



LANGUAGE SERVICES AT THE UPC FOR ACADEMIC STAFF DELIVERING LECTURES IN ENGLISH

THE EXPERIENCE OF THE LANGUAGE AND TERMINOLOGY SERVICE

The UPC Language Plan promotes lecturing through English

“Provide language-learning courses, services and resources that are diverse with regard to format, requirements, target audience and communicative purpose, and that make use of virtual learning environments, Web 2.0, technology and informal learning strategies.”

English language support at the UPC

SLT

Language and Terminology Service

Language plan and language services, technical language support

ICE

Institute for Educational Sciences

Teaching methodology and strategies

English Section

English language teaching for students

CLIL has a **dual** focus

SLT services have a **single** focus

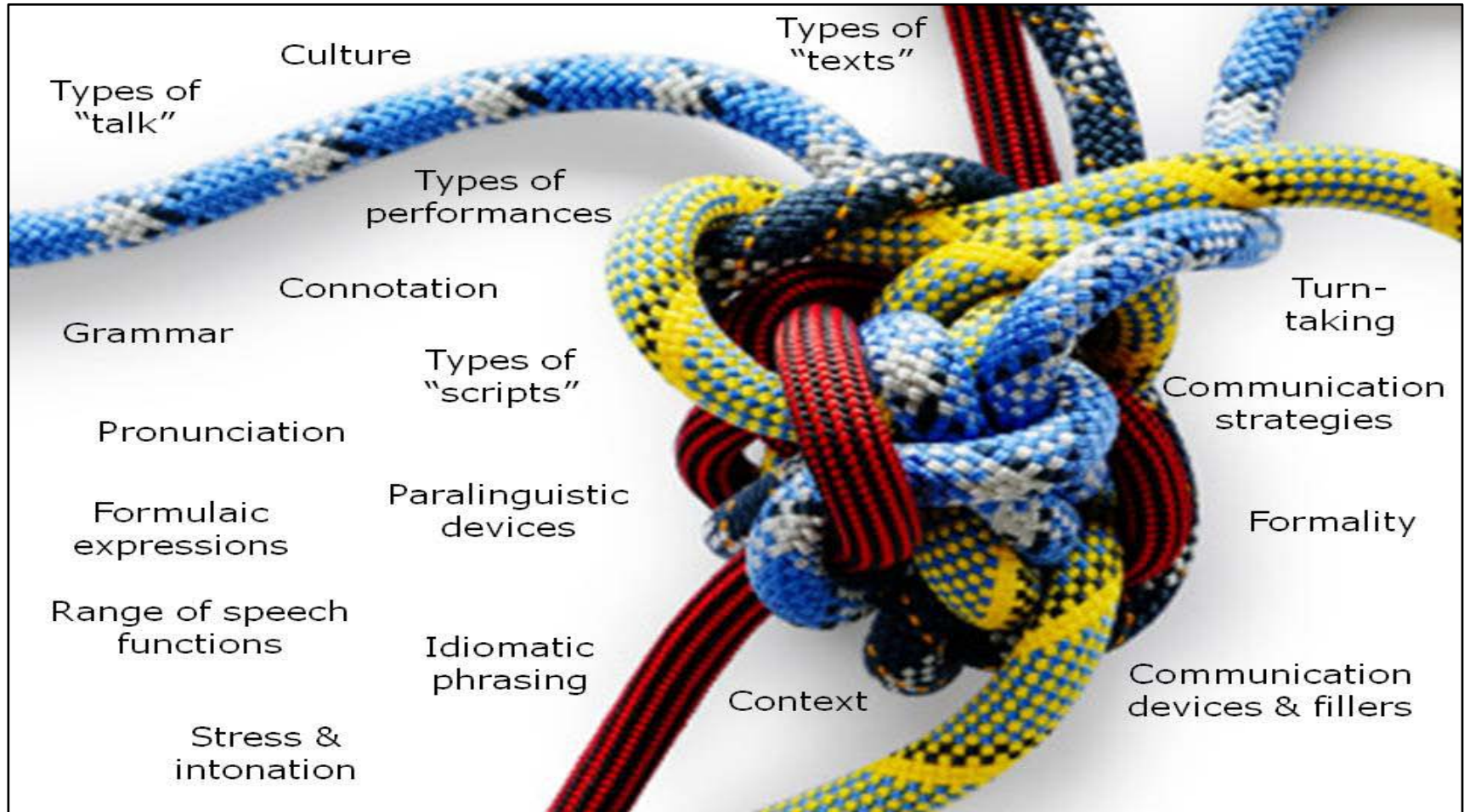
CLIL

Content and **Language** Integrated Learning

SLT

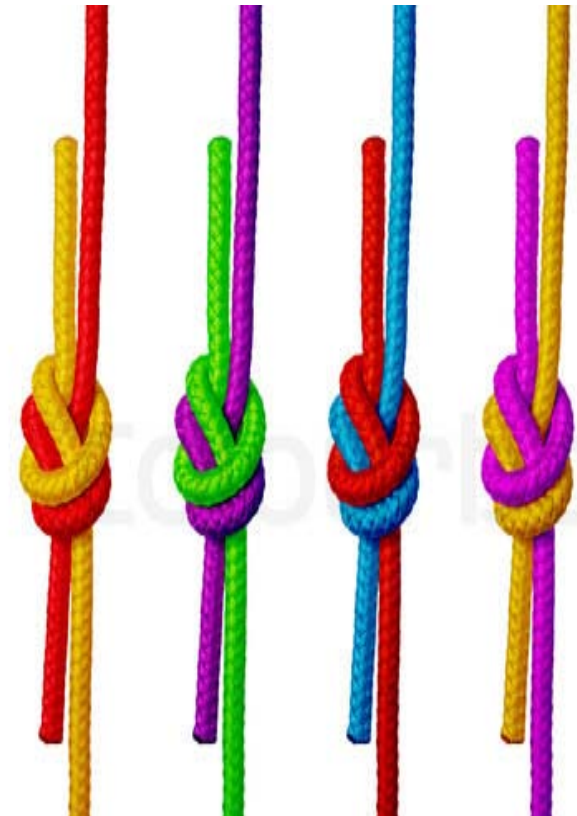
Language and Terminology Service

The aim of the SLT's language activities is to unravel some knots



The SLT's language activities in the past have included:

- **Individual coaching services**
- Formal learning activities
- Informal language activities
- UPC and SLT online resources



Individual coaching provides

- face-to-face tutoring on revised teaching material
- feedback on oral and written communication
- a tailored service
- expertise acquired in-situ at Purdue University

The SLT's language activities in the past have included:

- Individual coaching services
- **Formal learning activities**
- Informal language activities
- UPC and SLT online resources



Formal learning takes place in a **virtual** or a **classroom** environment

Virtual

Moodle/Atenea

Guided learning

Tutor

Self-study

Correction

Feedback

Classroom

Teacher/language expert

Workshops

