XX ANNIVERSARY
COIMBRA GROUP

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Title
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Published by
Imprensa da Universidade de Coimbra
Rua Antero de Quental, 195
3000-033 Coimbra • Portugal
www.imp.uc.pt

Design
António Barros

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Design Firm
Estúdios ESTÍMULUS [design]
Coimbra • Portugal

Printing and Binding
Litografia Coimbra, SA

ISBN
972-8704-496

ISBN Digital
978-989-26-0505-0

DOI
http://dx.doi.org/10.14195/978-989-26-0505-0

Dep. Legal
227812/05

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2005

Foreword

For the Coimbra Group, Coimbra is more than just the name of one of the member universities that has been permanently attached to the Group since its foundation. It is a metaphor of what we normally consider a "university", namely a citadel of knowledge where a community of scholars and students live and work in order to advance the frontiers of knowledge. This idea of university has developed across Europe from its beginnings in Bologna. In many of our universities, like Coimbra, this citadel is still a visible reality.

The Group was conceived in 1985 right here in Coimbra. Then in 1990 we gathered in Coimbra once more on the occasion of the University's 7th centenary. Now in 2005, we have returned to Coimbra to celebrate the Group's 20th birthday.

This book documents the past 20 years in the Group's existence. It was planned by the University of Coimbra and was produced in a very short time, thanks to the determination of the Rector, Professor Fernando Seabra Santos, and to the generous work of a team led by Professor Cristina Robalo Cordeiro, Vice-Rector of Coimbra University. The Group's heartfelt gratitude goes to all them as well as to the many others who have contributed to the book.

Comparing the life of the Group to the life of an individual, we may say that the Group has now come of age. On the occasion of this 20th birthday we wish the Group a long life, hoping that it will be characterised by successful and profitable work that will be of benefit to each member university, to the association and to the system of European universities, in general.

Ad multos annos!

Antonio Savini
Executive Board, Chairman

I

AN IDEA ON THE MOVE

Europe at its best

There is a cliché, as widespread as it is anachronistic, which depicts university life as one of loneliness and the academic as an individualist. According to this view, universities are just as concerned with their independence. Hence the paradox formed, twenty years ago, with the idea of creating the Coimbra Group, that would bring together the oldest and most prestigious European universities. Today we may not sufficiently value the audacity of such a project and the strength needed to launch it: the testimonies given, in the first part of the album ("An Idea on the Move"), by the founders, or rather the "inventors", recall some of the difficulties encountered – only some, not all! Because behind the magnificent frontage of our Universities there can be discovered such moral grandeur, so many hidden virtues but also so many interests – yet it is from out of this indivisible body that there the energy which animates our institutions emerges: this very energy which, gradually, each has been putting to the service of the Group and of the European University itself as a whole.

It should be recognized that the creation of, firstly, an economic and, secondly, a political Europe showed the way. What the nations and the governments were doing, the universities should also be able to do!

It was left to the most prestigious ones - and the proudest... - to start the movement. From another perspective, the university unity of Europe existed well before the building of the "common market" without borders or tollgates. There was a time when exchange between European universities took place in the diversity and the unity of the Christian world. In the Middle Ages, Thomas Aquinas taught in Paris without having to ask central administration for any kind of equivalence! And Erasmus of Rotterdam, great traveller, wise prophet of unity and friendship and champion of humanism and tolerance in a Europe threatened by fanaticism and civil war, might, had fate allowed, have attended my university, in 1503, at the time when King Don Manuel was conferring its statutes. But at that particular moment Erasmus was in Bologna where, after his stay in Paris and in London (where he met Thomas More, who had not yet written *Utopia*), he prepared and obtained his Ph. D. Cambridge and Lovaina were the most significant steps in his European route, a model of our university circuits.

But after more than five centuries of European civil wars, everything, or nearly everything, had to be reconfigured.

It should be emphasised that the work undertaken by the founders of our Group was pioneering and could even be said to have been prophetic: before the Declaration of Bologna, they established its guiding principles. Conscious of the need to modernise administrative structures and pedagogical practices, of the urgency to introduce new technologies into education, they encouraged the creation of doctoral schools, accelerated the integration of Eastern European universities, and facilitated international cooperation – especially with Africa, Latin America, and the Mediterranean Basin. It was a revolution on every front and at every level. Without using, of course, any means of administrative coercion, they encouraged, through dialogue and persuasion, the spirit of sharing and the absolute respect for the identities of each of our 37 universities. They were avant la lettre inventing a European ground for higher education, as is clearly shown in "Fact & Figures", in the second part of this book.

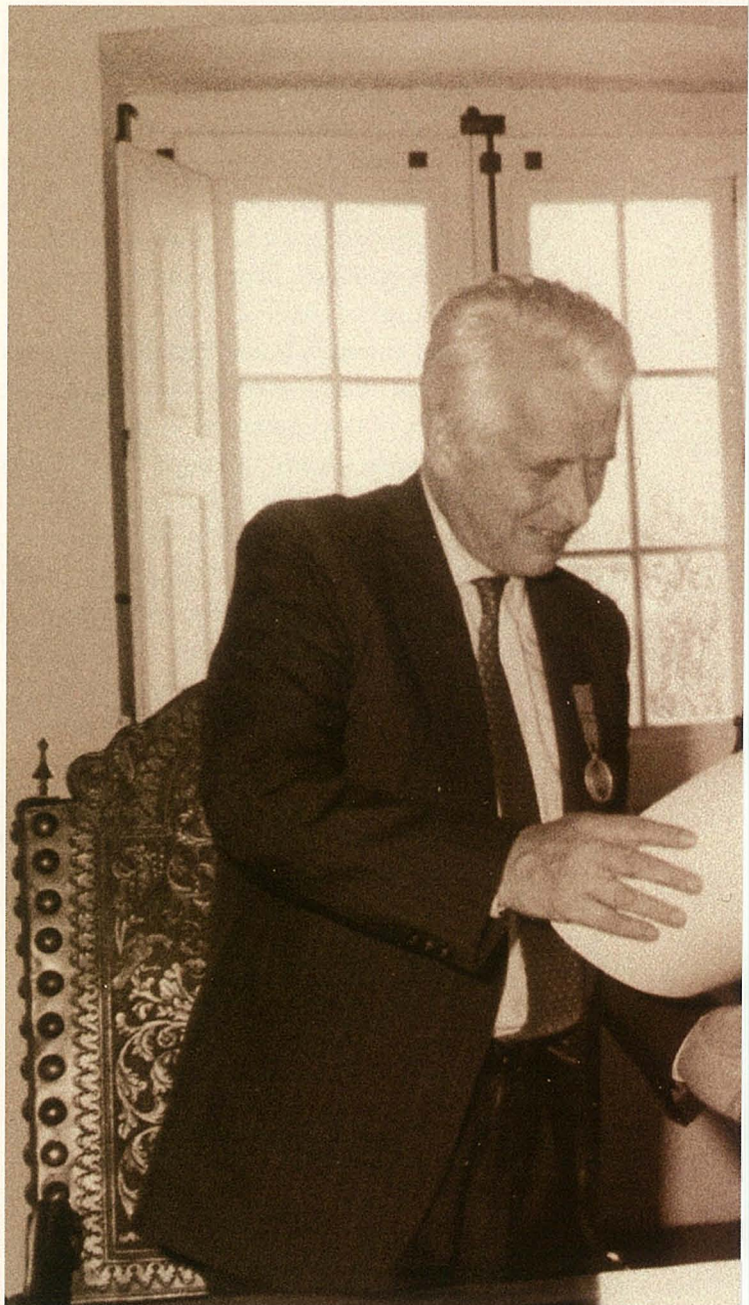
Reliving these decisive years of the foundation of the Coimbra Group, how can we not feel, we who have benefited from the work done, the nostalgia of such a vibrant adventure? Are not the moments of the conception the most passionate? Is managing, like well-behaved heirs, an organisation where nothing else is to be invented the only thing we have to do now? If it were so, we would not understand the evangelical parable of Talents, a particularly pertinent allegory in relation to universities! The original creation must be followed by further creation, and the first impetus by continuous progress. The brief description in the third part, "Unum ex pluribus", of each of our universities is evidence of this. As for the ideals that inspire our action, these are the same that informed the efforts made at the beginning. They can be summed up in three maxims, which seem to me to embody the ethic of the Group.

The first imperative derives from a personalistic conception of university networks: you shall not treat the network as a "thing" but as a group of people! From this viewpoint, a university network such as the Coimbra Group is not an administrative structure, much less a material device, but an inter-individual relationship, the internationalisation becoming therefore an intellectual and moral must for our universities. The Coimbra Group, far more than just a place or a modality of scientific collaboration, is a space woven by ties of friendship abolishing frontiers without erasing the differences, preserving the diversity without destroying the universal. Personalism incorporated into the administrative practice itself could transform the university into a model pluralistic society.

The second commandment implies a vision of university networks in which the hegemony of a centre or the supremacy of an axis would be abolished, which does not mean the hegemonic valuation of the periphery. The formula of this injunction would be then: you shall not treat the network as a hierarchical construction but as an "open society", allowing the circulation of information and initiative! In a network, all places are equal: they are all places of exchange where culture is written in the plural. In that sense, the Coimbra Group is based on the alliance of diversity as a value and unity as a principle.

The third maxim, magnificent in theory, is difficult, if not impossible, to apply: you shall not see the network as a globalised site where only one language prevails to the exclusion of all others, but as a pluralistic space where each one speaks their own language! As long as simultaneous translation remains a luxury and computer science will not allow us to listen to each other's own language, pluralingualism will not go beyond good intentions. For now, we can only preserve it as an ideal, making all efforts, within the Group, to speak the language of everyone. And because the University of Coimbra has had the honour of having its name bestowed on the prestigious Group that will be celebrating, in this year of 2005, its twentieth anniversary, how can we fail, here in my city, to be proud of the fact that it is a Portuguese name that symbolises what Europe can do best?

Cristina Robalo Cordeiro
Vice-Rector of the University of Coimbra



What have we achieved in the last twenty years?

In a developing Europe, where different cultures were not taken into consideration, culture became a question of identity. As the obstacles to economic trade are being dismantled, regional identities are defending their own territory.

To minimise the fear of large spaces, we look for reassurance within familiar clans, close-knit community solidarity inherited from history and geography.

This is what happened at Louvain at the end of a long national process in Belgium where the two linguistic communities lived and acted in fear of each other.
In 1930, the French speaking community refused to adhere to administrative bilingualism in fear that the Flemish, who were considered to be better at languages, would be given the most important positions. Thirty years later, the Flemish became worried about the presence of a small French speaking group on their side of the linguistic frontier, which might set a precedent by moving further out of their territory, and going all the way to Brussels to the detriment of the Right of land.

In 1968, it was decided that the two already coexisting universities at Louvain-Leuven – late branches of the Studium Generale created in 1425 by the Pope Martin V – were to be divided, geographically speaking, into two.

This type of separation can similarly affect the personalities of social bodies as divorce does individuals. Who and what are we without the other? For ourselves and for others? What are people going to think?

Coimbra Group would not have existed if the turmoil of history and geographical coincidence had not led the University of Louvain to be divided into two.
Since then, other universities in Europe have organised groups with greater or lesser success. But none has had such a great chance of success as the one that came together at the Halles of the University of Louvain la Neuve, one morning in October 1985.

In effect, today's anniversary arises from another anniversary – the creation at the old Louvain of a very innovative and audacious international relations service at a time when the traditional universities were still very reluctant to open the gate of their ivory castles to outsiders. More 'think tank' than information bureau, this rapid response unit, which has now disappeared, closely followed the whole dispute that caused the two universities to separate and the French speaking party to move to Roman land.
Its last great mission in international relations was – with the discreet agreement of the academic authorities – to give the name of Louvain la Neuve to the new university town, thus removing not the medieval buildings but the academic spirit that resided in them and the memory of old ones scattered around the world.

SIMON-PIERRE NOTHOMB

A good quarrel makes for a good reconciliation

To commemorate this anniversary, the idea was to invite people who, in other European universities similar to ours, would have the same positions. The choice of the two alma mater invited per country was given to the permanent representatives in the communities of the twelve member countries of the European Community. This delegation of power was not innocent. It avoided the risk of endless internal conflicts and misunderstandings between friends in the countries concerned. It also brought us to the attention of the European Ministers Council which was informed of our attempts to end our differences.

In effect the invitation came from both Leuven and Louvain and the criteria proposed are embodied in the French proverb 'qui se ressemble, s'assemble' – 'birds of a feather stick together'.

We wanted to bring together the classic universities situated outside the capitals which had humanities, exact sciences, and a faculty of medicine, and in which at least ten per cent of the students were foreigners. And of course, scientifically speaking, we wished them to be beyond norms, categories, and age as we were ourselves, or, if possible, better than we were. There were around twenty responses to the invitation and twelve present at the meeting at Louvain la Neuve, which was officially inaugurated by the Rector Edouard Massaux. Among these, there was a majority of academics and another rector – the Rector of Utrecht – who created his own group six months later.

It was soon evident that there was a hidden agenda for their presence. On the one hand, to see why and how public relations is organised in an institution whose only permanent spokespersons since medieval times had been the Rector and an official representative, and on the other hand, to obtain information at source of what to think and what to expect from the announcements on European activity in relation to universities.
It was not our intention at the time to create a working group - however selective it might be - constituted by the institutions so protective of their independence, so aware of their excellence, and more often than not a lot older than the states they depend upon today.
The most organised project was an exchange of choirs – the only university activity where teachers, researchers, students and other university staff gathered as equals.

The Italian genius and the wind from the sea

Two visionary people played exceptional roles at this meeting making it fly higher and see further.
The first brilliant and voluble, the second discreet and opinionated.
Professor Crispi Reghizzi of Sienne, jurist and international lawyer and Professor Jorge Veiga, Vice-Rector of International Relations at the University of Coimbra, chemist and local council representative both shed light on the initial confusion of this international meeting.
After the coffee break on the first morning the intention was to create an informal group, an Italian style network, flexible, multi-nodal, and all-purpose, in keeping with the European Common Market and its market economy which could be used as a laboratory or a platform for all the much needed proximity between our old universities.
In fact, a tool of influence too – selective maybe but by no means a forum open to all. Professor Crispi Reghizzi even suggested the necessity of marketing European university products or the United States would soon invade us with theirs.

Jorge Veiga, the alchemist of ambitious projects

He continued with us and is still involved today. With the vigour of a Magellan, he blew forward our small assembly as a great wind from the sea would a sailing boat. He explained that his university was far from the European capitals but close to the whole world. Like Louvain, it reached out not only to Latin America and Africa but also to Asia and the Pacific. In his opinion, we definitely had to become European, we had to combine our strengths in all disciplines and also had to have projects together overseas. In the early days it was convenient to increase the number of members and to organise a new meeting for its foundation.

He suggested that we should meet again – all of us along with the possible new workforce – at Coimbra a few months later.

The Rector of U.C.L., Mr. Massaux, had asked me to represent him at this meeting accompanied by Jacqueline Tulkens, the person responsible for international relations. With Jean-Pierre Grootaerts' - the K.U.L representative - permission, we were able to propose that the group take the name of Coimbra and not Louvain-Leuven, which may have meant having to provide outsiders with background knowledge of Belgian history. Frankly, I feared a refusal. Coimbra was confident. Twenty years later, it is obvious to all that Jorge Veiga had been right in his beliefs.

From Coimbra to Coimbra

Two strokes of luck firmly propelled the group into European and overseas orbit.

First, not long after the meeting in Coimbra, there was the setting up of the Erasmus programme by the European Commission. The projects had to be organised in partnership networks between other European universities. We were ready. Our contacts were immediately operational. Out of twenty-four initial projects eighteen were developed due to the support or the participation of one of our universities.

At that same time, during a dinner organised by the newspaper 'Le Monde', I was seated opposite Commissioner Cheysson.

In relation to Latin America, he felt sorry that the American dollar and its business culture were pushing this continent further and further out of European reach. I had the opportunity to explain that a lot of Latin American professionals had studied in Europe, and not only in Spain and Portugal. Louvain for example... He casually asked for a more concrete project for the following week if possible. There was, he said, a small budget still to be had.

Within a few days, thanks to the already functioning networks and to the enthusiastic collaboration of European diplomats, we organised a project aiming at the creation of circulos europeos bringing together the former students of European universities in Buenos Aires, São Paulo, and Monteviceo. Subsequently, and after two years of continuous trips, a circulo was established in each of the Latin American capitals all the way to Mexico, and several in Brazil. Not only did this programme make Coimbra Group well-known both overseas and to the European administration, but it also allowed for the inclusion of exceptional collaborators such as Christine Boccard from France, Cecilia Costa from Portugal, and Véronique Maes from Belgium. The latter two were the soul and the backbone of the Coimbra Group and ensured that there was an administrative continuity long after I had left.

It is mainly thanks to them, and the collaborators they trained later on, that the group is able to commemorate its twentieth anniversary today. Nevertheless, we must also mention all the successive rectors who have been nominated presidents, and the members of the Steering Committee which was managed for so long by Peter Floor, the Task Force members and all those who shared their academic and scientific knowledge as well as their time, regardless of whether they were intellectuals or technocrats, supporters of progress or conservatives, followers of new movements or notable revisionists, glorious or discrete, everyone, I believe, had a common goal and the certainty that European universities should be preserved against excessive alienation and should be allowed to continue to exert, depending on the trends and the times, its vocation, going back thousands of years, to teach, research and train.

Everything changes and nothing changes

As De Gaulle once said, an international administrative machine rapidly becomes ineffectual if it loses its capacity to anticipate and, once rendered numb by its routine, does not know how to react positively to unexpected events.

Let's take a look at the events which have shaken Europe in the past twenty years. For example, the fall of the Berlin wall. Very soon after this, the meeting at Heidelberg took place, and the inclusion of
Eastern universities into the group was decided thus anticipating, by a few years, the fact that the European Union would expand further.

