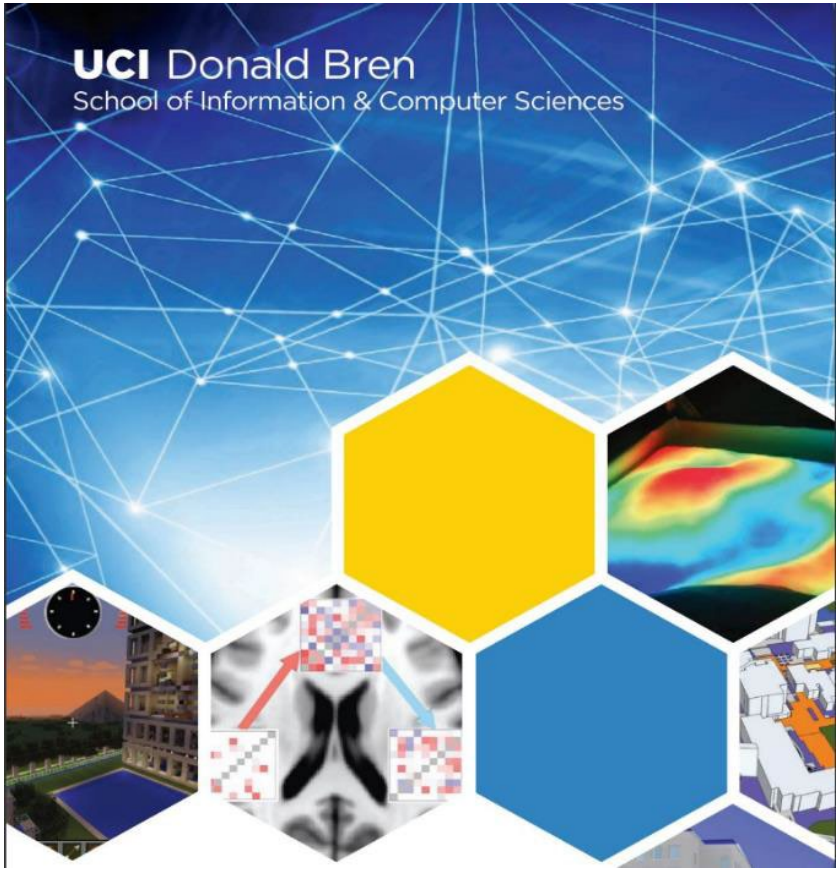
Networked Systems

Statistics

Data Science

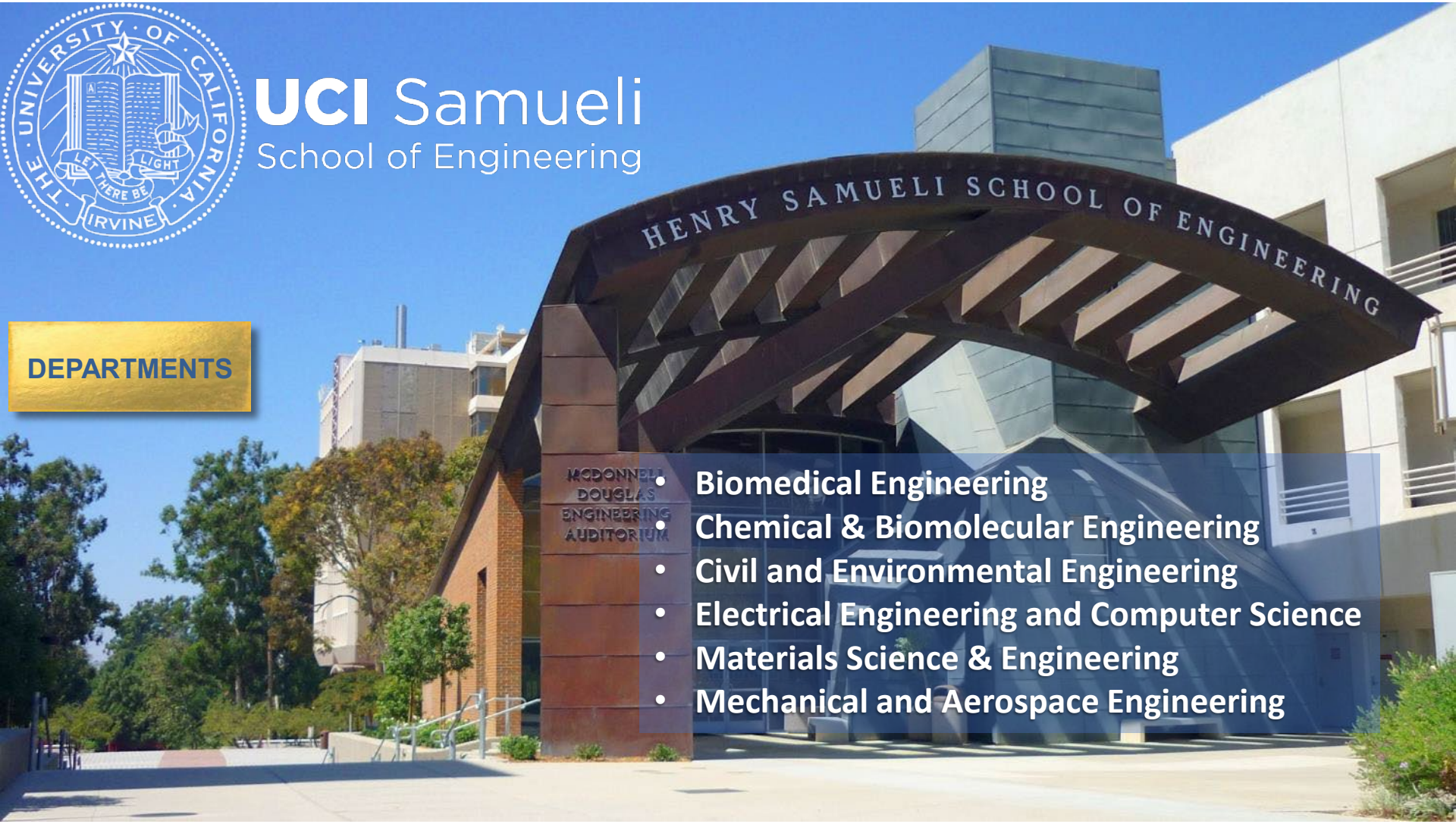
Embedded and Cyber-Physical Systems

Human-Computer Interaction and Design



HIGHLIGHTS

Computer Science is UCI's 2nd-largest undergraduate major.
Top 15 Computer Science Graduate Program among public universities, as ranked by U.S. News & World Report.
Software engineering research is ranked #2 and HCI research is ranked #8 by CSRankings.org.
Game design program is ranked 3rd among public institutions by Animation Career Review.
Statistics received 2 of the 13 NSF Graduate Research Fellowships awarded to statistics students nationwide in 2019



UCI Samueli School of Engineering

DEPARTMENTS

- Biomedical Engineering
- Chemical & Biomolecular Engineering
- Civil and Environmental Engineering
- Electrical Engineering and Computer Science
- Materials Science & Engineering
- Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering

Balsells Mobility Program

- Carry out B.S. or M.S. project or thesis
- 6 months at UC Irvine
- Partial funding provided $7,800
- Approximately 3-4 positions per year
- **Significant preference given to those students who want to continue as graduate students at UCI after the mobility visit.**