SLT virtual learning activities are called Academic Pathways

Academic Pathways in 2011/2012 included:

- The language of lectures
- Academic presentations
- Academic collocations
- Pronunciation and intonation

The “knots” that Pathways aim to unravel are related to

- the language of academic oral discourse;
hedging, register, academic vocabulary, academic collocations, active voice, more pronouns, fewer complex words and phrases, signposting language, etc.
- general language skills;
pronunciation, intonation, fluency, accuracy, etc.

Pathway Programme

In an academic pathway, there are 40 lessons.

Week 1: Features of oral discourse

Week 2: Commonly-used phrases in the classroom

Week 3: Academic vocabulary and terminology

Week 4: Language to structure a lecture

Week 5: The grammar of spoken English

Week 6: The language of graphs

Week 7: Situations I

Week 8: Situations II

In each lesson, learners work with an
existing online resource.

In order to work on a **specific language skill**
identified in that resource, the tutor creates a
complementary learning exercise.

Assignment on the language of hedging

Hedging

For example, you can hedge in some of the following ways:

Many experimental results are inconclusive. [Quantifier]

Experimental results are *generally* inconclusive. [Adverb]

Experimental results offer *limited* conclusions. [Adjective]

Experimental results *can be* inconclusive. [Modal]

A few experimental results *can be* inconclusive. [Quantifier + modal]

Some experimental results are inconclusive *on occasions*. [Quantifier + adverb]

Experimental results *can sometimes* be inconclusive. [Modal + adverb]

The combination of these hedging devices in phrases can be especially useful when discussing results or when formulating a conclusion:

It would appear to be the case that...