Another perspective through which to view this group's history would be to consider the importance that its structural influence has had on the European academic world, on the attitude of the European communities regarding teaching and research at university level and finally, and above all, the Bologna process.
Is it not the result of a long winding road of evolution along which there have been numerous hesitations? It is a conceptual achievement, but not yet a victory in the field. Is it an Atlantic agreement or a European creation? Is it a general norm for different levels, where some may take advantage of others?
The university I went to forty years ago had many communication problems mainly due to its self-importance and reputation. It had fabulous buildings and used old-fashioned formalities particularly in terms of discipline.
There were few teachers, all very respectful and underpaid, whilst their assistants were virtually voluntary workers yet nevertheless dedicated. And it seemed to me at the time that the only purpose of this superb machine of knowledge was to give God, the King and the Mother country brilliant and devoted employees who would perpetuate civilisation and good manners. Organised trips were considered to be frivolous or even suspect. It was not considered a fault to be monolingual unless you were doing business studies, which were reluctantly given the status of higher educational studies. Philosophy and the arts were at the top of the list and the academic procession took place every year in the old town and was applauded by all the good people of the region.

Since then things have greatly changed

Universities are more democratic, more lay, adapted to a society of consumption with its emphasis on business and its quality/price coefficient. They are a means to get a job. Fundamental research does not appeal to the uninterested seated at the back especially when it concerns disciplines that are not so profitable or appealing - generally speaking, philosophy, arts, and human sciences. It is obviously the consequence of regionalisation. Any president of a European region wants his/her university, and therefore central governments disavow their financial responsibilities.

There is no other solution but to redefine allegiances and the advantages from the distant past of the majority of our universities. We have to win over or confirm the understanding, the esteem, the protection, and the privileges of our immediate surroundings. The formerly active and dedicated small town is today a European region. And, without neglecting our own mother country, while it exists, we have to look within Europe and beyond for those who are now and will be the real successors to popes and former emperors, whose ambitions were universal. They can be found to the east or the west, far away from us, and very different. They may have the qualities of our faults and the strength of our weaknesses but they do not have the still living, alert, operational, and magnificent monuments which are our universities. Our universities will only remain like this if, together, they continue to be the permanent crucible and the universal echo of European culture, this culture of cultures in fusion. The focus needs to be one of more Europe, much more Europe both in orientation and means, particularly in human sciences, as there is increasingly less state influence.

Contribution to the twenty year history of the Coimbra Group
Personal memories of its initial phase representing the University of Coimbra

When asked about the reason for attributing the name "Coimbra Group" to the university network we helped to build and organise, it is crucial to remember the genesis of this association of universities whose objectives were those of international cooperation, and its preliminary evolution from 1985 to 1987.
The person responsible for International Relations at the Catholic University of Louvain, Simon-Pierre Nothomb, took the initiative in 1985 of promoting a meeting at his university with representatives of rectories of institutions which had particular characteristics, those of old universities located in cities which were not capitals.
The invitation to partake in this meeting was restricted to the eleven countries which, together with Belgium, formed the European Community.
He therefore asked the ambassadors of these countries in Brussels to select and approach the universities to be invited. It was this strategy that led to the first meeting, which took place at the host university, U. C. L., with the Flemish university K. U. L., which was also visited by the participants on that occasion, also being represented.

Following the directives of the Rector, Rui de Alarcão, I, as Vice-Rector, represented the University of Coimbra and its department of International Relations.
Simon-Pierre Nothomb will no doubt describe better than anyone else the procedures, the programme, and the objectives of that first meeting as well as the universities which adhered to this initiative, and their representatives.
In the final phase of the meeting, I remember that the problem arose of how to continue with this important initiative so that the cultural and academic aspects of this cooperative venture, including students' activities, would be especially developed between the participating universities.
It was in this context that I offered to promote the next meeting in Coimbra emphasising the importance of broadening the effective participation of other universities of the European Community, which had not been represented in this first meeting.
This objective was not wholly achieved as some countries were still not represented. Only, France, Germany, Belgium, Italy, Spain, Denmark, Holland, and Portugal were represented at the meeting in Coimbra. This meeting took place at the Palace of São Marcos and during the meeting I was called to the phone –mobile phones were not around then – to arrange the time for the lunch over which Rui Alarcão would preside. When I returned Simon-Pierre Nothomb asked if there would be any objections to the Group being designated as "Coimbra Group" when referred to by institutions or the "media".

JORGE VEIGA

Agreement was total, whether on my or the other participants' part. Thus, the name was given to this now twenty year-old university network. Simon-Pierre Nothomb will most probably explain in his testimony the reasons for this proposition.

I think it is important to point out that, from 1987 onwards, the coordination of the actions carried out by the Group has always been centred in its "Office" in Brussels under the supervision of a Steering Committee, which also shares the responsibility of any commitment the Group has with other cooperating institutions. This does not mean that the leadership is not delegated to one or more universities within the Group – for each project, "task forces" / committees / "working parties" are set up, even though the final decision lies with the Steering Committee. In 1991, the Steering Committee was nominated at the Annual General Assembly of the Coimbra Group, and since 1993, a rotation system determined by election has been adopted.

It should be noted that the teachers and researchers of all faculties, administrative staff, in particular those who work for International Services and Relations and Academic Services, and students at the University of Coimbra have always participated very actively in most programmes organised by the Coimbra Group for the past twenty years. The University of Coimbra has made available financial means and human resources with a view to reinforcing the network, and has systematically promoted a number of meetings not only at an internal level but also at an international one, counting on the participation of other member universities of the Group, to work on various activities scheduled by the Steering Committee.

It is also worth mentioning – after the actions carried out in the first two meetings in Belgium in 1985 and Portugal in 1986 – our participation together with Peter Floor in a seminar at Leuven, in which other universities also participated and organised university networks which aimed at establishing the mobility of students and teachers within a project which became at a later date the Erasmus Programme of the European Community. The presence of representatives of member universities of the Coimbra Group was of great significance for its recognition in the meeting and for consolidating its position in the context of the European Community in 1987.
The concerted action taken by the representatives of the member universities of the Coimbra Group resulted in these universities' programmes being immediately accepted and occupying a significant majority of those on the Erasmus Programme, with several of the Group's teachers, staff and students subsequently winning the first Erasmus prizes in 1990.

I would also like to give a special mention to the leading role that the Coimbra Group played during the first few years of the development of the cooperation programme with Latin-American countries – the Alfa programme which arose out of the European Circles. In relation to European Circles, I think it is for all university representatives of the Group a unique memory in terms of creativity and human relations.
With this short testimony we hope to pay tribute to the gratifying memory of countless great moments – both personal and institutional – whilst simultaneously creating and developing a project of such great importance.

Reflections on Coimbra Group Development 1986-1997

The Coimbra Group owes its present status and functioning to the dedicated actions of a great number of persons in a wide array of areas. Highlighting some of these is not an easy selective task and risks undervaluing other important actions, persons and events.

1. Notable aspects of Coimbra Group development and activity

The beginning

Simon-Pierre Nothomb (Université Catholique de Louvain) had the brilliant idea in 1985 to create a group of old, complete and internationally oriented universities in small--sized towns where they have direct impact on the economic, social and cultural life in their region. His motive was to make creative use of this common denominator to the benefit of the selected universities, certainly in external relations, possibly also in economic terms. In the years till 1990 a relatively small but growing number of people, delegated by their universities, developed this idea in a rather informal way with a Steering Committee doing the daily work and General Meetings for discussion and approval of results.
Gradually teaching cooperation and student mobility got more attention. This was the period that the ERASMUS Programme of the European Communities came off and we realised that the Coimbra Group, as it was called since the May 1986 meeting in Coimbra, was ideally composed for creative and proactive use of the Programme for our purposes. It would lead to quite substantial student mobility between the participating universities.
To be able to manifest ourselves internally and externally we drafted a Charter in Pavia in September 1987 that met with approval of the member universities and served as the basis of our activities till a legal structure was adopted for the Group in 2002.

Structuring for consolidation

The success of our early activities was such that the participants of the 1989 Poitiers General Meeting decided that time had come to involve the rectors at the next General Meeting, to be held in Coimbra in 1990 commemorating the 700th anniversary of the university, and to discuss with them a range of possible activities in the future (in teaching, research, student affairs, mobility, culture, external relations, etc.) and a more formalised organisational structure (General Assembly, Steering Committee, Task Forces, Office in Brussels, no more handwritten plenary meeting papers from the chair, etc.).
The 1990 Coimbra General Assembly consolidated the Coimbra Group and laid the foundation for its further successful development. The rectors fully endorsed our approach and track record, and encouraged us to carry on. And, importantly, they agreed with the payment of an annual membership fee to the Group. They also manifested that they found this environment more relevant for their own contacts than the much more crowded meetings of the CRE (European Rectors Conference, now European University Association, EUA) and asked the Steering Committee to organise well-prepared rectors meetings at least bi-annually.

PETER FLOOR

The Brussels office

A key factor in the Coimbra Group is the office in Brussels. First led by Simon-Pierre Nothomb in a charming building adjacent to the UCL medical faculty Louvain-en-Woluwe, Brussels, then in Rue de la Concorde in the city centre, in a stately 19th C. building with entrance originally for horse-drawn coaches. This locality had been found by Cecilia Costa, a Coimbra alumna whom our strongly supportive vicereitor Jorge Veiga found willing to work in, later lead, the office partly paid by Coimbra. The great communicative abilities of Cecilia, Véronique Maes and the other people working in the office proved to be invaluable: they resulted in mutually beneficial contacts with many officers at relevant desks of the European Commission (even to the extent that the Coimbra Group was better known and understood at the Commission than in parts of the member universities), in numerous personal contacts with persons in the member universities, in a constant flow of information, especially once we had established the Newsletter and later the FlashNews circulation.

In this context I pay tribute also to the contact persons in our member universities: dedicated, motivated and experienced women and men with a great variety of academic or administrative backgrounds who acted as our 'rapid reaction force'.

Project-based activities

The Brussels office played a key role in the organisation and administration of projects, and not rarely in the initiation of projects as well. The Rue de la Concorde office with its well-equipped meeting facilities and nearby restaurants and hotels (the Beau Site will raise happy memories with many actors of the time) was the evident hub of project meetings, though we also made efforts to meet at participating universities.

In my story so far we gradually shifted from the Coimbra Group structure and support to the activities themselves. This is fully justified since the Group would hardly have become relevant for the members without the flesh on the bone: the massive start of student mobility supported by the ERASMUS Programme in the period preceding the 1990 Coimbra Assembly.

When ERASMUS was about to be approved we had our network of contact persons in place, selected a number of academic areas (focussing on faculties/studies which did not have evident international links through their research traditions) and were ready to have a meeting of professors from these areas at short notice. Interesting evidence that the Coimbra Group was also academically relevant: in the subject area meetings where they sat together to discuss student mobility it took staff not much more than an hour to agree that academic levels of all universities present were such that study results of mobile students obtained at their host universities would be acceptable for their home universities, so the meetings could spend most of their time planning the practicalities of their mobility proposals. This smooth and constructive course of events showed that Coimbra Group cooperation would be sensible and profitable in other areas as well. One of them was cooperation with universities in Central Europe. We had created a Task Force for that purpose before the Berlin Wall came down. The political changes made our contacts easier and when the European Union launched the TEMPUS Programme we once more had our network ready to respond and the universities of the Group were given considerable funding for cooperation in many subject areas.

Similar situations arose when the European Commission stimulated initiatives in Mediterranean non-member countries and in distance learning. Our Medcampus and HUMANITIES projects (with a number of related projects initiated later we used to call them the 'Humanities family') once more initiated relevant cooperation among academics in our member and other universities.

Membership and relations with non-member universities

Our project activity evokes two other notable elements: from the start onwards we have been conscious not to let the Group grow in an uncontrolled way which might lead to loss of impetus or homogeneity. The invitation to Charles University, Jagiellonian University and Eötvös Lorand University to join the Group in 1991, together with the University of Uppsala, was a landmark in itself. Bearing in mind that the Group was created on criteria which academics would not necessarily call theirs we also manifested from the beginning that the Group is not a closed shop and that academic cooperation with non-members would be welcomed in all project activities. And this has not been a dead letter!

Latin American connections

Our activities in Latin America have been quite conspicuous as well, though of a different nature initially. This early initiative by Simon-Pierre Nothomb to rally local alumni of European universities (any, not only Coimbra Group) got specific support from the European Commission and led to the creation of the Círculos Europeos in many Latin American cities. I am sure that other authors in this book will relate about them more fully. Our local experience thus gained led the Commission to involve us in the conception and introduction of the ALFA Programme which, once more, gave many academics of our universities new opportunities for cooperation.

Rectors' support

At the end of my selection of highlights in the Coimbra Group development I gratefully remember the numerous occasions where rectors have enabled meetings in their universities, often giving generous hospitality and always using the opportunity to exemplify the character of their institutions and demonstrate their personal involvement. Such support has been the lubricator of many of our undertakings and highly motivated participants from all corners of our member universities.

2. Ideas at the basis of the diversification of Coimbra Group activities and its extension to other continents

Adding value

There have been various views from the beginning onwards about this theme. I think we all agreed that Coimbra Group is about the generation of value added in situations where international multilateral collaboration is essential to generate it. Views differed as to where the benefit of value added should be going: to the Group as an entity, to the participating institutions, to individual persons? Because these options are always mixed, the real discussion was about where the limits were or should be in order to keep the confidence and motivated support of the members as expressed in the annual General Assemblies (and in-between!). This was an often returning topic and in the course of the years we have got quite some comments, either plenary or in the corridors, suggesting to be cautious, to act rather in other areas or in different ways, to take care not to confront members with unforeseen consequences, etcetera.

I worked from the assumption that academic relevance should be the driving force in our Group, not meaning that all activities should be of an academic nature. Students', cultural and administrative actions (e.g. aimed at the better functioning of our international relations offices or at bringing together Industrial Liaison Officers) should be welcomed as well as long as they also benefit the member universities, directly or indirectly.

Personal motivation indispensable

But immediately following these rather general notions came the fact that our activities should animate persons, already involved in our work or likely to be involved, because the Coimbra Group is nothing without the personal dedication of academic staff and administrative officers in our universities. And the same in our governing bodies and the Brussels office.

Thus we looked for niches or potentially interesting perspectives, especially when funding opportunities were available or, better, expected. And we abandoned activities when Coimbra Group support or initiatives were no longer needed, as in the case of aspects of ERASMUS after several intensive years.

Extension to other continents

Extension to other continents mainly concerned (first) Latin America and (later) ACP countries, with a focus on West Africa. I have seen the latter start in my last years in the Group and the push came in my observation indeed from some strongly motivated persons in our universities. I assume that others will reflect on this very interesting subject.

The Latin American connection started almost as an initiative of a number of individuals under the umbrella of the Coimbra Group and I remember many raised eyebrows when we discussed the subject. My personal motivation was that in the longer run there are great academic opportunities on that continent in many subject areas, that most Latin Americans have their roots in Europe, not just the Iberian Peninsula, and that increased academic cooperation, despite all problems of distance, economy and language could result in win-win situations. Gradually and with ALFA, matters developed in that direction.

No financial reserves

It was generally felt that its dependency on European funding for concrete activities is a serious draw-back for the Group. We made several efforts at raising independent funds and were happy to have expert knowledge among us, but our members at the end of the day turned out reluctant to share information with us, even when asked for it only to avoid conflicts of interest. We did not manage to be successful in this area.

The lack of a limited capital sum, benefactor or sympathizing bank to bolster up the Coimbra Group and enable it to bridge, for instance, delays in project income has been a limiting factor of at times almost existential importance.

3. Why certain options and not others?

From general principle to practice

In principle we did not exclude any general option, within the limits set out in the preceding section. But, as said before, Coimbra Group being about cooperation of people, the human factor has been dominant in our choices: is there, at least, one member of the Steering Committee, person in our member universities (specially in the case of initiatives coming from that side), or office worker motivated (for all mentioned: including familiarity with the subject and availability of time) to take forward a specific activity (in most cases necessarily together with the prospect of Programme or ad hoc funding)?

After this first step the contact persons were informed and asked to check response in their universities. It was very important to be sure that positive responses were not just verbal but would result in concrete input of effort and time. If a sufficient number of such positive responses had been received, the subject was initiated, mostly by formulating a proposal for the European Commission for additional funding. If not, the option was dropped.

Needs to review

The process worked reasonably well but, especially over the years when one got accustomed to (in some cases maybe even tired of) receiving new messages, the Steering Committee was not certain that it responded optimally to the expectations of the member universities. We therefore decided to visit each a number of member universities to have frank talks with the rectors and other key persons, based on a paper with an analysis and options for the future prepared by us. This action, though time-consuming, turned out to be quite useful.
The summarised results were discussed in the 1994 Groningen General Assembly. The recommendations were that most members were satisfied with the Group as it worked and wanted it to carry on, that taking the Group to a higher and consequently also costlier level of common activity was not supported, and that the members were very much attached to the collection and rapid circulation by the office of early information.

Growing concern

During the first twelve years at the Coimbra Group we have seen considerable changes in the universities. Student numbers increased, budgets did not follow, research output became a more critical factor in academic careers, administrative staff came under higher work pressure, etc. We noted that it was more and more difficult to find people available to devote (or sacrifice?) some of their time to realise activities in the Group, especially in the Steering Committee and in the Task Forces. This was a serious threat because the structure of the Group, and the annual fees, were based upon most work being done by members of the Steering Committee and of the Task Forces, of course with solid support from the office. We presented new ideas and solutions in the General Assemblies of 1995 and 1996 but were not completely satisfied with the results in practice of decisions taken.

