

THE UNIVERSITY OF ALACANT



THE RESEARCH ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT AT THE UNIVERSITY INSTITUTES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ALACANT –SUCH AS THOSE OF GEOGRAPHY OR NEUROSCIENCES– ENJOY WIDESPREAD RECOGNITION ON BOTH A NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL LEVEL.

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UNIVERSITAT D'ALACANT

The University of Alacant has only been in existence a few years, but it has seen more than considerable growth in several aspects. Almost twenty-five years to the day after the creation in Alacant of the Further Education Centre, the University of which it was to form the basis is now a consolidated reality with an unmistakable vocation for development and fully orientated towards the future.

Amongst the courses it offers, and alongside the more traditional university teaching (Law, Languages, Medicine, etc.), the University of Alacant includes other more recent creations (Biology, Statistics, Sociology, etc.) designed from the outset according to the new study system of credits and with the emphasis on their consideration as applied sciences. With the recent incorporation of the technical courses taught at its Polytechnic College (Computer Engineering, Technical Architecture, etc.), our university has begun the indispensable diversification which, complemented by new qualifications already applied for, will in the immediate future make it possible to satisfy the needs of a modern society.

In the field of investigation, the continued work of highly qualified teams in different scientific spheres earned the University of Alacant sixth place in the evaluation made by the Ministry of Education and Science amongst all the universities of Spain. The lines of research, both basic and applied, are many and varied, ranging from Social Sciences to Sciences of the Environment, from Health Sciences to Technology. The research activities carried out at the University Institutes of the University of Alacant –such as those of Geography or Neurosciences or the Institute of Water– enjoy widespread recognition in scientific circles both national and international. In addition, the interdisciplinary applied studies on aspects of vital importance in the economic and social context of the University are becoming more and more important every day.

The growing number of courses and the marked increase in research work have called for a special effort to provide the University of Alacant with the necessary infrastructure and equipment. In this respect, and despite still having a long way to go, our University has under-

gone a spectacular transformation in that it has always shown concern for the environment and an interest in ensuring the best possible working conditions for all members of the academic community. And so, while the physical structure has been adapted to conform to the new departmental organisation laid down in the University Reform Law, and following strategic principles of modernity, the campus that has taken shape at Sant Vicent del Raspeig is described by many as exemplary.

In the last few years, emphasis has been placed on one of the features our university has always taken as being essential: its determination to forge close links with the society around it. This can be seen in its relations with public and private organisations, with which it maintains agreements for collaboration in the planning and executing of a wide range of projects. In the same way, the University's participation in the various European programmes (Erasmus, Lingua, etc.) and the agreements with different American universities and academic consortiums are more and more frequent and intense.