It is probable/possible/unlikely that...

The weight of available evidence suggests that...

ASSIGNMENT

Make these statements more cautious. If you like, you can try more than one option in some cases.

1. Today everyone has a mobile phone.
- 2 Eating red meat increases cholesterol levels.
3. Global warming will have terrible consequences for the whole world.
4. Women are worse drivers than men.

Assignment based on a lesson on collocations

Academic collocations in use

Assignment: Go through the text. Mark the word or words you think could be changed and replace them with more suitable collocations. In some cases, there is more than one possible answer. Remember, collocations improve **accuracy and fluency**.

“Today, I am going to talk about **actual** applications of microchips. I have decided to **watch** this subject from an industrial point of view, rather than a scientific one. The reason **because** I want to do this is, when you finish your **career** in engineering over 50% of you will end up working in industry and not in science. Now that you are in the final **course** of this degree, you should start thinking about how you can apply what you have learnt to business. I assume that some of you want to do ...

Assignment based on Class-Talk

Assignment:

How do you say...?

Here are some phrases in Catalan. There are lots of ways of translating them into English. Translate them yourself and then check your translation with the one in Class-Talk.

* The options given in Class-Talk are to help you produce concise phrases. If your sentence is phrased differently, it is not necessarily incorrect. The aim of the exercise is to compare your sentences with those in Class-Talk.

How do you say..?

- Deixeu que em presenti. Em dic Eva Roig.
- Farem un descans de cinc minuts a la mitja part.
- Ho sento, però no puc parlar més alt.
- Podeu fer preguntes en qualsevol moment de la classe.
- Els de l'última fila, ho veieu bé?
- No pretenc tractar de tots els detalls tècnics.
- Tothom té els documents que he repartit?

Class-Talk: www.upc.edu/slt/classtalk/

Workshops focus on “knots” related to

- UPC-specific terminology
- Academic terminology
- Academic writing
- Corpus and concordance
- Oral communication skills

The SLT held workshops in 2011 on;

- Academic communication resources
- Research Articles: Abstracts and Introductions
- Delivering lectures in English
- Academic presentations in English
- Presenting in English: 3 steps forward

The SLT's language activities in the past have included

- Individual coaching services
- Formal learning activities
- **Informal language activities**
- UPC and SLT online resources



Informal activities take place in relaxed learning environments

The focus is on **fluency**

Speed Teaching

59 Seconds

Book Club

Pub Quiz

Speed Talking requires one person to explain a technical subject as clearly as possible in under 3 minutes.

- Explain how Wi-Fi works.
- Explain to your partner what his/her chances of winning the lottery are.
- Global warming in a nutshell.
- How were the Egyptian Pyramids built?

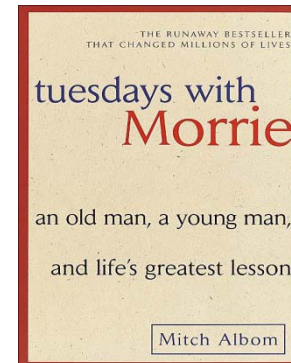
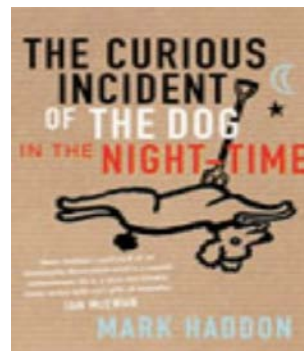
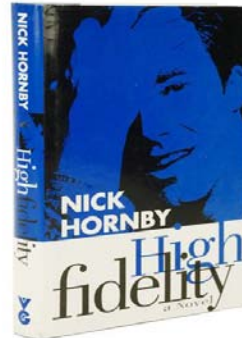
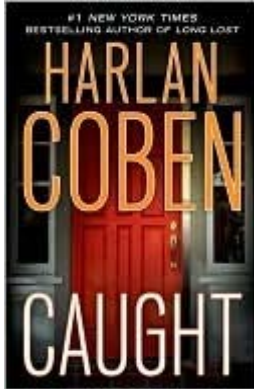


59 Seconds is the time you are allowed to comment on a specific subject related to current affairs



- The King and his elephant-hunting trip
- Euro Vegas
- The death of Osama Bin Laden