Strategic discussion in 1997

In that mood and bearing in mind comments given at a meeting in December 1996 of former Steering Committee members with the acting Committee, once more generously hosted by vicereitor Jorge Veiga in the famous Palace of São Marcos, the Steering Committee decided to organise a strategic discussion about the functioning of the Coimbra Group into the future as part of the 1997 Thessaloniki General Assembly.
In the paper for this discussion two new elements were introduced as possible additions to the existing practice: First, the possibility of adoption, under the Coimbra Group umbrella, of themes of institutional action by a restricted number of universities, not necessarily all Coimbra Group members, whose rectors commit themselves to pursuing actively certain specified goals for which interuniversity cooperation would be instrumental, with their own means and support. With the implicit assumption that once these universities had succeeded, their results could be extended to other members who might then join or benefit as well.
And secondly, that a university which would not have participated in any collaborative activity of the Group for several years could be asked to leave the Group, thus making place for another more interested university.
Both options were discussed at length and not rejected, but - as far as I am aware – not put into full practice.
But the most notable conclusion in 1997 was: carry on, this continues to be meaningful.
And so the Coimbra Group did!

4. "Petites Histoires"

An early incident

One incident merits recording. When the founders of the Group met in Aarhus in September 1986 they were informed that Leuven was planning a meeting of universities, coinciding with the Council of Ministers at which the ERASMUS Programme was scheduled to be approved.

The intention of the Leuven organisers was to create a 'Golden Circle' of universities with preferential links for a number of academic goals. In Aarhus we all sensed a great similarity with the Coimbra Group aspirations so we discussed taking action in a polite but determined way to avoid overlapping which possibly might result in loss of the Coimbra Group.

I had been delegated by the Leiden Board to attend the Leuven conference, so we knew at least one of us would be there and we decided to write a letter to the Leuven rector drawing his attention to the existence of the various networking efforts, also including the preparation of a Pact at the Bologna 900th anniversary celebrations.

We announced the preparation of a protocol in which the Coimbra Group members would approve the adoption of a modest but effective infrastructure to realise inter--university cooperation, initially focussing on student mobility. But we also concluded that useless overlap of the activities of the Coimbra Group and of Leuven and Bologna should be avoided and we offered to merge the experience of the Group with the other initiatives, including the members of the Group in further activities.

We therefore proposed to the rector to extend an invitation to all Coimbra Group members not yet invited on other grounds to attend the Leuven meeting, adding that with all interested parties present a separate Coimbra Group protocol might be avoided, a letter of intent could be drafted to be signed in Bologna in suitable format.

No invitation came from Leuven... We pushed ahead with our protocol and decided to table it at one of the Leuven sessions. So we did and when he noticed that I had put a pile of copies on the table, the organising professor got infuriated with me, accused me of interfering with his meeting and that I should withdraw the papers immediately (which did not make sense since they had already been taken by the participants). For a considerable time he sat discussing angrily with me in the Faculty Club (fortunately we could both use our mother tongue) rector Dillemans passing by from time to time with an amused look.

At a certain moment he interrupted us and said that he thought that we could go ahead with the Coimbra Group, which ended our discussion.

Leuven was absent at the General Meeting following this incident but later joined us again and has always been one of the solid members of the Group. With Bologna we did not run into conflict, their goals being high-levelled, whereas our interests down-to-earth. The late professor Giuseppe Caputo, guardian of university autonomy, helped us shape the Group with his constructive criticisms.

Coimbra Group: result of personal enthusiasm

The following does not describe a memorable moment but has been a constant factor during the years I was active in the Group. I mean the attitude of those who, in successive periods, with varying roles, at many different localities, and employed in a variety of university positions, found a way to develop an amount of synergy that enabled us to overcome the numerous smaller and bigger problems and situations that we had to solve to make the Coimbra Group the success we all hoped for. Pioneering spirit, entrepreneurial attitude, enthusiasm, willingness to sacrifice private time, collegiality, comradeship, etc. were qualities that came on top of the usual academic capabilities of each one. Of course tensions arose from time to time. Most of them found their origin in personal perceptions on how to strengthen the Group. Vicereitor Jorge Veiga demonstrated his interpersonal skills in quite a number of such cases and thus contributed much to the cohesion in the successive Steering Committees.

Office folklore

In the early days of the Coimbra Group Simon-Pierre Nothomb had an office in one of a row of small brick houses of the Rue de l'Assomption in the outskirts of Brussels. When some of us met with him there for the first time he banged three times on the wall separating his office from a next-door café. To our great surprise a moment later a waiter descended the internal staircase to the level where he had his desk with three delicious coffees.

The emotional value of the Círculos projects

What impressed me most at the meetings of alumni of European universities organised in Latin American cities to announce the launch of local Círculos Europeos, was the number of people at the receptions following introductory speeches who wanted to make it very clear that they found this a magnificent European initiative because it addressed the individual alumni, who, by their study and often roots felt so strongly related with Europe even though living so far apart.

They added, however, that they had met over time many visitors from the Northern Hemisphere who, after they had made their appearance and had had the pleasure of getting to know their beautiful countries, never turned up again. Their final plea "Let this not happen in this case" strongly motivated us to make the best of the Círculos projects.

Attachment to academic ceremonies

Traditional universities are fond of ceremonies where their professors wear their often colourful and elaborate academic dresses. Several of my memories are associated with such occasions.

Vicereitor Jorge Veiga told me that once he had to bring his Coimbra gown to Italy where he had to pass customs at Rome airport. The customs officer just did not want to believe that his voluminous hat was only part of an academic dress and Jorge could hardly keep him from taking the thing apart to look for himself.

When lining up for a procession in Siena, Leiden rector, the late Jan Beenakker, in his black gown with silver chain, met Leuven rector Roger Dillemans who had brought neither his gown nor chain and felt a bit uneasy. When Beenakker noticed this he immediately took off his Leiden chain and offered it to Dillemans who gratefully accepted and made a splendid appearance.

At the same occasion in Siena I walked to the Cathedral with rector Radim Palou_ of Charles University who had already dressed up at his hotel. "You know, Peter", he said to me, "I had never dreamt that I would ever walk here in Siena as Charles University's rector". And he looked so intensely proud and happy. Before the regime change Palou_ had to take care of the central heating at the university...

On the other hand the attachment of hosting rectors to academic sessions caused the successive Steering Committees some concerns: at the 1990 Coimbra General Assembly the rectors had asked them to organise separate, well-prepared meetings on a biannual basis to reflect on themes of high relevance for our kind of universities. But rectors preparing to host General Assemblies made it clear in the earliest contacts that they counted on having a nice ceremony with rectors present, so we felt that we had to give in and organised separate rectors' meetings as part of the General Assemblies. They were much shorter, however, and less focused and intense than they might have been under other conditions.

Languages in our meetings

The use of languages in our plenary meetings was quite unique in the early years of the Group. The preparation was done in 'english' but in the meetings both French and English were spoken, always starting with English, switching to French when a next speaker chose to do so and only switching back to English when another speaker preferred it. Etcetera. With the additional unwritten rule that anybody could interrupt and ask for some translation in order to understand well what had been said.

Unfortunately this in my eyes charming Western European practice had to be abandoned in 1991 with the entry of a number of Central European Universities.

International relations officers' personal network

A successful element both for ERASMUS and in the consolidation of the Coimbra Group has been the creation of a personal network of international relations officers responsible for the daily running of student mobility (guidance/counselling/lodging). With European funding and generous hosting by the University of Siena in its magnificent Certosa di Pontignano we brought together (3 – 4 February 1989) a mix of international office workers and heads, and vice-rectors of international relations. So we could exchange institutional practices and useful paperwork, compare needs of home and host institutions, etc., and also discuss the impact of student mobility, further development of ERASMUS participation and the way the Group could play a useful role in it, all at one and the same event. For several officers this was their first participation in an international meeting and it became no less than a turning point in their careers.

The impact of Erasmus

It is no exaggeration to say that without the start of ERASMUS just after the Coimbra Group had created its network of local contact persons, it would have been much more difficult to prove its potential value and develop it into a success.

Statistics of the European Commission gave evidence of the impact of the Group's uptake of the Programme in its early years: When counting the number of approved Interuniversity Cooperation Projects (ICP's) 1988 - 1989 it turned out that among the 20 (from a total of 82) universities with the highest number of ICP's 12 belonged to the Coimbra Group. Another 7 were also mentioned, as key 'participators'.

Further recognition was the award of ERASMUS Programme 1987 - 1990 Prizes on December 5th 1990 in Brussels to university staff (one per EU member state, including Jorge Veiga - Coimbra, Valerio Grementieri - - Siena and Peter Floor - Leiden) and students (also one per member state, with Helle A. Pedersen – Aarhus, Giorgios Kazantzopoulos – Thessaloniki and Michele Scarpinato – Pavia).


La Jornada
Negociaremos como nación soberana: CSG

The Participation of the University of Granada in the Coimbra Group of Universities and its co-operation with Latin America.

At the end of the 1980s D.G. 1 of the European Commission began a series of programmes for economic and social co-operation with Latin America. In the light of this initiative the Coimbra Group of Universities proposed that it would add a worthwhile dimension to the programme if we were to include a cultural exchange of views and experiences with these countries. Thus the Coimbra Group proposed a project to this end which was initially called the Círculos Europeos, whose first chairman was Simon Pierre Nothomb, Head of Foreign Affairs of the University of Louvain la Neuve. The project initially involved getting in touch with Latin-American graduates from European universities who had now returned to their homelands and were working in all walks of life and social spheres, including academia, local and national government, the legislature, cultural affairs and so on. We asked them to organise a range of activities such as talks, conferences and seminars about Europe and also to open the way for cultural exchanges between both continents. After a series of visits from members of the Coimbra Group and meetings between European and Latin--American rectors at the Universities of Oxford and Salamanca, this initial cultural encounter instigated by the Círculos Europeos culminated in a General Assembly in Cartagena de Indias in July 1992 during which a proposal was made to set up a programme providing for the improvement of institutional facilities and the exchange of students and staff between European and Latin-American universities.

A final meeting of all those concerned was hosted by the University of Granada in September 1992, which resulted in the Declaración de Granada, signed by all the rectors of the European and Latin American universities who wanted to participate in a new, formal agreement for mutual collaboration and support between the two continents. Among the proposals made in the Declaración de Granada were that the Coimbra Group of European universities and their Latin-American counterparts should actively support a programme of cultural development and the defence of social and cultural identity among its American partners. Efforts should also be made to improve the quality of university teaching and research together with the conditions of staff and infrastructure. A first step towards these goals would be to extend the already successful ERASMUS project to include Latin America.
The terms of the Declaración de Granada were duly put to the European Commission, who, in 1994, granted the necessary funding to launch the ALFA Project, which allowed for exchange and mobility among undergraduate and graduate students. It also provided for the setting up of networks of co-operation between groups of universities. We all gained a lot from our experiences in the ALFA Project, not least among them being a far better understanding of the university system in America and a greater cohesion between the two continents in matters of education and research.

FRANCISCO LODEIRO

The project not only promoted the exchange of students but also the training of teachers and research workers, giving our American partners the opportunity to see how the European university system works in terms of management, teaching and research and how the newly introduced credit system between universities functions. From the European point of view the exchange agreement opened up whole new fields of research in the Latin--American countries. The only real difficulties experienced in the project were those of disseminating information and co-ordinating exchanges within a environment unused to such large-scale co-operation. Nevertheless, these problems were gradually surmounted and the ALFA programme as a whole was deemed to be a success, to the extent that the programme has been extended to include networks extending to other countries worldwide.

As far as the Coimbra Group universities are concerned their experience in the Circulos Eurpeos and the ALFA Programme was also invaluable in gaining experience in putting together international networks and organising such exchange projects on an intercontinental scale. This allowed them at the 1998 UNESCO World Conference to press for greater co-operation in post-graduate studies and research at international level. As a result of this initiative the ERASMUS Programme was amplified to become ERASMUS WORLD and in 2002 the ALBAN Programme was set up to foment the exchange of highly specialised research between Europe and Latin America and the networks already in existence on the basis of earlier agreements.

I am of the opinion that the Coimbra Group universities have achieved enormous success with their initiatives to foment understanding and agreement between Europe and Latin America and in the future can on the one hand play a pivotal role in strengthening alliances already made and on the other extend these contacts to other countries, to the extent that they might set up their own networks independently. These networks should concentrate on encouraging university research linked with technology.

This will involve training second-cycle and postgraduate students in the techniques of embarking on research with a view to bettering their academic and professional prospects. One final important role that the Coimbra Group of universities and all those universities integrated into networks may play is that of putting pressure at governmental level on all the countries involved in an effort to convince them that projects such as ERASMUS, ALFA and ALBAN work eventually to the nation's benefit in terms of research, manpower and productivity and that they should be prepared to contribute to the financing of such schemes if they are going to fulfil their potential.

An amazing experience...

I must confess that the invitation to contribute to this Coimbra Group publication made me stop abruptly and suddenly realise how many years have gone by since I joined the Group, how many "things" have happened and how important was the Coimbra Group for my professional and personal life.

Almost 20 years ago two students of the University of Coimbra organised the first meeting of MOSAIC (1986). This was possible due to the support of the Student's Association, one of the oldest, if not the oldest, in Europe and of course the support of the University of Coimbra through its Rector, Prof. Alarcão, Vice-Rector Prof. Jorge Veiga and the person responsible for the international relations office, Dra. Filomena Marques de Carvalho. MOSAIC was an idea that became a reality because of this support and motivation and somehow made me realise, for the first time, that the ideal of Europe was feasible, difficult though... as the pursuit of all ideals but feasible nonetheless. The richness of our cultural diversity brought together could contribute to the construction of Europe, "the Europe of the students", the "Europe of the universities", "the Europe of the peoples".
And we felt strong! So strong, that when we received the positive answer from the European Commission to our request for financial support to publish the reports of the 1st MOSAIC meeting, a late answer, we rejected the funds! The report was already prepared and... not published but photocopied... and we were proud!
We met again in Galway the same year and again the next.

Then it was Bologna - the Alma Mater commemorated its 900th anniversary. MOSAIC was represented. We were convinced that we were representing the students of Europe in a fantastic historical gathering and making recommendations that would change the cooperation in higher education and with a stress in student cooperation.

MOSAIC was not an easy task. We wanted to gather representative students from all the Coimbra Group of Universities, organise cultural exchanges and facilitate mobility. However, different structures of student associations in the different universities of the Group did not enable an easy identification of students for representation in MOSAIC. The first meeting got together a little more than half of the Coimbra Group members (24 at the time). Students from Aarhus, Bristol, Bologna, Galway, Granada, Groningen, Heidelberg, Leiden, Leuven, Louvain, Poitiers, Salamanca, Thessaloniki, Pavia, were present. And this when less than one week before the meeting, we had no replies to the invitation to gather in Coimbra.

It is not necessary to state the amazing experience of meeting and discussing common issues but for the record I can recall that the acronym MOSAIC (Movement Of Students Aiming at Integration of the Coimbra group) was "invented" by one of the representatives of Groningen.

Only the confidence, the support and the perseverance, of the Coimbra Group representatives enabled the continuation of MOSAIC.

In July 1989, after having met the Coimbra Group Committee for Cultural Affairs during its meeting in Coimbra earlier that year, I went to Brussels to visit the Coimbra Group office (still in its embryonic stage) at the suggestion of Simon-Pierre Nothomb. After a trial week in the office, trying to find my way around the European Institutions and to prove that I was an intelligent Portuguese, Mr. S-P. Nothomb agreed to take me as his collaborator in the implementation of a project freshly approved by the European Commission: "The European Círculos in Latin America". This was September 1989 and my life really changed.
From Coimbra to Brussels!...

CECÍLIA COSTA

Portugal had just joined the European Union and I was going to be in the "heart of Europe", near the European Institutions. It seemed to me that I was also participating in the history of European Integration.

The ERASMUS Programme (mobility of students launched in 1987) was flourishing and so were the University (Higher Education) Networks in Europe. Student and staff mobility were in the agenda of all Higher European Institutions. The Coimbra Group, a "Super Network"- in the sense that it gathered the institutions as a whole and had not been created on a thematic basis - was in its experimental phase. It was a platform of common interests facilitating meetings and through these the identification of subjects of mutual interest and the subsequent preparation of specific thematic sub-networks.

The Coimbra Group representatives were a fantastic team, full of enthusiasm and dreams. My memories of those days are populated by believers and I was working with them. Somehow I feel that we all believed that the success of Europe also depended on what we would do, on how the Group would evolve and on how much effort we would devote to it. It was a group of different people with different purposes and different ways of functioning. However, in one way or another, we all had the same goal, to make Europe a common space of different minds.

My experience in the Coimbra Group Office was of hard work, but this was always rewarded by the enriching experiences of meeting people. And from this point in time I can say that the Coimbra Group was the most enriching experience I could ever have had.

Without intending to tell the history of the Coimbra Group - others can do that better than me - I was asked to recount my personal experience. Let me first profit from this opportunity by expressing my gratitude towards all those who were in the decision-making bodies of the Coimbra Group at that time. Their trust, their friendship, their enthusiasm, their motivation were the driving forces that gave me the courage to face the challenges presented to me as a young amateur Portuguese in Brussels working for the Group. And here I have to acknowledge those people who, in my view, were instrumental for the Coimbra Group, in its creation, its evolution and its current shape. In addition, they have left a profound mark in my life, both professionally and personally. For that I want to thank Prof. Jorge Veiga for his continuous support and essential diplomatic skills; Mr. Simon-Pierre Nothomb for his persistence, determination and idealism; Dr. Peter Floor for his patience, hard work and continuous strive for accuracy; Prof. Francisco Gonzalez Lodeiro for his motivation and help; Dr. Alain Clark for his support and reliability, Ms. Anne Lonsdale for her perseverance and strategic views; and Peter Goggin for his support and late night phone calls, when he knew I was still working in the office. I sincerely feel that, if it were not for them the Coimbra Group would not have achieved its current size and position in the higher education scenario. There are others who have contributed but I cannot mention them all (lack of space!).

The challenges were enormous and sometimes even unexpected - meeting deadlines for submission of applications, preparing meetings and newsletters, justifying the existence of the Office in Brussels...to the General Assemblies.

Almost in parallel, the European Círculos in Latin America were growing. The years from 1989-91 were start-up years. Chile, Mexico, Paraguay, Brazil have a huge population of European Alumni - they were the "European Ambassadors in their own country". At the initiative of S-P. Nothomb and with the support of the European Commission we wanted to spread the "European word" - integration.

