

Online professional training

Escola Pia de Catalunya

Carlos Guillén Burguillos. Responsable FP on-line Escola Pia de Catalunya



The "Escola Pia de Catalunya" 's commitment to vocational training goes a long way. In 1789 Fr. Francesc Ferrer (1773-1821) presented in Mataró a modernized plan for the commercial arithmetic class. In 1891, Father Jaume Espasell (1847-1892) published Elements of Arithmetic, which updated the work of Father Ferrer. In 1902 the *Plan de estudios comerciales* for the primary school is published. Simulation of companies with school currency. Authors: Fr. Jaume Torres (1851-1917) and Fr. Tomas Garí-Montllor (1869-1930). We also taught nautical studies in 1767.

Currently, we have a very consolidated vocational training, with 13 centers (Initial Vocational Training and Occupational Vocational Training) and more than 3,000 students attending annually. There are 15 higher-level training courses, 13 intermediate-level courses, 9 PFI programs (Training and Insertion Programs), and more than 15 occupational programs.

It has been more than 10 years since the Catalan Department of Education provided the distance modality of vocational training. The "Escola Pia de Catalunya" had it very present, and in the course 15-16 we got down to work. We contacted schools with some experience and with the Department of Education we evaluated which people we wanted to address: for example, those who lived far from an educational center, those who had a disability, those who belonged to a special group (elite athletes, musicians...), or people in vulnerable situations, among others.



On the other hand, we also work on the methodological style: tutorial supervision, teacher accompaniment, individualized follow-up, flexibility, interactivity, self-learning, continuous assessment, and academic counseling. The approach given to online training is different from what we were used to with face-to-face education, and we have had to adapt to the new methodologies, which put the student at the center of learning as an active actor in the process.

In the 17-18 academic year, after an economic sustainability study, we started the first pilot experience in two schools: Escola Pia Mataró and Escola Pia Sarrià. We started with three higher-level training cycles: Administration and Finance, Marketing and Advertising, and Dietetics applied to sports nutrition. Initially, we had few students, but a stable pedagogical project and a team of excellent people to start a project with good prospects for the future.

Since then we have grown both in terms of training offer and number of students. Currently, we offer seven higher level training courses and one intermediate level. In addition to the training courses, we also organize other training programs. For example, a course to prepare for the PAP exams is aimed at students who want to gain access to education degrees. Last summer we also offered training capsules for teachers, and during the last academic year, we started a pre-university course in mathematics as a pilot test, aimed at students who want to study for a degree with significant mathematics content.

We are currently designing a strategic plan to set up the "Pia Online School", and thus provide a better structure to everything we are already doing, which in the medium term would facilitate the expansion of the distance training offer and the consolidation of the project. We have many ideas to offer new courses and reach groups that otherwise would not be able to continue training. Undoubtedly, we are becoming increasingly accustomed to studying outside the classroom and this type of training allows us to reach people who see "Escola Pia Online" as a solution to their needs. For example, in online vocational training, the most common student profile we find is mothers of young children. They cannot reconcile work, family, and studies in face-to-face mode, and with online training they can better combine their schedules and continue to grow professionally and, above all, as people.

<https://fp.escolapia.cat/fponline/>