The Book Club is a cultural activity in which participants comment on a book recommended by the tutor



The Pub Quiz is an informal social event where participants compete in small teams



The SLT's language activities in the past have included

- Individual coaching services
- Formal learning activities
- Informal language activities
- **UPC and SLT online resources**



SLT and UPC resources for academic staff

- Writer's Toolbox
- Academic Communication Resources
- Higher Education Lexicon
- UPCTERM
- Class-Talk

Writer's toolbox is a blog

It provides expert advice on academic writing tools



UPC Writer's Toolbox

Bloc d'eines de redacció multilingüe del Servei de Llengües i Terminologia



[INICI](#) • [PER AUTOR](#) • [PER LLENGUA](#) • [PER TIPUS](#) • [SUGGERIMENTS](#)

Corpus of Contemporary American English

Publicat el **13 abril 2012** per **Alan Lounds**

[Like](#) [Tweet](#) [Share](#) 1

THE CORPUS OF CONTEMPORARY AMERICAN ENGLISH (COCA)

425 MILLION WORDS, 1990-2011



The [Corpus of Contemporary American English](#) (COCA) is the largest freely-available corpus of English.

COCA contains more than [425 million words](#) of text and is equally divided among spoken, fiction, popular magazines, newspapers, and academic texts. It includes [20 million words each year from 1990-2011](#) and the corpus is also updated once or twice a year (the most recent texts are from March 2011).

Què en destaquem?

This resource will help both English natives and learners improve their writing by solving doubts about word usage.

Publicat dins de [Anglès](#), [Corpus](#), [Institucions i universitats](#) [Envia un comentari](#)

Gran diccionari de la llengua catalana

Sobre aquest bloc

Bloc d'eines de redacció del Servei de Llengües i Terminologia de la Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya (UPC). Aplega eines, pautes i consells per millorar l'expressió escrita en català, espanyol i anglès.

[Subscriu-te a l'RSS](#)

També pots fer-ho per e-mail:

E-mail

Gràcies a FeedBurner

Agenda

16 de març
Com et pots preparar millor per parlar en públic?
<http://www.upc.edu/slt/cursos>

26 de març
Pràctica informal d'anglès: Pub

Academic Communication Resources recommends reliable resources on academic and scientific writing

inici • mapa del web • contacte • identifica't CERCA

 **st**

Serveis i recursos lingüístics de la UPC



Español • English

» **Sou a:** Inici » Academic Communication Resources » Redacció científica i tècnica

Redacció científica i tècnica

Publicació de la recerca en revistes avaluades per experts

- ▶ Llibres de text sobre redacció tècnica i científica
- ▶ Recomanacions per redactar les diferents seccions d'un article
- ▶ Recomanacions per comunicar la recerca, per camps específics
- ▶ Recomanacions sobre les citacions i les fonts documentals
- ▶ Recomanacions sobre la gestió de l'autoria conjunta

Comparteix    

- » El Servei de Llengües i Terminologia de la UPC
- » El Pla de llengües de la UPC
- » Oferta de cursos
- » Aprèn català
- » Aprèn anglès i altres idiomes
- » Acredita el teu nivell d'idiomes
- » Forma't en comunicació eficaç
- » **Academic Communication Resources**
 - Fer docència en anglès
 - **Redacció científica i tècnica**
 - Redacció de projectes i informes
 - Difusió d'idees
 - Gramàtica i puntuació
- » Recursos de redacció UPC
- » Dicionaris i terminologia UPC
- » Correcció i traducció
- » Acollida lingüística i cultural

Servei de Llengües i Terminologia.
© UPC  Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya • BarcelonaTech

 RSS • Sobre aquest web • Accessibilitat

The Higher Education Lexicon contains academic terminology in four languages extracted from a corpus of translations carried out at the UPC.