Several stories could be told, but I am reserving them for my grand children. Maybe one is worth mentioning here. One day S-P. Nothomb and I left for Chile to inaugurate the European Círculo in Santiago (this was still 1989). On the way, we stopped in Asunción, Paraguay.
The objective was to identify a suitable Delegate for the European Círculo planned to be launched in Asunción. Unfortunately, or fortunately, it was a holiday in Asunción and though some persons had been identified the perspicacity of S-P. Nothomb was not satisfied.

We were strolling along the margins of the Paraguay river. It was early morning - the time of day S-P. Nothomb enjoys most - and the city streets were empty. We met with a group of French-speaking youngsters, busy preparing a rally-paper. Our attention was drawn towards one local girls in the group, striking in her miniskirt,...We spoke with her over a cup of coffee at an only open establishment at that town and we found her suitable. Later, the same day, we also visited her parents to ask for permission to induct her into the Group. Cynthia joined us in the last part of the trip to Chile, to attend the event launching the European Círculo in Santiago - she confessed that she had the sensation of being kidnapped. She later organised the Círculo in Asunción and at an even later date joined a traineeship in the European Commission. After specific studies in Paris, she is now a Paraguayan diplomat.

In the early 1990's Europe turned towards the East and the Group opened its arms to the today's new EU member states. Our partners in Latin America feared that the European cooperation to them would stop. Through its European Círculos and the links established with Latin American institutions, the Coimbra Group was instrumental in the creation, by the European Commission, of the ALFA Programme (America Latina Formação Académia). The Group was not alone in this task, there was also Columbus and the Conference of European Rectors pledging support to academic cooperation with Latin American institutions. But I believe the Group played an important role, namely through its European Círculos which gave the possibility of drawing the attention to the need of an instrument to facilitate academic cooperation between Europe and Latin America. The Programme was launched in 1994 in Coimbra.

Tempus-Tacis and -Phare were also a priority for the Group and several important networks were supported by the European Commission.

There was a huge diversity in the activities implemented under the umbrella of the Group, either by the institutions themselves or by the Coimbra Group office in close collaboration with the member institutions. That has been the richness of the Group and its office - its unity while respecting the diversity of its members and the close collaboration among all of us.

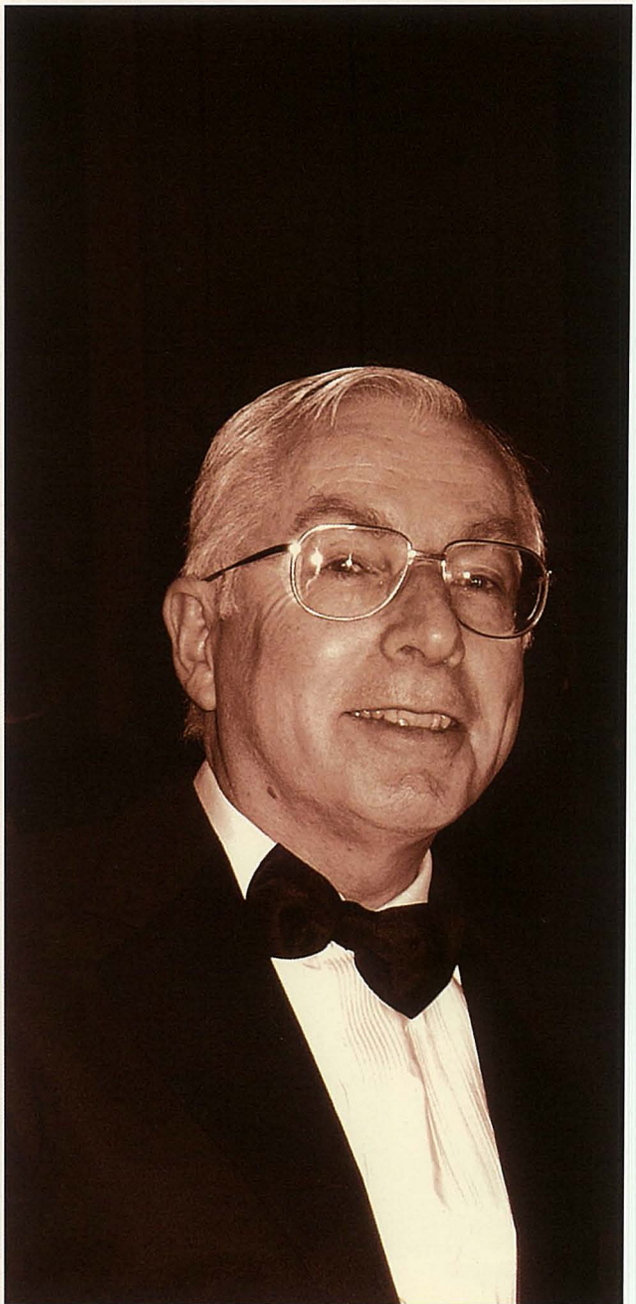
One cannot forget that those were also the days when the European Commission was populated by idealists and there was the belief that together we could change Europe and the world.

The office in Brussels was growing in high spirits while also trying to cope with the demand of the Group's success. In 1997-98 we were a team of six, totally different characters and nationalities, dealing with different sorts of projects (from new technologies to training of international relations officers, thematic networks, etc.). We were full of passion and determination trying to achieve excellence in our tasks of working for and representing the Group (Veronique, Alejandra, Cristina were the office's backbone).

In the meantime, academic cooperation became an easier task for the universities. The institutional structures - international offices - were in place and the institutional bridges had been built. The Higher Education institutional networks started suffering from lack of specific purpose. We know that a great number of these networks, created 20 years ago in the early days of this adventure, have disappeared from the cooperation scenario. It is gratifying to see that the Coimbra Group has overcome all this and is a permanent institution. Already 20 years!...

"If we take care of the moments, the years will take care of themselves"

Maria Edgeworth



Some Reminiscences

Galway's involvement with the Coimbra Group began in September 1986 at the Aarhus meeting at which we were one of the 10 Universities present, having been invited to join the Group in July 1986. As Galway's representative at all the annual meetings since then, I have been privileged to witness the evolution of the Group from those heady early days of initiating linkages and making acquaintances with fellow European Universities to the maturing and deepening of those bonds of friendship and academic cooperation in ever new forms.

The Group was fortunate that the period of its establishment coincided with the advent of the ERASMUS exchange programme, which provided a powerful incentive for the member Universities to forge the academic links required to enable their students to enjoy the practical benefits of the exchange schemes financed by the European Community. The 1987-89 period was thus one of frenzied activity in establishing those initial exchange programmes, which have subsequently developed into so essential a part of our academic programme structures.

The Coimbra Group was also fortunate in being able to avail of the larger political and social developments in Europe in the early 1990s to expand its membership in a way which reinforced the Europe-wide ethos of the Group.

One of my particular memories is of the discussion at the Heidelberg meeting in 1991 as to whether we should admit additional members, including Central and Eastern European candidates. While there was a case for delaying expansion, in order to promote cohesiveness among the existing members, happily we decided, following intensive discussion, that this was the kairos - the opportunity which had to be grasped as it passed by - for accepting those Universities, sundered from their traditionally fellow--European Universities over the previous half-century by political events, and thereby affirming the Group's commitment to the European University ethos unconfined by political boundaries.

That breadth of interest has always been for me the most important characteristic of the Coimbra Group. It was never intended to be merely a collection of institutions for purely academic purposes, but rather an alliance of Universities within a larger cultural ambit which they already shared by virtue of their historical and geographical traditions - "an association of culturally important places of learning " whose activities formed "a unity of research, education, student activities and international and cultural involvement", as a report to the 1988 Salamanca meeting put it.

SÉAMUS MACMATHÚNA

Thus from its early days it explored and pursued, frequently with EC funding, activity and linkages with Latin America, Africa, Central and Eastern Europe and Asia, reinvigorating in several cases (e.g. through Circulos Europeos) longstanding connections with individual Coimbra Group Universities. We also had for example, the very interesting seminar organised by Leuven and Louvain-la-Neuve in 2000, "Town and University: a dynamic symbiosis", the papers for which were later published.

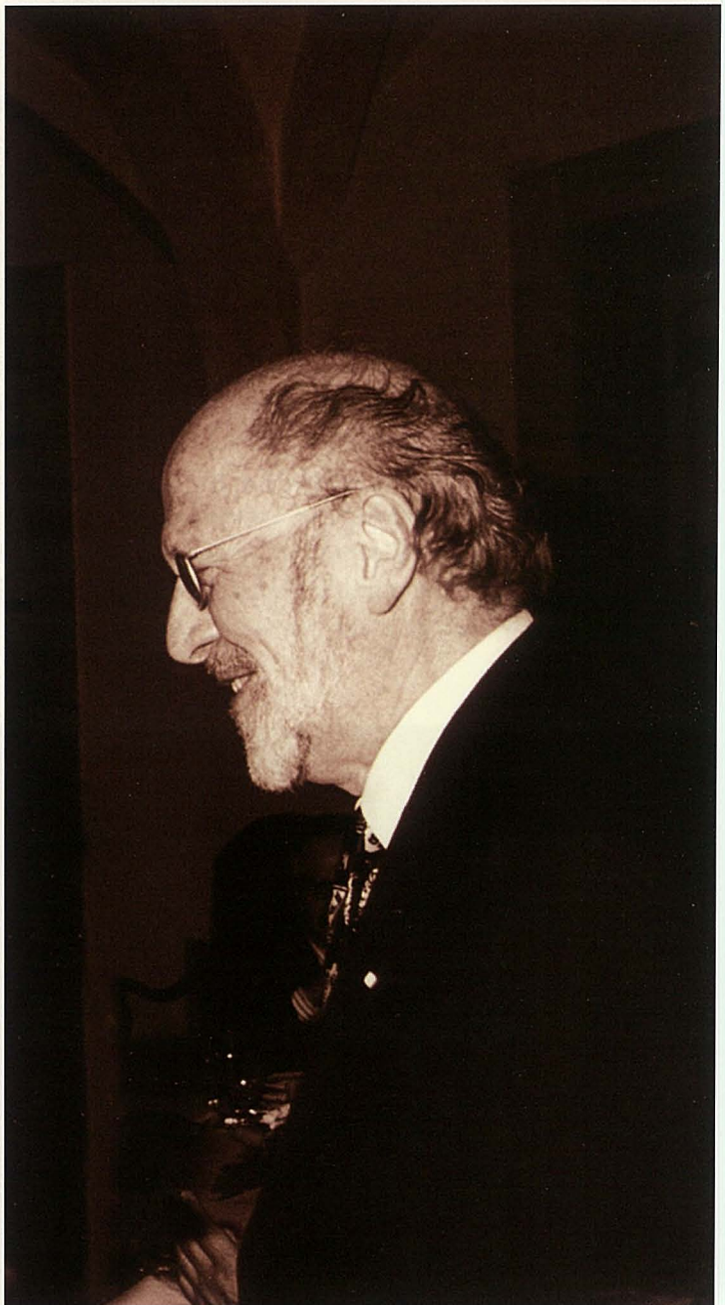
In its internal structure and activity, too, the focus from the beginning has been on developing the broad range of cultural links, not merely the academic links, between members: for example, encouraging mutual visits by student choirs and orchestras and emphasising linkage between the Universities at the Student Association level. The best example of that was the initiative taken by the Associação Académica de Coimbra in organising a meeting of student representatives in Coimbra in November 1988. Representatives from eight Universities attended, including the President of the Students' Union at Galway, Cathy Grieve, who was chosen as the first President of the student organisation MOSAIC (Meeting of Students Aiming at Integration of Coimbra Group) established on that occasion. Galway indeed also hosted the second meeting of MOSAIC in April 1989. The attitude of the Coimbra Group to that initiative was entirely supportive, both through budgetary subvention and in inviting MOSAIC representatives to its annual meeting, beginning with the 1989 Poitiers meeting.

That warm appreciation for the richness and diversity of the cultural ambience of the traditional European University has been a strong feature of the Group from the outset. I remember the impact of the sudden appearance of the Tuna Universitaria at the final lunch in Salamanca in January 1988 with their student songs, and the response in song which they provoked from the Coimbra delegates, including Jorge Veiga. Likewise at Coimbra in 1990 we had a performance from the Fados de Coimbra, showing a fascinating aspect of student life unfamiliar to many Northern European Universities. Every University, however, had its unique contribution to the rich fabric of University tradition within the Group, and that variety has always been not merely tolerated but appreciated and nurtured among the membership, and indeed frequently demonstrated, in physical terms, in the brilliant diversity of academic gowns worn by delegates, by invitation, on numerous ceremonial occasions during the meetings.

Memories from the 25 general meetings are too many to list here - ranging from the medieval Anatomy theatre and the Student Nations in Uppsala, the archaeological tours at Thessaloniki and Siena, the student residences at Pavia and the night at La Scala, and the unique cultural and social context of Granada, to the library treasures and former Irish College in Salamanca and the boat trip on the Danube at Budapest - but they, and the remarkable hospitality of the 18 Universities which have hosted those meetings (and the others which have hosted Task Force meetings), have greatly helped to reinforce the camaraderie and identity of the Coimbra Group. Perhaps, too, some of the 31 representatives from 19 Universities who came to the Galway meeting on October 21-24, 1988 will recall the tour of Aillwee Cave in the Burren and the medieval banquet at Dún Guaire castle in Kinvara! I remember too the discussion we had about the Coimbra Group logo, the original draft of which contained merely the words 'Coimbra Group'. We felt that the logo would not be easily understood by the public and might convey the impression that we were an industrial-type company; accordingly we added the word 'Universities'.

Finally, our thanks are due to the staff of the Coimbra Group Office over the years. Particular credit goes to the triumvirate of Simon-Pierre Nothomb, Jorge Veiga and Peter Floor, who, with their individual talents of imagination, vision, practicality and positive thinking, directed the development and operation of the Group in those early years. Our warmest thanks are also due to the various Steering Committees and Executive Boards and Task Forces whose members have advanced the Group's mission and scope so successfully since then. Ad multos annos!

Certainly we have not always maximised the potential offered by the Group. For example, the opportunity offered by the annual meeting for the structured exchange of information on developments affecting Universities in our individual countries has not been taken. Likewise, it is only since Granada 2003 that we have established a formal structure - the Rectors' Advisory Group - to promote the involvement of the Rectors between the annual meetings. There is also the usual problem of patchy participation by members in the individual activities of the Group. Nevertheless, the success of the Coimbra Group has been remarkable, achieved through a combination of the vision and imagination, tempered by practicality, contributed by its member-Universities from their individual Europe-wide backgrounds.



The COIMBRA Group does make a distinction

Being asked by the booklet editors of the experience as Chairman of the Steering Committee (now the Executive Board) the most genuine feeling, presenting itself spontaneously, was that I always felt that the COIMBRA did have an impact on European University life and also extended this to other parts of the world. An immediate reaction was also, that this ought not to surprise me considering the Universities, which constitute the Group. In their own right, they are important players in the international university world and singularly extend a great influence. Talking about the impact, however, it is not at the national university policy level in Europe at which the COIMBRA Group can be considered as making a distinction. It is at the supranational level, where the combined efforts of the COIMBRA Group universities manifest themselves. One (formal) proof of the recognition of this I experienced in meeting in Brussels in January 2000. Together with the president of the CRE, the president of the European Rector's Colleges and the president of the UNICA network I was invited to a meeting with Mme Commissioner Viviane Reding (and two of her directors from DG XXII) to inform her on university networking. I had prepared myself well by bringing a series of the COIMBRA Group publications in which we present and evaluate our Task Force endeavours. I had the opportunity to present and explain them and they clearly made an impression on Mme Reding. None of the others had brought material, and the positive picture of the COIMBRA Group was surprisingly enhanced when one of the directors volunteered with the statement, that DG XXII regarded the COIMBRA Group as its most valued partner! An opinion I often stated as a chairman, that we should document our initiatives and endeavours proved to be right in this situation. It is a pleasure at our home page to see that the tradition started with our "brochure" and the HUMANITIES project publications has been continued.

KNUD-ERIK SABROE

Being chair of an organisation is a role to undertake, and from my own field psychology, we have the Role Theory, which among things postulates, that positions (roles) in society have sets of expectations for the fulfilment of the role. I inherited these expectations as originated in the formal setting of the role but also influenced by the previous performer of the role. Role performance, thus, is the individual aspect of the role and the individual from whom I took over, Peter Floor, had set his distinctive mark on the role, which made it a challenge to succeed him. Nevertheless, as stated, the performance is an individual matter and I had to find my ways. Which were then the priorities I experienced as important?

• A primary goal was the continuation and developing of the executive structure of the Group, especially trying to have a Steering Group (Executive Board) in which the single member took upon him/her to have responsibility for selected areas and saw himself/herself as part of a team. Working in the Steering Committee was an experience I highly valued. I warmly appreciate the close relationship we established in my years as chair and feel that the openness and the accepted responsibility brought the COIMBRA Group onwards on a good course. It was a joy to experience that the Steering Committee not only thought of the daily running of the Group. We had its development and future in mind, this proved in the decision in 2000 to suggest the General Assembly that having reached our 15th anniversary we undertook an analysis of the mission and organization of the Group (a SWOT analysis) a proposal, which was adopted.

• The years around the turn of the century were important for European universities and thus for the COIMBRA Group and its governing bodies. The process of establishing a university education in Europe which had a common credit system, comparable degrees, free movement, quality assurance and other ended with the signing of the Bologna declaration in June 1999.
At the General Assembly the same year we adopted in Pavia the "Pavia Declaration" in which we presented a COIMBRA Group view on this European process a declaration which was sent to the Ministers meeting in Bologna previous to the signing. It has been debated if the form of declarations was a comprehensive way of emphasizing or accentuating our mission. At least in a couple of situations, I was glad that we had this opportunity. One was the Pavia declaration another was the "Graz Declaration" in which we took a stand regarding cultural identity and state that "European cultures and universities flourish as a result of variety of cultures and traditions".