How to Apply for the Mobility Program

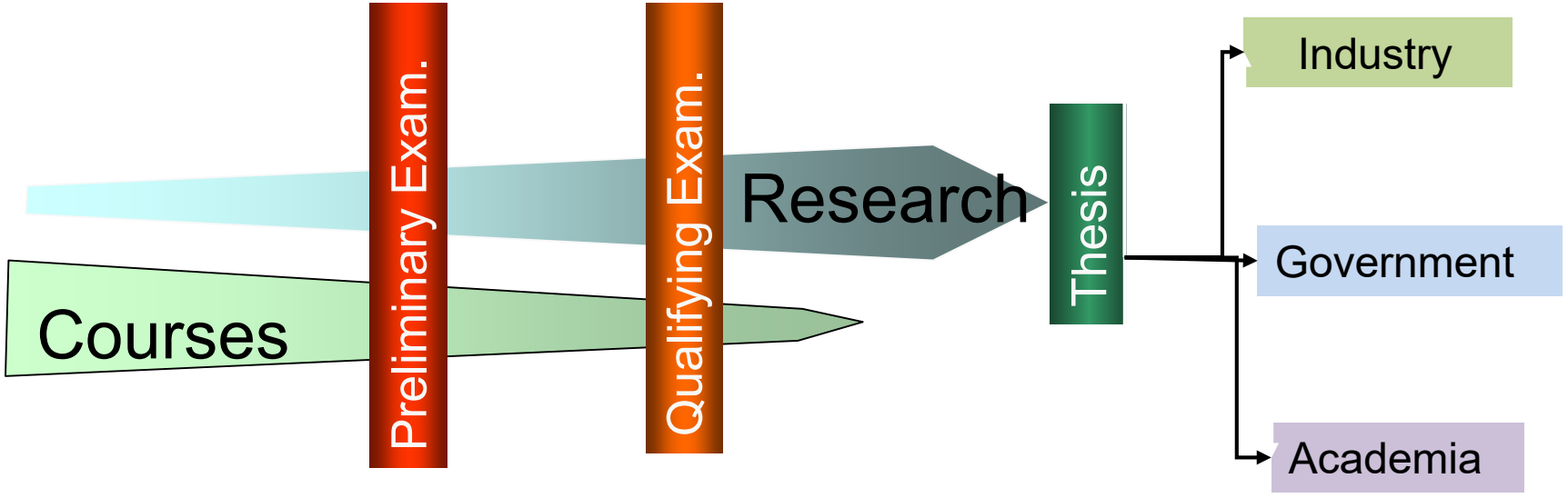
Students interested in the Mobility Program should:

- Be strongly interested in applying for the PhD program
- Have a strong academic record and at least intermediate English proficiency
- Provide letter of interest, curriculum vita, and academic transcript (all in English) to:
  - **UC Irvine:** Balsells Fellowship Program at balsells@uci.edu
  - https://balsells.eng.uci.edu/balsells-mobility-program/ for more information.

Graduate Programs

Master's: 1.5 years with thesis

Ph.D.: 3-4 additional years



Graduate Program (MS/PhD)

The support includes:

- Monthly stipend: **$2,700 per month ($32,000 per year)**
- Tuition, Fees & Insurance: **$35,000 per year**
- Travel stipend: **$1,000 first year**
- Total value: **$68,000 per year**
- Balsells Fellowship available for first year
- Research & teaching assistantships available for subsequent years
- 2-3 new fellowships each year

Balsells Eligibility

Who can apply?

Spanish citizens who are residents of Catalonia; speak English, Catalan and Spanish; and are graduates from Catalan university majoring in engineering or related fields.

Graduate Admissions—How To Apply

Requirements for admission to any of the graduate programs:

- Undergraduate transcripts (original and English translation)
- GRE scores (several programs waiving GRE)
- TOEFL/IELTS scores
- 3 Letters of recommendation
  - Highlighting your potential for performing independent, thoughtful research, and ability to think beyond formal course assignments
- Candidate statement (Statement of Purpose)
  - How you prepared for the graduate degree (courses, experiences)
  - Interests and career goals (why you want to pursue this degree)
  - Fit (why you are a good match for the program)
  - Your personal history that helped you decide to pursue this degree

Timeline for Graduate (MS/PhD) Application

For undergraduate students currently in their 4th year or M.S. students in their final year (finishing this year)

What	When
This presentation …….....	Nov 2024
Take GRE and TOEFL or IELTS exams …….	Dec 2024
Complete graduate application……	Dec 2024 / Jan 2025
Admissions decision by the university……..	Mar 2025
Decisions on funding announced……...	May 2025
Fall term of graduate school starts…….....	Sep 2025

Timeline for Mobility and Graduate Application

For undergraduate students currently in their 3rd year or MS students in their first year (finishing next year)

What	When
This presentation ……....	Nov 2024
Apply for Mobility …….	Feb 2025
Start Mobility……	Fall 2025 or Spring 2026
Take GRE and TOEFL or IELTS exams …….	Dec 2025
Complete graduate application…….	Dec 2025
Admissions decision by the university…….	Mar 2026
Decisions on financial support announced……..…	Apr 2026
Fall term of graduate school starts……...	Sep 2026

Application and Exam Websites

Information on GRE, TOEFL & IELTS exams:
www.gre.org, www.toefl.org, www.ielts.org

Information on applying to UC Irvine:
http://www.grad.uci.edu/admissions/applying-to-uci/

Thank you! Any questions?

For additional information please contact:

University of California, Irvine

balsells@uci.edu

https://balsells.eng.uci.edu/