The screenshot shows the homepage of the Higher Education Lexicon. At the top left, the title "Terminologia HIGHER EDUCATION LEXICON" is displayed in white on a blue background. To the right, a speech bubble contains the text "Llibre d'estil lingüístic UPC". Below the title, a subtitle reads "Més de 9.000 denominacions de l'àmbit acadèmic, la gestió universitària i l'EEES" and a link "Inici" is visible. The main content area features four language selection buttons: "català", "castellà", "anglès", and "francès". Below these is a navigation bar with letters A through Z. A search section includes a dropdown menu for "Termes de l'àrea" and a "Cerca" button. A "Cerca interactiva" section offers a search type dropdown (set to "termes que contenen"), a search input field, and a "Cerca" button, with an option to "Cerca també dins les definicions". At the bottom, there are links for "Suggeriments", "Presentació", and "Crèdits", along with the UPC logo and the text "UNIVERSITAT POLITÈCNICA DE CATALUNYA BARCELONATECH Servei de Llengües i Terminologia".

Terminologia
**HIGHER EDUCATION
LEXICON**

Més de 9.000 denominacions de l'àmbit acadèmic, la gestió universitària i l'EEES Inici

català castellà anglès francès

A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H | I | J | K | L | M | N | O | P | Q | R | S | T | U | V | W | X | Y | Z

Termes de l'àrea

Cerca interactiva

Cercar

Cerca també dins les definicions

[Suggeriments](#) | [Presentació](#) | [Crèdits](#)



UNIVERSITAT POLITÈCNICA DE CATALUNYA
BARCELONATECH
Servei de Llengües i Terminologia


Servei de Llengües i Terminologia

© UPC Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya · BarcelonaTech


Class-Talk is a multilingual online phrase book with audio files.

■ [Contacte](#) ■ [Cerca avançada](#) [CERCA](#)

 Escola Politécnica Superior d'Enginyeria de Manresa
UNIVERSITAT POLITÈCNICA DE CATALUNYA

CLASS-TALK
A university teaching **phrasebook**
Fraseologia de la docència universitària



[Català - English](#) | [English - Català](#) | [English - Español](#) | [Español - English](#) | [Català - Español](#) | [Español - Català](#)

> Bloc A La classe

- A1** Inici de la classe
- A2** Desenvolupament de la classe
- A3** Interacció amb l'estudiantat
- A4** Suport visual
- A5** Suport documental
- A6** Fi de la classe

> Section A The Lecture

- A1** Starting the lecture
- A2** Delivering the lecture
- A3** Interacting with students
- A4** Using visual aids
- A5** Referring to documents
- A6** Ending the lecture


> Bloc B Situacions concretes

- B1** Primer dia del curs
- B2** Activitats a classe
- B3** Al laboratori
- B4** Ordinadors
- B5** Treballs i deures
- B6** Exàmens
- B7** Situacions imprevistes

> Section B Specific Situations

- B1** First day of the course
- B2** Class activities
- B3** In the laboratory
- B4** At the computers
- B5** Projects and assignments
- B6** Exams
- B7** Impromptu situations

[Enllaços d'interès](#)

UPC. Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya. Servei de Llengües i Terminologia. 

[Suggestions](#) | [Presentació](#) | [Crèdits](#) | [\[1-\]](#)

UPCTERM is a multilingual data base that contains scientific and technical terminology specific to studies provided at the UPC