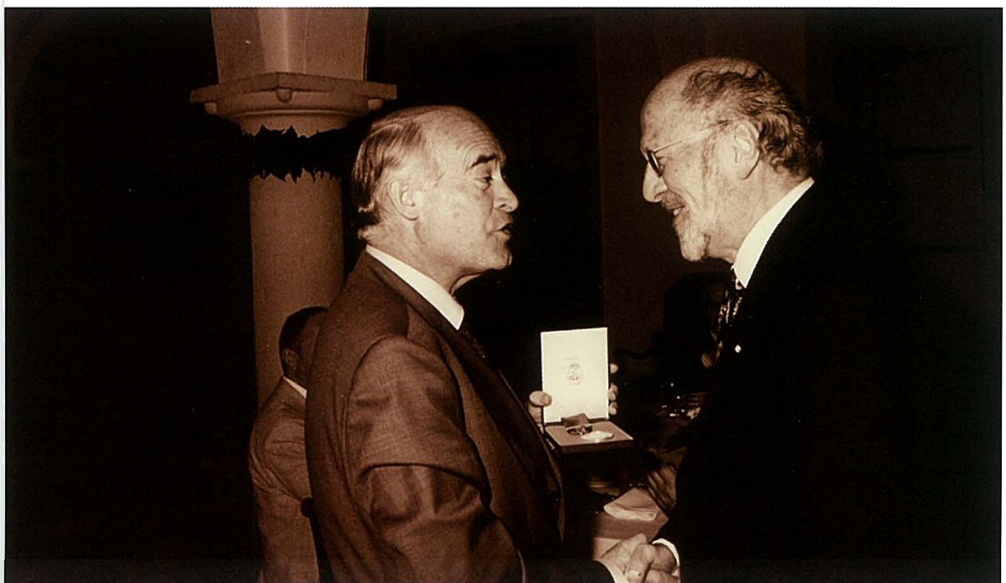
• The part of our executive structure constituted by our Task Forces, I saw as extremely important. The Task Forces are the backbone of the "working" COIMBRA Group in cooperation with the Steering Committee and the office. It has not always been easy to have a smooth functioning of the Task Forces, which is understandable when considering that the work is done con amore of otherwise extremely busy persons. However, I experienced that in the period from 1997 and two-three years onwards, we had a successful revival and reconstruction of the Task Force activity. Proof of that was for example the intensifying of the work in the EPET Task Force, the West Africa (Cotonou) activity in the ACP Task Force, the Hospitality Program in the CEEC (now ENC) Task Force and the Patagonia project in the Latin America Task Force.
It is activities of which we are allowed to be a little proud and it was a privilege as chairman to be participant in these activities. Seeing the development in the Task Forces and creating new ones is a pleasure. One is to me specifically interesting: Doctoral Studies and Research.
In the mid 1990ies, Peter Floor and I had ideas of establishing a COIMBRA Group initiative on doctoral training. I wrote about it in the News Letter and a couple of universities responded by announcing open courses and conferences for PhD students. There was not a big support so the initiative died; it seems to have been premature.

• Being a chairman also meant a responsibility regarding the office in Brussels. As stated above a role is not a stereotyped performance and (also) in real life is performed according to the individual's choice of dealing with the role expectations. I took the decision to be what maybe could be termed as a "working chairman". At least this is an expression used in my own language. This meant that I kept a close and continuous (and time consuming) contact with the office through telephone and email and frequent visits, the inadequate transport from Aarhus to Brussels setting a limit to the frequency, though. I felt that this gave a positive and warm relationship with the office employees and I am very grateful for the teamwork, which I experienced in the four years as a chairman and already had experienced in the preceding six years as member of the Steering Committee. The office grew in these years and changed to an office in which the "staff function" as compared to merely secretarial functions became more and more significant. In the early years, we had often an intense discussion about having an office and its placement. I feel that we took a wise decision when placing it in Brussels and giving it reasonable working conditions. I cannot myself thank the office enough for the support that both the three directors, with whom I worked, but also the staff in general gave me.

• I started by referring to a contact with the EU Commission in Brussels. It has been an important aspect in many of our efforts, that we have been able to establish a good correspondence with a series of the general directorates in the Commission on their European and outside Europe projects. In that we have lived up to the mission of furthering the cooperation between our member universities and to be supportive in assisting universities in Central and Eastern Europe and in third world countries in their development. Besides the positive comments on our achievements in the meeting with Commissioner Reding, it has been officially stated from the then university responsible DG XXII that the most successful project they had supported supposedly was the COIMBRA Group's HUMANITIES and its successors. Acknowledged formally has been, also, the Circulos Europeos project we ran for DG I, the MEDCAMPUS efforts, the gaining of the two biggest contracts when the TEMPUS programme was established and that we launched the Cotonou initiative in West Africa and the Patagonia project in South America.

• A good relationship is not all-acceptant and in two occasions we in the Steering Committee in cooperation with the EPET and the CEEC Task wrote letters to the Commissioner (and parallel to the EU Parliament) in which we seriously argued against (criticised) decisions taken on the ERASMUS and the TEMPUS programme. It proved worthwhile; I was personally told by a vice director from DG XXII that when the COIMBRA Group spoke one listened.

• Shortly after having been chairman I together with rector Ducrey from Lausanne (Chair of the UNICA Network) took and initiative trying to have a closer cooperation between the five major university networks in Europe: Coimbra, Compostela, Santander, Unica and Utrecht. We had a couple of meetings and undertook some tasks, among others establishing a major conference for the DG XXII on "Universities in the XXIst Century". However, the idea of an "umbrella" for the five networks did not really catch, the two most for the idea were Unica and Coimbra, I believe. It was obvious that the networks in many ways saw themselves as competitors, something, which clearly manifested itself in the preparation of the DG XXII conference. So, the initiative "died".

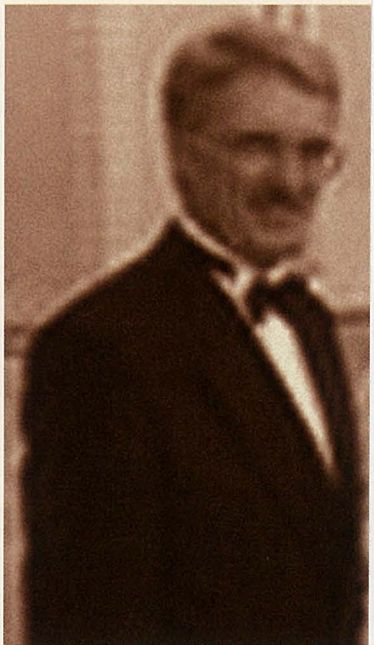


When considering the positive picture my experiences present above one could ask: Was everything so roseate? Of course, there were differences of opinions regarding many aspects in the life of so big and complex an organization as the COIMBRA Group, which though having the common concept of "Universitas" represent the big variety of European cultures and they definitely are marked in our gatherings. A few differences in opinions had the character of confrontations, but to my remembrance disagreements did not end up in open conflict and the unity of the organization never was threatened. We have had voting in our General assembly and in Task Forces on disagreed matters, but consensus has been the overwhelming result of our discussions. Below I shall take up two things, of which I regret the course.

• Our first director Cecilia Costa early in our history took the initiative to establish a student organization of the COIMBRA Group called MOSAIC. Through the years, the MOSAIC has been a frequently debated theme, and the support of the student organization from the Group was questioned. The discussion of MOSAIC became very intense in my chairman-period. Fundamentally, I was in favour of a student body, but saw the problems they had in having a continued and smooth running of such an organization. I therefore arranged being with their board a couple of days in Leuven trying to help them with an analysis of their goal, organisation and communication. I felt it a fruitful meeting, but to my regret fate has proved, as far as I know, that the obstacles for having a student organization obviously were too great.

• Also early in our history professor Robert Zwilling from Heidelberg took the initiative to establish the "COIMBRA Group Lectures". The idea was to invite a high ranking researcher from one COIMBRA Group to another and having him/her giving a formal lecture and a seminar. I believe that a series of successful "Lectures" were carried out. I myself arranged for Professor Stig Strömholm to come to Aarhus, a lecture, which was honoured by Queen Margrethe II accepting our invitation to attend the lecture and a lunch with the lecturer. I saw the rationale brought forward in closing this initiative, but I do regret it.
The editor in his advice on our writing takes up the word "identity". It is a common concept regarding individuals. It is more difficult, however, regarding groups or organizations. Nevertheless I do feel, that it could be justified to talk about a COIMBRA Group identity. What constitutes it then? Well, one common denominator for all our universities is the adherence to the concept "Universitas", we all share the obligation to do research as founded in and developed from this old concept. We share the history of being in a symbiotic relationship with the city in which we are placed (as it was highlighted in the anniversary symposium in Leuven/Louvain). We share that on national level we are regarded as the top universities based on our achievements.

These are some outer determinants but the major source of our identity is the 20 years of successful history. Surviving 20 years with an organization of big individual member universities in a complex world is in itself a mark of an existing identity. Securing this survival has been hard work from many people and could be detailed but let me shortly express it by stating that it means something in Europe (and elsewhere) to belong to the COIMBRA Group and the COIMBRA Group does make a distinction.



20 years of Coimbra Group

It has always been my firm belief: if the most ancient Universities of Europe have to say something to each other – and one might presume so – then they would need a platform for that.
The Coimbra Group has performed this role during the last 20 years most efficiently.
On its way it encountered all promises and deficiencies of Europe as a whole.
There were a steady learning process, obstacles, personal confidence, growing recognition, continuity and perseverance.
The Coimbra Group also reflected the enlargement problems of the growing Europe: the wish to share its benefits and achievements with as many partners as possible was contradicted by the menace of immobilization and the loss of identity. Nevertheless, the Coimbra Group succeeded to adjust its goal and its activities according to the changing needs and developments during the course of time.
While in an initial phase the cooperation of Western Europe was in the foreground, characterized by the Erasmus Program, we proposed during the Heidelberg meeting in 1991 to adopt also the Universities of Budapest, Cracovia, Jena and Prague, hitherto excluded by the Iron Curtain. They became excellent partners.

We also proposed a special agreement between German and Italian Universities, always under the roof of the Coimbra Group, and signed in 1996 at Jena by the Rectors of Bologna, Heidelberg, Jena, Pavia, and Siena (later joined by Padova), which was designed to ensure initiative and activity also in a group which rapidly approached the number of 40 member universities.

I always felt that one problem of the Coimbra Group had been difficult to overcome and that it probably never had found a satisfactory solution: its presentation and perceptibility towards both, the inner academic community and the outside public audience. As a contribution to cope with these deficiencies I proposed during the Oxford meeting in 1992 the introduction of "Coimbra Group Lectures." This not only allowed the participating Universities to honour and to present some of their outstanding scientists, but also to know each other more profoundly and to strengthen the existing bonds.

Personally I look back on the long period I could participate in the Coimbra Group activities as an unforgettable experience, and certainly it was an important part of my life.
Probably not the least outcome of these years was the deep personal friendship
and understanding that I could share with so many European colleagues and I think this is a good occasion to greet them all.

ROBERT ZWILLING

A piece of life

Over fifteen years of my academic activity and, more generally, of my life have to some extent been bound up with the Coimbra Group.

I was a young professor, with some experience and a great deal of enthusiasm for European academic co-operation programmes, when I had the chance to attend one of the first meetings of the Coimbra Group, in September 1987 when the 19 founding members of the Group signed the Charter in Pavia.

In 1988, Roberto Schmid, at the beginning of his long service as Rector of the University, invited me to help Gabriele Crespi Reghizzi, one of the pioneers who led the Coimbra Group in its earliest days. Some years later I replaced him as the representative in the Group for the University of Pavia.

In this capacity, it was a privilege for me to be invited, in particular, to organize the 1999 General Assembly in Pavia, an unforgettable event still generally remembered for an extraordinary and colourful academic procession through the sunny courtyards of the University and for the fantastic evening at the Milan opera house.

On the occasion of that General Assembly, I had the honour of being elected to the Group's Steering Committee. Contributing to the leadership of the Group has been for me a challenging experience but also a very rewarding one, given the number of friendships and contacts that ensued. Among my best friends, I can count many Coimbra Group associates.

The years between 2001 and 2004 were devoted to restructuring the Group and proposing new strategies.

In February 2002, the Coimbra Group Statutes were signed in Brussels under Belgian legislation as a non-profit association of European higher-education institutions.

On that occasion, I was appointed Chairman of the Executive Board.

ANTONIO SAVINI

Education to Europe

But let me avoid giving a chronicle of current events... may I instead be allowed simply to say that I have tried to serve the Group with dedication and enthusiasm. May I also say that I owe much of the European dimension of my activities and, ultimately, of my life to the Group. Working in, and for the Group, over the years I have learnt what is really meant by "building Europe" and by "becoming European".

The Coimbra Group is normally regarded as a small and qualified Group of traditional European universities concerned with maintaining its European cultural heritage to encourage and enhance the search for, and transfer of, knowledge. In other words, a Group aiming at preserving and continuing the heritage of "universitates", that is the communities of scholars and students who learn by doing research, a heritage that has been specific to Europe for almost a millennium.

In this connection, I can only express my regret that the European Union did not accept the proposal put forward by the Coimbra Group in 2003 to recognize universities and their role explicitly in the Draft Treaty for a Constitution of the Union.

My experience in the Coimbra Group has often led me to realize that the Group mirrors what happens on a much grander scale in the European Union. Like the states in the Union, each member university in the Group has centuries of existence and a different history and tradition. Like the Union, and anticipating it, the Group has gradually extended its membership borders to the East. Like the Union, the Group is young and resembles a process more than a stable entity.

Building Europe is actually a long and sometimes difficult and fragile process: every day steps forward are made only when shared goals prevail over original diversities of interests and histories and only when diversity is seen as a form of richness and not as an obstacle. In many respects, it is an educational process: so long as its citizens learn to behave as Europeans, Europe will grow and grow.
Something similar applies to the Group.
The origin of the Coimbra Group dates back to the second half of the 1980s when the first programmes for academic exchange and mobility were launched across Europe. Incidentally, the significance of these programmes, and of those that followed, for the promotion of academic co-operation in Europe, has never been given sufficient recognition.
The Coimbra Group was the forerunner of the ERASMUS programme: its mission, as stated in the 1987 Charter, echoes many of the goals of the ERASMUS programme which was launched in the same year. The Group was then in the front line of many of the European Commission's other programmes: TEMPUS, MedCampus, ALFA, etc.
It also developed a number of projects in the field of e-learning.
Since the 1990s, and right up to the present time, other European associations or networks have been founded in the wake of the Coimbra Group model.
Well considered by the European Commission and by other international organizations such as EUA, UNESCO etc, the Coimbra Group, today numbers some 37 member universities and is now contributing to the construction of the European Education and Research Areas.

Essence and future of the Group

On many occasions within the Group, questions have been raised about what is specific to the Group and what its strengths and weaknesses are. The questioning process begun at the General Assembly in Graz and continued in Bristol and Leuven. The SWOT analysis Committee, established in 2001, concluded its valuable work in 2002, while the implementation of the suggested reforms became one of tasks of the General Assemblies in Granada and Siena.
I believe that the very essence of the Group - its main strength - is that it is a human-sized forum for reflection and action on general and specific issues in academic life. The Group brings together like-minded traditional higher education institutions which are aware that none of the individual members can provide everything needed by society, that exchanging best practices is an added value for everyone and that learning what partners are doing is a gain.

Nowadays globalization urges universities to work together in order to reinterpret Universities' values in relation to the needs of the present time and to give a common response to the challenges put forward by society at large. Current impending issues include: the unfavourable financial climate, the need for an ethical approach in science and learning, and pressures relating to changes in universities' mission.

A necessary precondition for working together is mutual respect and trust; also necessary is some degree of flexibility and adaptation in carrying out actions. But the major resources of the Group are the efforts of generous and foresighted volunteers who devote their time and make their valuable experience available for the benefit of the Group. It is thanks to this human capital that the Group, guided by its mission, can look to the future with hope and optimism.

Our picture books

Each of us normally keeps a picture book containing the most important moments in his or her life. They are often real pictures in a real book stowed away somewhere in a box. Sometimes, however, they are ideal pictures recorded somewhere in the heart.

Those who have attended the Coimbra Group General Assemblies certainly possess the group photos taken every year on the various occasions that the Group meets. They represent, as it were, the individual frames in the Group's film history. How nice it would be if, using the technologies now available, this film were placed on the Group's website.

I have my own set of photos but as well as this I also have a vivid memory of many people. They include my predecessors and colleagues on the Board, all the staff of the Brussels Office and many, many friends.

Associated with these people, are scenarios which represent more than physical places; they are what we Latins would call "loci animae". Among the most recent of these, I would like to recall the severe architecture of the Beguinage; the flamenco dance with the moon behind the Alhambra and, finally, the gentle hills of Tuscany.

The next picture will be that of a citadel of knowledge dominating white houses corroded by time: Coimbra, our motherland.

1990, the Coimbra Group starts its co-operation with the Mediterranean Non Community Countries, 2005, the European Commission declares the official year of the Mediterranean....

This article is dedicated to late Dr Peter Goggin, University of Bristol, who has put his enthusiasm, energy and expertise at the disposal of the Coimbra Group and its Mediterranean Task Force more particularly.

I was asked to go to the Mediterranean region to make the impossible happen, - get the formal agreement of twelve countries of the Basin including some who had long since ceased to collaborate to work together- and to promote multilateral academic co-operation.

This initiative, primarily driven by Simon-Pierre Nothomb, Secretary General of the Coimbra Group, and supported by Bernadette Bal-Delcampe of the University of Louvain-la-Neuve, reflected the culmination of a number of years of intensive bilateral collaboration with the Region which could benefited thanks to the Group from the expertise of some other Universities also historically close to the Mediterranean.

Our first project on " Practical training for International relations personnel of Mediterranean Non Community countries project involved the universities of Alger, Aleppo, Ankara (METU), Assiut (Egypt), Bar Ilan and Ben Gourion of the Negev (Israel), Beirout (Holy Spirit) in Lebanon, Birzeit (Palestine), Cyprus, Cukurova (Turkey), Fes (Morocco), Malta and Tunis I. It was successfully completed in late 1992 thanks to the scientific coordination of the University of Louvain-la-Neuve.

A key innovation – and challenge – of the initiative was to persuade academics and university officers, who despite sharing similar academic concerns typically represented different political positions - to sit together at the same table, and to create a climate of discourse where, for example, a Turkish professor could address a colleague from Cyprus; a Lebanese Maronite monk could engage in dialogue with a delegate from Syria and a Palestinian representative could discuss mutual interests with an international relations director of the Ben Gurion University of the Negev. These encounters symbolised the philosophy of open-mindness of our Coimbra Group Universities.

Two other projects involving the same universities followed this early pioneering project: "Practical training for Research officers" of MNC countries project (1992-93) and finally the ALMa project : Academic Library Management (1993-94) scientifically coordinated by the University of Coimbra.

The Task Force chaired by the University of Granada and Prof. Francisco Gonzalez Lodeiro called MED Task Force today was launched in 1992 to start a long term and stable co-operation with Higher Education institutions in the Mediterranean basin.

Another initiative was taken in August 1991, at an international solidarity conference, convened by several European universities, members of the Coimbra Group, to launch a programme of co-operation with, and support to the Palestinian universities. This was aimed at addressing some of the issues and problems they faced around harassment, restrictions on the freedom of travel for staff and students and sometimes the complete closure of departments and institutions themselves.
A few months later, at a ceremony held in Jerusalem, on 1 November 1991, when most Palestinian universities were closed by military order, the rectors and presidents of twelve European universities (Barcelona, Coimbra, Granada, Krakow, Leiden, Leuven, Louvain, Namur, Pisa, Salamanca, Siena and Viterbo) and their colleagues from six Palestinian universities (Al-Quds, An Najah National, Birzeit, Bethlehem, Gaza Islamic, Hebron), signed an agreement to officially launch the Programme for Palestinian-European Academic Co-operation in Education (PEACE) supported, from the very beginning, by UNESCO and by the Commission of the European Communities.

The choice of the acronym was particularly significant because it is another reflection of the foresight and wisdom of the international academic community.
The PEACE Programme pre-dated by two years the signing of the Palestinian-Israeli Agreements, and there are other examples of current events in the Region that link back to the pioneering work initiated by our universities fifteen years ago.
The European Commission celebrating the 10th Anniversary of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership is putting forward a new European framework to re-establish more stable and long-lasting academic knowledge transfer.
The question however is do Universities need external official political frameworks and tools to do what is their natural inclination or is it more a matter of dedicated and available minds as it always was in the Coimbra Group?

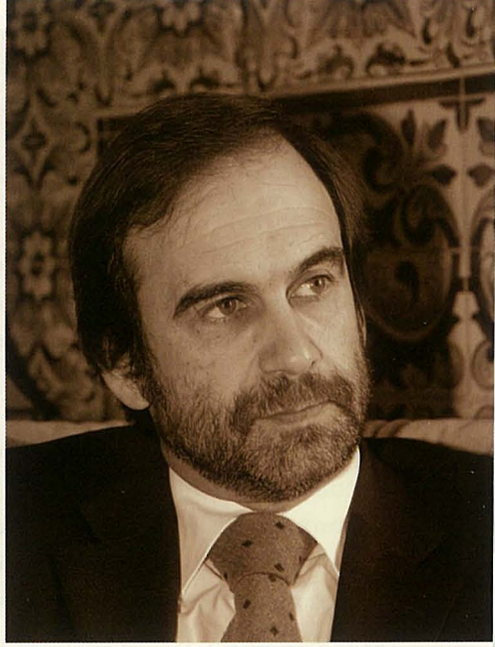
Since I only started working at the Coimbra Group Office in October 1998, I am convinced that some contacts are in a better position when it comes to writing about the early days.

I joined the Office shortly after Mrs. Cristina Ribeiro had become director (Salamanca GA) and I was her assistant for two years. She would very often inform me about the history of the Coimbra Group. When in the year 2000 she decided to leave the Office, I was happy to accept the proposal by the Board to become interim director for one year. In the mean time I have been in this position for five years and I must admit that it has been a great learning experience. I particularly appreciate my job because it is very much in line with my studies, but also, and maybe most importantly, because of the many interesting and pleasant contacts one makes when working for a network such as the Coimbra Group.

In these last five years, a lot of change has taken place within our network. The process was started with the creation of the SWOT Analysis Committee on the occasion of the Bristol General Assembly.

As for this year's General Assembly, on the occasion of which we celebrate our 20th anniversary, I hope it will be an occasion for both the Rectors Meeting and the Assembly to also reflect upon the future of the Group. The rapidly changing European Higher Education Area requires such a reflection on a regular basis. And I guess Universidade de Coimbra is the right setting for such an exercise to take place.

KOEN DELAERE



Twenty years forever

In keeping with the unanimous decision taken in Siena in April 2004, the Coimbra Group, a body comprised of European Universities, will have its 2005 General Assembly at the very place where it was founded and at the University after which it was named. This return to its origins, which coincides with the Group's twentieth anniversary, will be an opportunity to critically analyse what has been done and to take decisions which will allow the Group to continue to have a voice and to be present in the context of European Universities at a time of particular importance, when the expansion of the European Union is being strengthened and in which the European Space of Higher Education is being implemented.

It is well known that the most difficult time is almost always the one we are experiencing at a particular moment. We should not, then, be surprised that the path seems to be replete with obstacles and that the best solutions for the future are not always crystal clear to us. As on other occasions, a considered analysis of the situation, an exchange of opinions and ideas between colleagues, and the mutual help that we are able to provide are some of our precious assets and an advantage on which we can count. Let us once again make the most of this in Coimbra.

In celebrating the twentieth anniversary of the Group, the University of Coimbra wanted to add to the usual activities of the meetings and working sessions which take place on these occasions, two events that will confer on the proceedings a dignity and solemnity that the commemoration deserves:

- a solemn ceremony in which an *Honoris Causa* Doctorate will be awarded to four prominent figures who have distinguished themselves through their dynamic leadership and the value they have placed upon the Group and who have all been presidents of the Group (Simon-Pierre Nothomb, of the University of Louvain-la-Neuve, Peter Floor, of the University of Leiden, Knud-Erik Sabroe, of the University of Aarhus and Antonio Savini, of the University of Pavia). At this ceremony the President of Portugal and ambassadors of various countries in which member Universities of the Coimbra Group are situated will honour us with their presence;
- a book comprising the testimonies of those most directly involved in the founding of and the development of the Group, as well as other documents which have made and will continue to make its history.

Our Universities are old and prestigious, a fact that we all are understandably proud of. Nevertheless, the successes of the past do not ensure success in the future. An attitude of self-contentment based on the prestige already acquired is a sure way of losing it. It is essential to overcome the challenges that each day brings, to continue to carry out our duties with dignity, to bring out the initiative and determination in ourselves to transform our premises, to value the intangible patrimony, to introduce the necessary reforms, to promote change in attitudes and mentalities.

The specificity of our Universities and our differences entail, therefore, more duties and greater responsibilities. This is related to a distant past and to the absolute necessity of using it as criteria for development. Our museums, archives, libraries, monuments, our landscapes, our land, everything overflows with remarkable remnants that lead one's thoughts to dizzying heights. Our individuality is made of this history on which we base our spiritual foundation for action and our future trajectory. At this particular time, these characteristics and responsibilities that, as an exemplary group, we have to take on lead me to emphasise three working directions:

- maintaining our capacity to intervene in the context of an expanding European Union makes the restructuring of the Group inevitable, therefore allowing for a more balanced regional representation. Thus, the group should adopt a more active policy of selection of eligible universities which would then be invited to become members;
- the necessity of imparting a new dynamic and efficiency to our Task Forces ENC, Med, and Latin America, strengthening our intervention in geographical areas that should be given priority – Eastern Europe, the Mediterranean Basin and Latin America.
- as pioneers of European university mobility, today we are continuing to contribute in a significant way to the construction of the European Space of Higher Education within the Bologna Process.

  We have a great deal of work ahead of us and at the beginning of a new life cycle of our Group I hope that this book will reinforce the working spirit and engagement in the new tasks that await us. I also hope that everyone can see themselves within its texts and images although I optimistically foresee that the dynamism of the Group will soon make it an out-of-date historical document.

To all those who have collaborated on it and in particular to those who have taken on the management and the responsibility of the work – Cristina Robalo Cordeiro, Vice-Rector of the University of Coimbra and member of the Executive Board of the Group and Antonio Savini, President of the Executive Board – I would like to express my thanks and offer a word of recognition on behalf of the whole Group.

Fernando Seabra Santos
Rector of the University of Coimbra

II

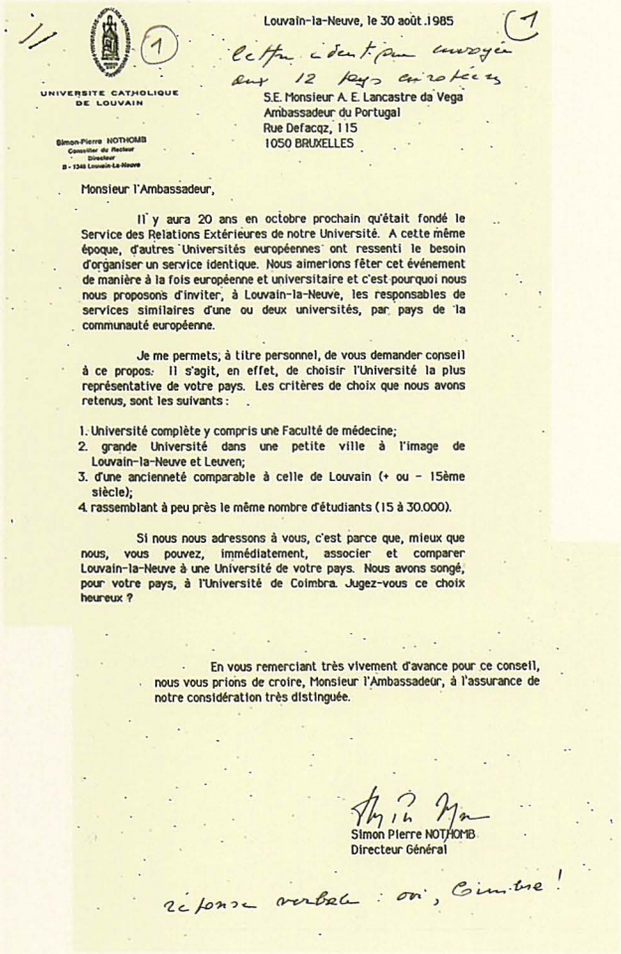
FACTS & FIGURES

1 9 8 5

- On the 20th anniversary of the External Relations Office, its director Simon-Pierre Nothomb (Catholic University of Louvain) invited a number of traditional universities in EC countries to discuss the possibilities and perspectives of establishing cultural links
- Informal meeting in Louvain-la-Neuve (October)

1 9 8 6

- The group met again in Coimbra (May), where they decided to go ahead with the idea proposed in Louvain and to name this collaboration Coimbra Group after their host, one of the oldest universities in Europe, the University of Coimbra, Portugal
- The participating universities realised in Aarhus (meeting in September) that common activities might be especially fruitful in the field of student and teaching staff mobility. As the ERASMUS programme of the European Communities was to be approved shortly afterwards, this became even more apparent
- The Movement Of Students Aiming at Integration of the Coimbra Group (MOSAIC) was founded to provide valuable support to professors and other staff members who develop student mobility attitudes and activities; first meeting of MOSAIC in Coimbra
- Formation of a subcommittee on Cultural Affairs
- Daily matters were taken forward by an Executive Committee with members from Coimbra (Jorge Veiga), Leiden (Lauris Beets) and Louvain-la-Neuve (Simon-Pierre Nothomb). As Lauris Beets left Leiden, Peter Floor came to replace him on the Executive Committee



UNIVERSITE CATHOLIQUE DE LOUVAIN

Simon-Pierre NOTHOMB
Conseiller du Recteur
Directeur
B - 1348 Louvain-la-Neuve

Louvain-la-Neuve, le 30 août 1985

S.E. Monsieur A. E. Lancastre da Vega
Ambassadeur du Portugal
Rue Defacqz, 115
1050 BRUXELLES

Monsieur l'Ambassadeur,

Il y aura 20 ans en octobre prochain qu'était fondé le Service des Relations Extérieures de notre Université. A cette même époque, d'autres Universités européennes ont ressenti le besoin d'organiser un service identique. Nous aimerions fêter cet événement de manière à la fois européenne et universitaire et c'est pourquoi nous nous proposons d'inviter, à Louvain-la-Neuve, les responsables de services similaires d'une ou deux universités, par pays de la communauté européenne.

Je me permets, à titre personnel, de vous demander conseil à ce propos. Il s'agit, en effet, de choisir l'Université la plus représentative de votre pays. Les critères de choix que nous avons retenus, sont les suivants :

1. Université complète y compris une Faculté de médecine;
2. grande Université dans une petite ville à l'image de Louvain-la-Neuve et Leuven;
3. d'une ancienneté comparable à celle de Louvain (+ ou - 15ème siècle);
4. rassemblant à peu près le même nombre d'étudiants (15 à 30.000).

Si nous nous adressons à vous, c'est parce que, mieux que nous, vous pouvez, immédiatement, associer et comparer Louvain-la-Neuve à une Université de votre pays. Nous avons songé, pour votre pays, à l'Université de Coimbra. Jugez-vous ce choix heureux ?

En vous remerciant très vivement d'avance pour ce conseil, nous vous prions de croire, Monsieur l'Ambassadeur, à l'assurance de notre considération très distinguée.

Simon Pierre NOTHOMB
Directeur Général

réponse verbale : oui, Coimbre !

1 9 8 7

- Coimbra Group was formally constituted by Charter, in September. At the Pavia meeting, a Charter was drawn up, signed by the participating universities and subsequently ratified by the universities of Leuven, Louvain, Aarhus, Caen, Poitiers, Göttingen, Heidelberg, Würzburg, Thessaloniki, Galway, Trinity Dublin, Bologna, Pavia, Siena, Leiden, Coimbra, Granada, Salamanca, Edinburgh and Oxford.
- Now a Steering Committee, with the members of the earlier Executive Committee plus a representative of Pavia (Gabriele Crespi Reghizzi)
- Start of a pilot project, supported by the European Commission, to create 'Círculos Europeos' in Latin America, composed of graduates from European universities (Operation Europe' 93)
- Immediate submission of ERASMUS proposal for development of Coimbra Group academic cooperation. Start of development of ERASMUS Interuniversity Cooperation Projects in a number of subject areas. Subject meetings in Siena and Würzburg supported by ERASMUS

1 9 8 8

- Meeting in Salamanca (January), mainly to coordinate last details of ERASMUS ICP proposals
- Barcelona, Bristol and Groningen were invited to join the Group
- In July, the working group on cultural affairs met in Coimbra
- General Meeting in Galway-Dublin, in October
- The group started to be known in Latin America

GROUPE DE COIMBRA - COIMBRA GROUP

Universités participantes - Participating Universities

Aarhus, Barcelona, Bologna, Bristol, Caen, Coimbra, Trinity College Dublin, Edinburgh, Galway, Göttingen, Granada, Groningen, Heidelberg, Leiden, Leuven, Louvain-la-Neuve, Oxford, Pavia, Poitiers, Salamanca, Siena, Thessaloniki, Würzburg

EUROPE - AMÉRICA LATINA

Objectif 1993
Les Cercles Européens en Amérique Latine sous le parrainage institutionnel de la Commission des Communautés Européennes

Objective 1993
European Clubs in Latin America Under the institutional patronage of the Commission of the European Communities

Objetivo 1993
Círculos Europeos en América Latina Patrocinados por la Comisión de las Comunidades Europeas

Objetivo 1993
Círculos Europeus na América Latina Sob o patrocínio da Comissão das Comunidades Européias

1988: BUENOS AIRES - SAO PAULO - MONTEVIDEO

Buenos Aires 24-XI-1988

A l'occasion des journées européennes de sensibilisation à l'**Europe de 1993**, création de **cercles permanents** destinés à assurer une liaison active entre les universités, les administrations et les entreprises européennes et leurs anciens étudiants ou stagiaires latino-américains. **Attribution de Viatiques** (bourses de voyage intra-européennes) aux futurs boursiers et stagiaires latino-américains par la Banque Européenne pour l'Amérique Latine (BEAL).

During these three days of meetings about **Europe in 1993**, creation of **permanent clubs** to assure an active link between european universities, administrations and firms and their Latin American alumni and ex-trainees. **Bestowal of Viatica** (intra-European travelling grants) to future Latin American fellows or trainees. First sponsorship: BEAL

A respeito dos dias europeus de sensibilização à **Europa de 1993**, criação de **círculos permanentes** destinados a assegurar um laço ativo entre as universidades, as administrações e empresas da Europa e seus ex-alunos e estagiários latino-americanos. **Outorga de Viáticos** (bolsas de viagem intra-européias) aos futuros bolsistas e estagiarios pela BEAL

Con ocasión de las jornadas europeas de sensibilización a la **Europa de 1993**, creación de **círculos permanentes** destinados a asegurar un lazo activo entre las universidades, las administraciones y empresas de Europa y sus ex-alumnos y cursillistas latinoamericanos. Otorgamiento **de Viáticos** (becas de viaje intra-europeas) a los futuros becarios y cursillistas por el BEAL

Steering Committee (88-89)
Université de Coimbra, Leuven la Neuve, Pavia

Publishers (88-89)
De Peter Floor, Universiteit de Leiden, Steiniewegg, 46 50, 2300 RA Leiden, Tél.: (31-71)273 143

Secrétariat général (88-89)
Simon-Pierre Nothomb, Université Catholique de Louvain, Place de l'Université, 1348 Louvain-la-Neuve (Belgique), Tél.: (32 10)45 29 19 - Telex: 59 316 UCL. ACB

Buenos Aires Herald

Founded 1876
113th Year — 4408 (new series)

BUENOS AIRES, SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 1988

20 Pages - Price: A 6,00
Air Mail A 0,50 surcharge

Coimbra Group offers students grants

IT SOUNDS like a discotheque, but the "Europe 92" Club actually represents some of Western Europe's leading universities — and their intention to offer Latin Americans viaticums to travel in Europe.