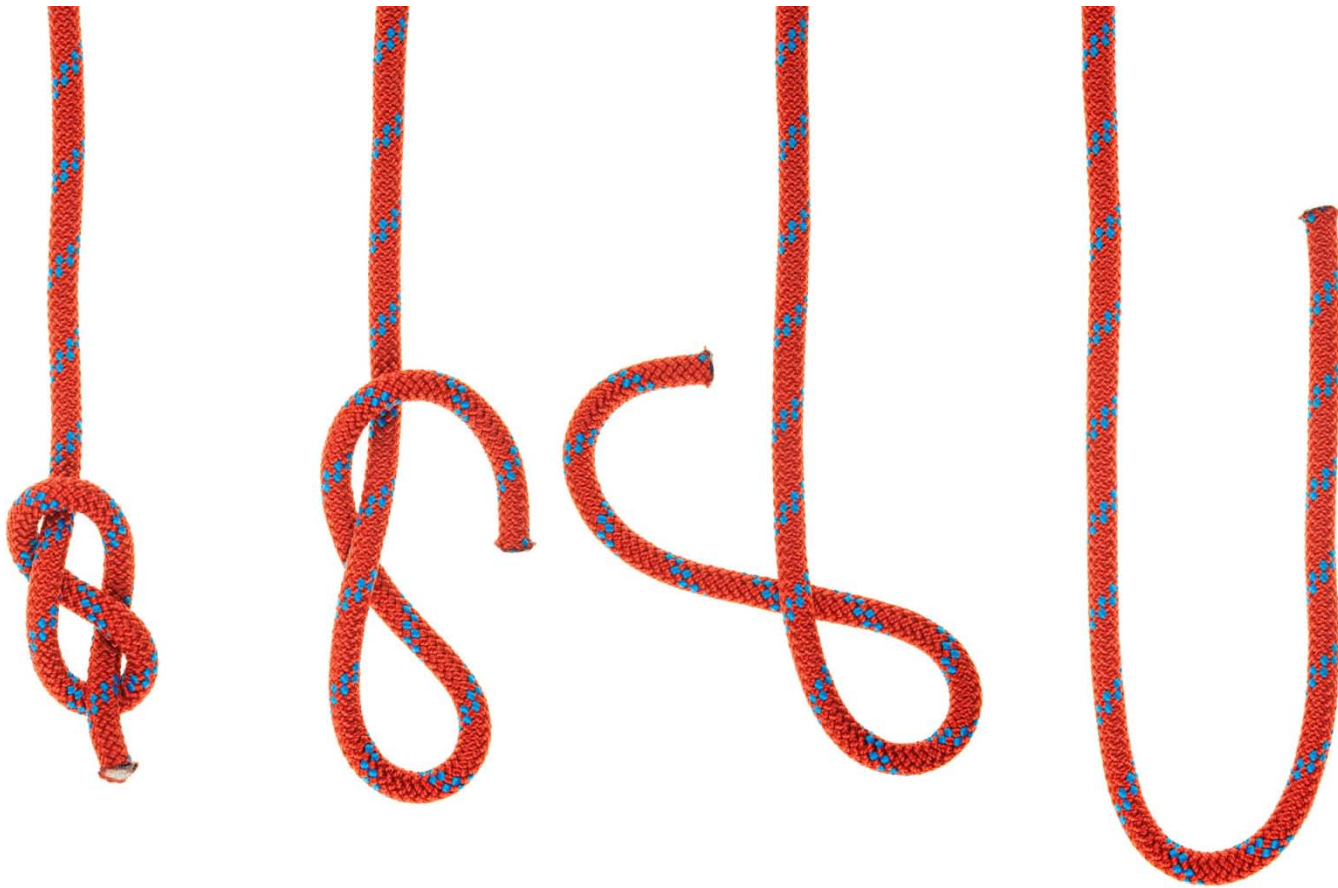
The screenshot shows the UPCTERM website interface. At the top left, the text "Terminologia UPCTERM" is displayed in white on a blue background. To the right, there is a logo for "Llibre d'estil lingüístic UPC" inside a speech bubble. In the top right corner, the word "Inici" is visible. Below the header, there are four language selection buttons: "català", "castellà", "anglès", and "francès". A navigation bar contains letters from A to Z. Below this is a search section with the text "Termes de l'àrea" followed by a dropdown menu and a "Cerca" button. Further down, there is a "Cerca interactiva" section with a "Cercar" label, a dropdown menu set to "termes que contenen", an input field, and a "Cerca" button. A checkbox labeled "Cerca també dins les definicions" is present below the input field. At the bottom left, there are links for "Suggeriments", "Presentació", and "Crèdits". At the bottom right, the logo of the "UNIVERSITAT POLITÈCNICA DE CATALUNYA BARCELONATECH" and the text "Servei de Llengües i Terminologia" are shown. The footer contains the text "Servei de Llengües i Terminologia" and "© UPC Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya · BarcelonaTech".

Feedback from academic staff has been positive

Lecturers comment that the services

- save time
- are extremely practical
- provide answers to specific language requests
- give them greater autonomy
- encourage lecturers to continue lecturing in English

In the future, the SLT aims to continue unravelling some more knots





**UNIVERSITAT POLITÈCNICA
DE CATALUNYA
BARCELONATECH**

Campus d'Excel·lència Internacional

Thank you!



**UNIVERSITAT POLITÈCNICA
DE CATALUNYA
BARCELONATECH**

Campus d'Excel·lència Internacional