The Club officially got off the ground last Thursday, with the European Community (EC) sponsoring a seminar and a reception to publicize the group which will start operating in Buenos Aires, Montevideo and Sao Paulo.

The initiative belongs to 23 European universities known as the Coimbra Group. Two universities alone, sisters Louvaine-la-Neuve and Louven, are providing education to 10,000 Latin Americans.

The viaticums, worth up to 1,300 dollars, are aimed at Latin American nationals — either students or professionals — who have received a grant to visit a member of the EC. The idea is to allow them to visit at least two other EC members during their stay. The Group's goal is to distribute 100 viaticums per year.

As part of the kick-off campaign, the Coimbra Group organized a seminar addressed by European professors Joan Martinez and Massimo Ricottilli.

Martinez, lecturing on the "internationalization" of European companies in view of the 1992 Single European Market, warned European companies would have to become more competitive, in part by grooming executives in the United States fashion.

Ricottilli, addressing relations between the EC and developing countries as of 1992 warned that the ties between these two groups "is progressively weakening." He also predicted that the EC's industry would become more protectionist as of 1992 — a bad sign for developing countries.

But EC ambassador Luigi Boselli, chief of the EC Commission's Latin America delegation, closed the seminar by refuting Ricottilli's prediction, arguing that it will be "legally impossible" for the EC to be protectionist.

Referring to the Coimbra Group's initiatives, Boselli promised to ask the EC to "considerably increase its moral and financial support" to the organization.

• EC Ambassador Luigi Boselli

Defeating drugs

THOUGH it's nothing to be proud of, drug addiction is a fact of life shared by European and Latin American nations. That unwelcome bond brought together 60 specialists from both continents at a conference held here during the past week.

Organized by the European Community (EC), the workshop concluded that nations must unify criteria for preventing drug abuse. It also called for national and international organizations to increase their "economic and technical co-operation" to countries fighting drug abuse — a point picked up by EC representative Ekaterini Pallis, who promised to take the request to the EC Commission.

During a discussion of the conclusions, though, more than one foreign participant questioned the workshop organizers. Said one French-speaking specialist: "The Argentines are very hospitable but they should work harder."

Anne Caputo, president of the rehabilitation centre Convivir and the wife of Foreign Minister Dante Caputo, closed the workshop by quoting writer Albert Camus on the need to find the "harmony of contrasts" by building bridges for drug addicts to cross. MLL

Reunión en Salamanca del «Grupo Coimbra»

Más facilidades para intercambios de profesores y alumnos entre universidades

Los representantes de 18 universidades europeas, que forman el denominado «Grupo Coimbra», iniciaron ayer en Salamanca una reunión para estudiar los aspectos concretos del programa comunitario «Erasmus».

El programa «Erasmus» ha previsto un presupuesto de 4,200 millones de pesetas para facilitar el intercambio de profesores y alumnos entre las universidades europeas.

A la reunión de Salamanca asisten representantes de las universidades británicas de Oxford y Edimburgo, la belga de Lovaina, la portuguesa de Coimbra, Aahrus, de Dinamarca, las francesas de Caen y Poitiers, las alemanas de Heidelberg y Würzburg, las irlandesas de Dublín y Galway College, las italianas de Bolonia, Pavía y Siena, la holandesa de Leiden y las españolas de Granada y Salamanca.

Un aspecto de la reunión.

Foto METRO

Página 3

1989

- Joint meeting of Coimbra Group officials for guidance/counselling/lodging, hosted by Siena and supported by ERASMUS
- Caen meeting on the use of data networks for communication between Coimbra Group universities and on possible data systems
- General Meeting in Poitiers, in September
- First meeting with MOSAIC representatives
- First creation of 'Círculos Europeos', in Buenos Aires and Montevideo
- European 'Círculos' in Santiago, Chile

1989 / 1990

- Chairman of the Steering Committee: Peter Floor (Leiden)

1990

- General Assembly in Coimbra. Rectors, presidents, vice--chancellors, principal and provost, meet for the first time, also in celebration of the Group's first Lustrum and the 700th anniversary of the University of Coimbra
- The Steering Committee presented a policy note on the future of the group to rectors, presidents, vice-chancellors and other representatives meeting in Coimbra, also in celebration of the group's first Lustrum, and the 700th anniversary of Coimbra University. The note consisted of a mission statement and of notes on the structure and organisation of the Coimbra Group and on activities to be developed in the next years – Declaration of Coimbra
- Discussion of a document expressing concern with the violation of academic freedom and education rights in occupied Palestine

5 / DEZEMBRO / 90 ACTUALIDADE Jornal de Coimbra 11

PROGRAMA ERASMUS VALE PRÉMIO EUROPEU

Prof. Jorge Veiga recebe reconhecimento da Europa

O Prof. Dr. Jorge Veiga, Vice-Reitor da Universidade de Coimbra, vai receber hoje, em Bruxelas, na presença dos ministros da Educação de todos os países da CEE, o Prémio Erasmus, em reconhecimento da acção que tem desenvolvido em prol da promoção da cooperação interuniversitária europeia.

"Considero a atribuição deste prémio importante para a Universidade de Coimbra, que necessita de se internacionalizar. E o Erasmus é um dos melhores meios para isso" – referiu ao JC o galardoado.

O Programa Erasmus permitiu, em seis anos, que 40 mil estudantes beneficiassem de bolsas de estudo para efectuar uma parte da sua formação noutro estado membro e que 8 mil professores ensinassem num estabelecimento de ensino de outro país.

O júri que atribuiu este prémio foi presidido pelo responsável máximo do Parlamento Europeu, o espanhol Marlo Crespo, e teve em conta as "acções exemplares de cooperação entre universidades".

Pode, ainda, afirmar-se que Jorge Veiga foi duplamente premiado pois, além do prémio pessoal, viu um dos programas que coordena merecer também o reconhecimento dos Comunitários.

A Universidade de Coimbra constitui para este espírito europeu: entre 45 programas, dos quais 15 pertencem à Faculdade de Letras, 10 à de Ciências, 6 à de Economia, 4 à de Direito, 2 à de Psicologia e Ciências da Educação, 1 à de Medicina e 1 à de Farmácia.

Há ainda 2 programas englobando várias Faculdades e um outro que envolve 16 Universidades da Europa e coordenado pela Faculdade de Medicina.

Jorge Veiga faz questão de acentuar que "nada disto seria possível sem a colaboração dos professores das diversas Faculdades e do Gabinete de Relações Internacionais que funciona junto da Reitoria".

Na presente ano lectivo, a Universidade de Coimbra recebe 88 estudantes e "mandou" a várias universidades da Europa um número igual dos seus estudantes.

Sendo já um valor elevado, ele poderá subir substancialmente se o Programa Erasmus atingir os seus objectivos: permitir a mobilidade de 10% dos estudantes de ensino superior.

Este programa "tem agora uma criança", como refere o Prof. Jorge Veiga.

Trata-se do Programa Tempus, vocado para a mobilidade de docentes e estudantes de e para os países da Europa de Leste, nomeadamente Hungria, Polónia e Checoslováquia.

A Universidade de Coimbra já entregou projectos no sentido de institucilizar as relações com as universidades destes países.

Jorge Veiga está hoje em Bruxelas a receber a distinção

- The decision was taken that the Steering Committee, strengthened by Siena (Valerio Grementieri), would act as transitional until the 1991 Assembly, giving time to refine the rules on the Steering Committee, as requested by the General Assembly
- The need of an administrative base in Brussels with financial implications was accepted: creation of the first Office

1990/1991

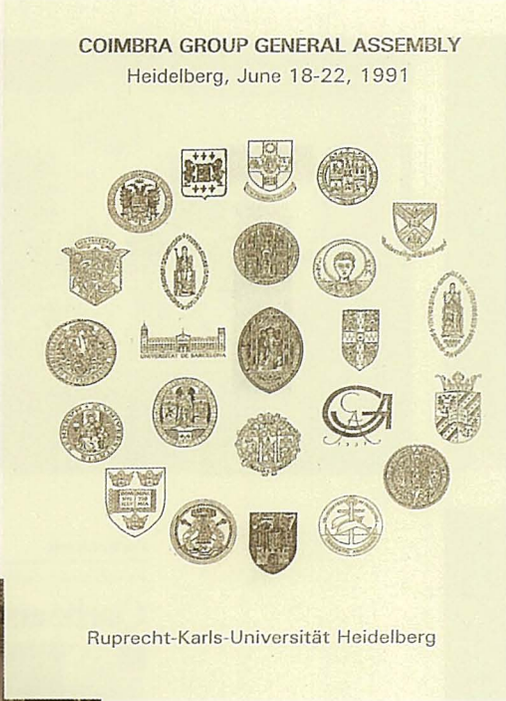
- Chairman of the Steering Committee: Peter Floor (Leiden)

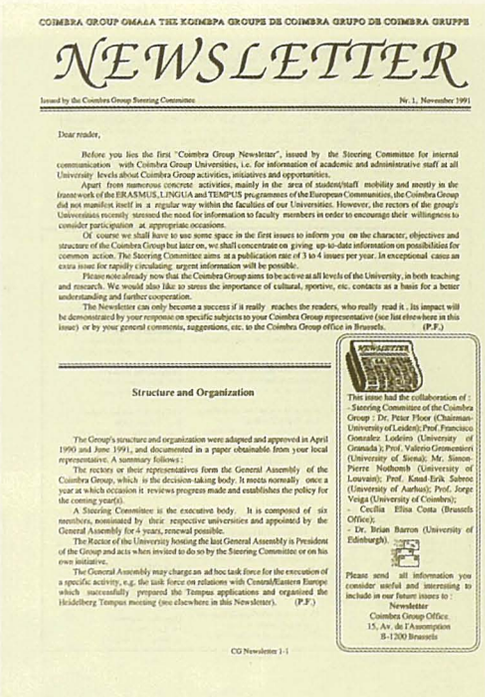
1991

- From this year onwards, efforts have been made to promote a closer academic cooperation with Latin American universities
- TEMPUS proposal preparation meeting in Heidelberg (February)
- The Group expands, with six new member universities: Montpellier, Uppsala, Budapest, Jena, Kraków and Prague
- General Assembly in Heidelberg (June)
- The Coimbra Group gains an institutional dimension, with the election of Volker Sellin, Heidelberg's Rector (soon followed by Peter Ulmer), as the first president of the Group, assisted by a committee of six members (Granada, Siena, Leiden, Louvain, Coimbra and Aarhus)
- First edition of the CG Newsletter (November)

1991/92

- President (first president of the CG): Peter Ulmer (Heidelberg)





COIMBRA GROUP OMAAA THE KOIMBPA GROUPE DE COIMBRA GRUPO DE COIMBRA GRUPPE

NEWSLETTER

Issued by the Coimbra Group Steering Committee — Nr. 1, November 1991

Dear reader,

Before you lies the first "Coimbra Group Newsletter", issued by the Steering Committee for internal communication with Coimbra Group Universities, i.e. for information of academic and administrative staff at all University levels about Coimbra Group activities, initiatives and opportunities.

Apart from numerous concrete activities, mainly in the area of student/staff mobility and mostly in the framework of the ERASMUS, LINGUA and TEMPUS programmes of the European Communities, the Coimbra Group did not manifest itself in a regular way within the faculties of our Universities. However, the rectors of the group's Universities recently stressed the need for information to faculty members in order to encourage their willingness to consider participation at appropriate occasions.

Of course we shall have to use some space in the first issues to inform you on the character, objectives and structure of the Coimbra Group but later on, we shall concentrate on giving up-to-date information on possibilities for common action. The Steering Committee aims at a publication rate of 3 to 4 issues per year. In exceptional cases an extra issue for rapidly circulating urgent information will be possible.

Please note already now that the Coimbra Group aims to be active at all levels of the University, in both teaching and research. We would also like to stress the importance of cultural, sportive, etc. contacts as a basis for a better understanding and further cooperation.

The Newsletter can only become a success if it really reaches the readers, who really read it. Its impact will be demonstrated by your response on specific subjects to your Coimbra Group representative (see list elsewhere in this issue) or by your general comments, suggestions, etc. to the Coimbra Group office in Brussels. (P.F.)

Structure and Organization

The Group's structure and organization were adapted and approved in April 1990 and June 1991, and documented in a paper obtainable from your local representative. A summary follows:

The rectors or their representatives form the General Assembly of the Coimbra Group, which is the decision-taking body. It meets normally once a year at which occasion it reviews progress made and establishes the policy for the coming year(s).

A Steering Committee is the executive body. It is composed of six members, nominated by their respective universities and appointed by the General Assembly for 4 years, renewal possible.

The Rector of the University hosting the last General Assembly is President of the Group and acts when invited to do so by the Steering Committee or on his own initiative.

The General Assembly may charge an ad hoc task force for the execution of a specific activity, e.g. the task force on relations with Central/Eastern Europe which successfully prepared the Tempus applications and organized the Heidelberg Tempus meeting (see elsewhere in this Newsletter). (P.F.)

This issue had the collaboration of:
- Steering Committee of the Coimbra Group: Dr. Peter Floor (Chairman-University of Leiden); Prof. Francisco Gonzalez Lodeiro (University of Granada); Prof. Valerio Grementieri (University of Siena); Mr. Simon-Pierre Nothomb (University of Louvain); Prof. Knud-Erik Sabroe (University of Aarhus); Prof. Jorge Veiga (University of Coimbra);
- Cecilia Elina Costa (Brussels Office);
- Dr. Brian Barron (University of Edinburgh).

Please send all information you consider useful and interesting to include in our future issues to:
Newsletter
Coimbra Group Office
15, Av. de l'Assomption
B-1200 Brussels

CG Newsletter 1-1

- Chairman Steering Committee: Peter Floor (Leiden), Simon-Pierre Nothomb (Gen. Sec.); Knud-Erik Sabroe (Aarhus); Jorge Veiga (Coimbra); Francisco Gonzalez Lodeiro (Granada); Valerio Grementieri (Siena)

1 9 9 2

- Creation of a COIMBRA assembly to protect the legal interests of the office
- Given the need to spread the experience and expertise in university cooperation to other areas outside the European Union and using EU MED programmes, the taskforce Med was launched by the Coimbra Group to start cooperation with higher education institutions in the Mediterranean Basin
- A working party was created to study and comment on the 'EC Memorandum on Higher Education in the European Community from the Coimbra Group point of view
- Coimbra Group meeting with rectors of Latin American universities in Granada; signing of the Granada Declaration urging the European Commission to support academic cooperation financially
- General Assembly in Oxford (March/April)
- The Coimbra Group logotype was adopted
- Presentation of the ALFA (América Latina Formación Académica) Programme by European Commissioner Matutes in Salamanca
- Launching of Task Force Latin America

1 9 9 2 / 9 3

- President of the Coimbra Group: Sir Richard Southwood (Oxford)

IL SOLE-24 ORE DEL LUNEDÌ 23 Novembre 1992 - N. 329

Formazione

Identikit e prospettive del gruppo di Coimbra, che riunisce i trenta atenei europei di più grande tradizione

Quelle antiche università dal volto umano

Il cortile dell'Università di Parma

TRENTA STELLE

(28 sinnoi di Coimbra)

Aarhus (DK)	Jena (D)
Barcelona (E)	Krakow (PL)
Bologna (I)	Leiden (NL)
Bristol (UK)	Leuven (B)
Budapest (H)	Lisboa (P)
Caen (F)	Montpellier I-II-III (F)
Cambridge (UK)	Oxford (UK)
Coimbra (P)	Pavia (I)
Dublin (IRL)	Poitiers (F)
Edinburgh (UK)	Praha (CS)
Galway (IRL)	Salamanca (E)
Göttingen (D)	Siena (I)
Granada (E)	Thessaloniki (GR)
Groningen (NL)	Uppsala (S)
Heidelberg (D)	Würzburg (D)

Anna Del Freo

- Chairman Steering Committee: Peter Floor (Leiden); Simon-Pierre Nothomb (Gen. Sec.); Knud-Erik Sabroe (Aarhus); Jorge Veiga (Coimbra); Francisco Gonzalez Lodeiro (Granada); Valerio Grementieri (Siena)

1993

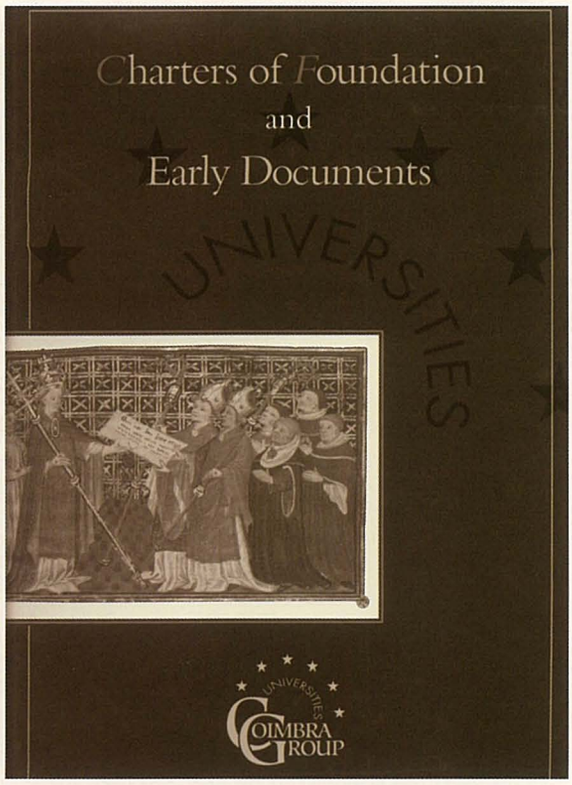
- A series of Coimbra Group lectures was established, firstly in Heidelberg
- The Task Force for ACP countries was set up on the occasion of the Budapest General Assembly
- General Assembly in Budapest (May)
- The assembly agreed with the relocation of the office in Brussels and a recruitment of a full time secretary, with corresponding financial implications for the members' subscriptions
- Formal Steering Committee elections took place for the first time

1993/94

- President of the Coimbra Group: Miklós Szabó (Budapest)
- Chairman of the Steering Committee: Peter Floor (Leiden); Knud-Erik Sabroe (Aarhus); Jorge Veiga (Coimbra); Francisco Gonzalez Lodeiro (Granada); Anne Lonsdale (Oxford); Valerio Grementieri (Siena)

1994

- Groningen prepared the book *Charters of Foundation and Early Documents of the Universities of the Coimbra Group* and presented it at the General Assembly held in the University of Groningen on the occasion of its 380th anniversary
- General Assembly in Groningen (June)
- The summarised results of an internal evaluation of the member universities were discussed in the assembly



- Doctorate *honoris causa* from Bristol University to Sir Richard Southwood
- Launch of the ALFA Programme in the University of Coimbra, in a ceremony presided by Manuel Marin, vice-president of the European Commission

1994/95

- President: Folkert van der Woude (Groningen)
- Chairman Steering Committee: Peter Floor (Leiden); Knud-Erik Sabroe (Aarhus); Peter Goggin (Bristol); Jorge Veiga (Coimbra); Francisco Gonzalez Lodeiro (Granada); Valerio Grementieri (Siena)

1995

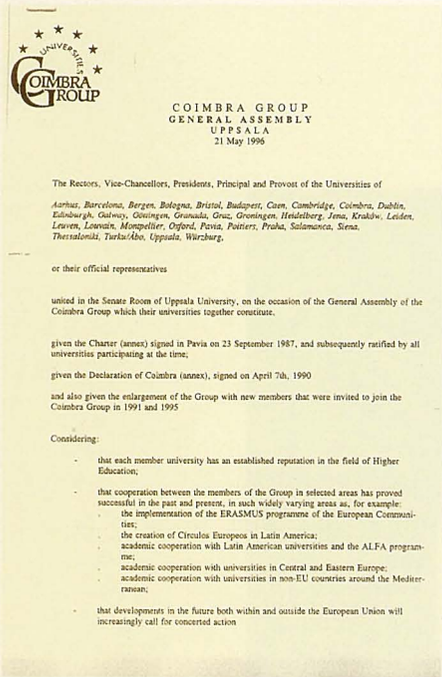
- General Assembly in Leiden (June), within the programme of Leiden University's 420th anniversary celebrations
- New members: Basel, Bergen, Graz and Abo/Turku

1995/96

- President: Lammert Leertouwer (Leiden)
- Chairman Steering Committee: Peter Floor (Leiden); Knud-Eric Sabroe (Aarhus); Giuliano Pancaldi (Bologna); Peter Goggin (Bristol); Jorge Veiga (Coimbra); Jaroslav Vacek (Prague)

1996

- General Assembly in Uppsala (May)
- Uppsala Declaration, confirming the commitment to a number of areas considered worthy of endeavour via the Coimbra Group
- New distance education project 'VIRTUE' coordinated by EuroPACE 2000 (Leuven) with Coimbra Group responsible for the creation of virtual learning environments in Law, Literature and Philosophy



COIMBRA GROUP
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
UPPSALA
21 May 1996

The Rectors, Vice-Chancellors, Presidents, Principal and Provost of the Universities of

Aarhus, Barcelona, Bergen, Bologna, Bristol, Budapest, Caen, Cambridge, Coimbra, Dublin, Edinburgh, Galway, Göttingen, Granada, Graz, Groningen, Heidelberg, Jena, Kraków, Leiden, Leuven, Louvain, Montpellier, Oxford, Pavia, Poitiers, Praha, Salamanca, Siena, Thessaloniki, Turku/Åbo, Uppsala, Würzburg,

or their official representatives

united in the Senate Room of Uppsala University, on the occasion of the General Assembly of the Coimbra Group which their universities together constitute,

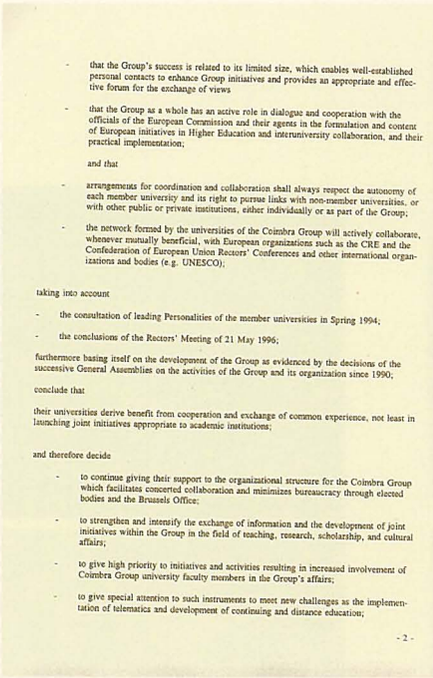
given the Charter (annex) signed in Pavia on 23 September 1987, and subsequently ratified by all universities participating at the time;

given the Declaration of Coimbra (annex), signed on April 7th, 1990

and also given the enlargement of the Group with new members that were invited to join the Coimbra Group in 1991 and 1995

Considering:

- that each member university has an established reputation in the field of Higher Education;
- that cooperation between the members of the Group in selected areas has proved successful in the past and present, in such widely varying areas as, for example:
  - the implementation of the ERASMUS programme of the European Communities;
  - the creation of Círculos Europeos in Latin America;
  - academic cooperation with Latin American universitins and the ALFA programme;
  - academic cooperation with universities in Central and Eastern Europe;
  - academic cooperation with universities in non-EU countries around the Mediterranean;
- that developments in the future both within and outside the European Union will increasingly call for concerted action



- that the Group's success is related to its limited size, which enables well-established personal contacts to enhance Group initiatives and provides an appropriate and effective forum for the exchange of views

- that the Group as a whole has an active role in dialogue and cooperation with the officials of the European Commission and their agents in the formulation and content of European initiatives in Higher Education and interuniversity collaboration, and their practical implementation;

and that

- arrangements for coordination and collaboration shall always respect the autonomy of each member university and its right to pursue links with non-member universities, or with other public or private institutions, either individually or as part of the Group;
- the network formed by the universities of the Coimbra Group will actively collaborate, whenever mutually beneficial, with European organizations such as the CRE and the Confederation of European Union Rectors' Conferences and other international organizations and bodies (e.g. UNESCO);

taking into account

- the consultation of leading Personalities of the member universities in Spring 1994;
- the conclusions of the Rectors' Meeting of 21 May 1996;

furthermore basing itself on the development of the Group as evidenced by the decisions of the successive General Assemblies on the activities of the Group and its organization since 1990;

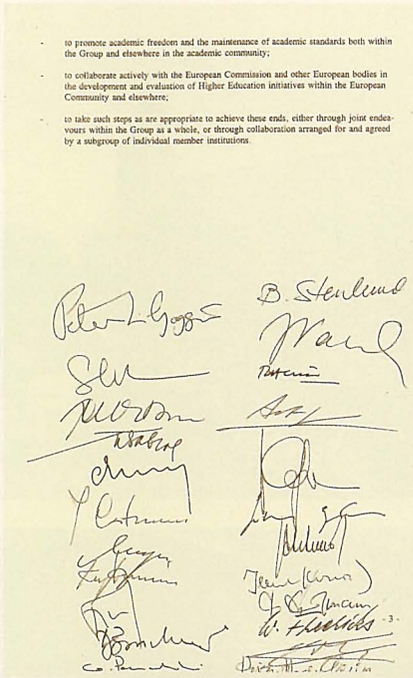
conclude that

their universities derive benefit from cooperation and exchange of common experience, not least in launching joint initiatives appropriate to academic institutions;

and therefore decide

- to continue giving their support to the organizational structure for the Coimbra Group which facilitates concerted collaboration and minimizes bureaucracy through elected bodies and the Brussels Office;
- to strengthen and intensify the exchange of information and the development of joint initiatives within the Group in the field of teaching, research, scholarship, and cultural affairs;
- to give high priority to initiatives and activities resulting in increased involvement of Coimbra Group university faculty members in the Group's affairs;
- to give special attention to such instruments to meet new challenges as the implementation of telematics and development of continuing and distance education;

- 2 -



- to promote academic freedom and the maintenance of academic standards both within the Group and elsewhere in the academic community;
- to collaborate actively with the European Commission and other European bodies in the development and evaluation of Higher Education initiatives within the European Community and elsewhere;
- to take such steps as are appropriate to achieve these ends, either through joint endeavours within the Group as a whole, or through collaboration arranged for and agreed by a subgroup of individual member institutions.

- 3 -

- Steering Committee invited former Committee members to Coimbra for discussion of future development of the Group

1996/97

- President: Stig Strömholm (Uppsala)
- Chairman Steering Committee: Peter Floor (Leiden); Knud-Erik Sabroe (Aarhus); Giuliano Pancaldi (Bologna); Peter Goggin (Bristol); Jorge Veiga (Coimbra); Jaroslav Vacek (Prague)

1997

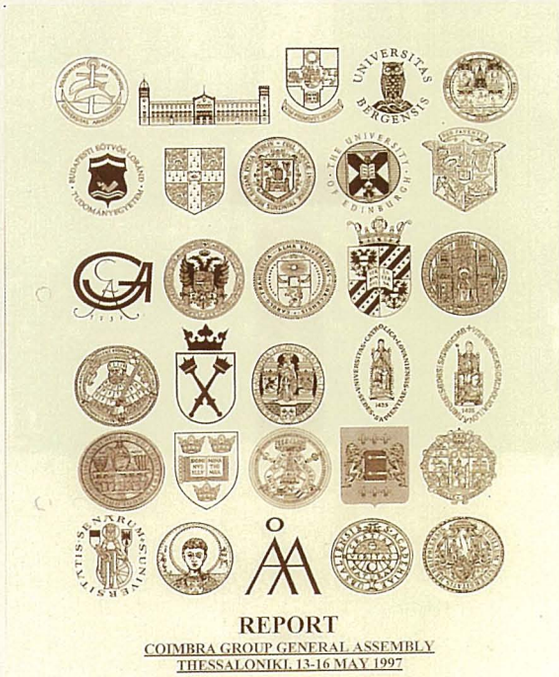
- General Assembly in Thessaloniki (May)
- Creation by the Steering Committee of the 'Advisory Committee on New Technologies in Education' (ACONTE) to advise on strategic aspects of new technologies for universities
- A European Cultural Committee was created
- Assembly of European 'Círculos' in Recife (Brazil)

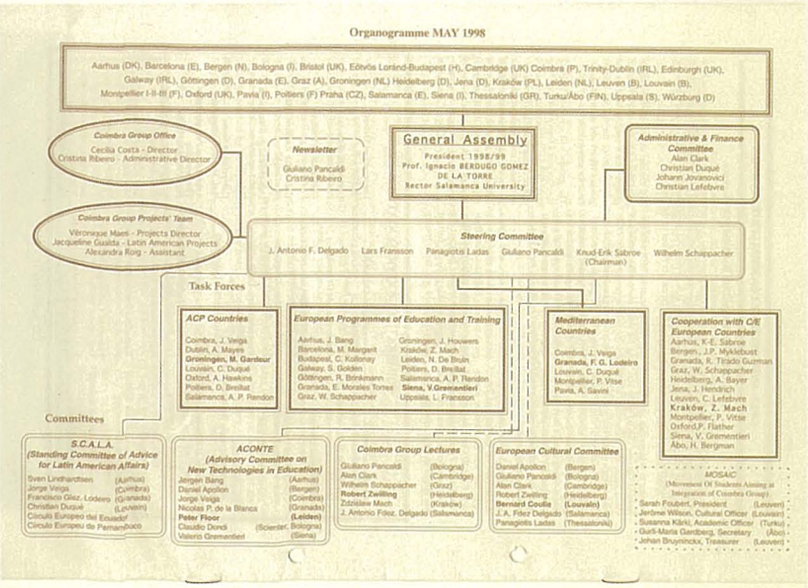
1997/98

- President: Michael Papadopoulos (Thessaloniki)
- Chairman Steering Committee: Knud-Eric Sabroe (Aarhus); Giuliano Pancaldi (Bologna); Wilhelm Schappacher (Graz); J. Antonio F. Delgado (Salamanca); Panagiotis Ladas (Thessaloniki); Lars Fransson (Uppsala)

1998

- General Assembly in Salamanca (May)
- 'Círculos Europeos' Meeting in San José, Costa Rica





1998/99

- President: Ignacio Berdugo Gomez de la Torre (Salamanca)
- Chairman Steering Committee: Knud-Erik Sabroe (Aarhus); Giuliano Pancaldi (Bologna); Wilhelm Schappacher (Graz); J. Antonio F. Delgado (Salamanca); Panagiotis Ladas (Thessaloniki); Lars Fransson (Uppsala)

1999

- General Assembly in Pavia (June)
- "Pavia Declaration", in which was presented a COIMBRA Group perspective on the Bologna process, which was sent to the Ministers meeting in Bologna previous to the signing
- First Meeting of Coimbra Group of Folklorists held in Abo, in November
- Cotonou Workshop in Benin

1999/2000

- President: Roberto Schmid (Pavia)
- Chairman Steering Committee: Knud-Erik Sabroe (Aarhus); Wilhelm Schappacher (Graz); Antonio Savini (Pavia); J. Antonio F. Delgado (Salamanca); Panagiotis Ladas (Thessaloniki); Lars Fransson (Uppsala)

2000

- General Assembly in Graz (June)
- "Graz Declaration", in which the Coimbra Group took a stand regarding cultural identity, and stated that "European cultures and universities flourish as a result of the variety of cultures and traditions".
- Université de Genève joins the Coimbra Group
- Launch of the Coimbra Group Hospitality Scheme
- 'Círculos Europeos' Meeting in Lima, Peru

- ACP Task Force project proposal AUBE 2000 meeting in Coimbra and Salamanca

2000/01

- President: Lothar Zechlin (Graz)
- Chairman Steering Committee: Knud-Erik Sabroe (Aarhus); Wilhelm Schappacher (Graz); Antonio Savini (Pavia); J. Antonio F. Delgado (Salamanca); Panagiotis Ladas (Thessaloniki); Lars Fransson (Uppsala)

2001

- General Assembly in Bristol (April)
- A SWOT analysis Committee was approved
- Doctorate *honoris causa* from Bristol University to Peter Floor and Jorge Veiga, during the General Assembly
- Joint Curriculum Workshop, Barcelona

2001/02

- President: Eric Thomas (Bristol)
- Chairman Steering Committee: Antonio Savini (Pavia); Orm Øverland (Bergen); Tim Jones (Bristol); Roberta Maierhofer (Graz); Dominique Breillat (Poitiers); J. Antonio F. Delgado (Salamanca)

2002

- The Statutes of the Coimbra Group Association (Coimbra Group a.s.b.l) were signed in Brussels on February, 4th
- General Assembly in Leuven (April)
- New member: Lyon
- The Coimbra Group signs ACP Service Contract with the European Commission
- SWOT Analysis Report approved
- 'Círculos Europeos' Meeting in Padova

2002/03

- President: André Oosterlinck (Leuven)
- Chairman Executive Board: Antonio Savini (Pavia); Orm Øverland (Bergen); Timothy Jones (Bristol); Roberta Meierhofer (Graz); Dominique Breillat (Poitiers); José Antonio Fernandez Delgado (Salamanca)

2003

- April: two new Task Forces were created in the General Assembly of the Coimbra Group, held in Granada: Task Force Culture and Task Force on Doctoral Studies and Research
- General Assembly in Granada (April)
- Since Granada 2003, a formal structure has been established, the Rectors' Advisory Group, to promote the involvement of the Rectors between the annual meetings
- First edition of the Coimbra Group Postgraduate Winter School held in Split (February)
- Joint Curriculum Development Workshop, in Padova
- Final Report ACP Service Contract submitted

2003/04

- President: David Aguilar Peña (University of Granada)
- Chairman Executive Board: Antonio Savini (Pavia); Orm Øverland (Bergen); Timothy Jones (Bristol); Roberta Maierhofer (Graz); Dominique Breillat (Poitiers); José Antonio Fernandez Delgado (Salamanca)

2 0 0 4

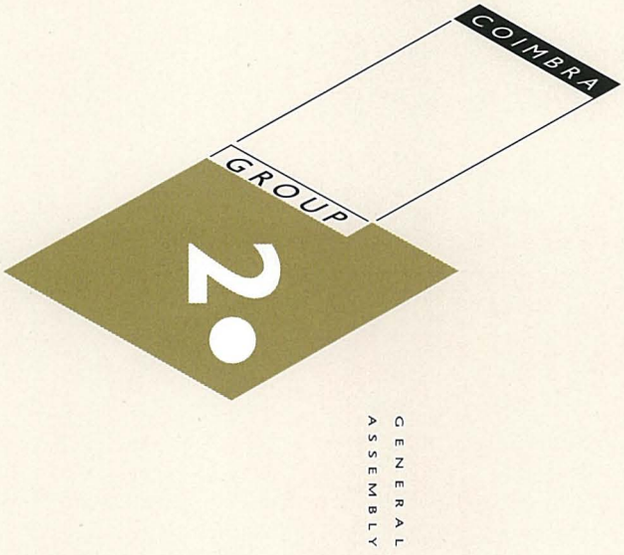
- The E-Learning Task Force was created in the General Assembly held in April, in Siena
- General Assembly in Siena (April)
- January: launch of the Latin America Scholarships Programme
- ICT and Student Mobility Workshop in Leuven
- Latin America Workshop in Louvain-la-Neuve
- Launch of the Coimbra Group Visiting Scheme
- Krakow Workshop organised by the ENC Task Force
- Culture Task Force Conference in Galway
- Coimbra Group contributes to the EUA Trends IV Report

2 0 0 4 / 0 5

- Honorary president: Piero Tosi (Siena)
- Chairman Executive Board: Antonio Savini (Pavia); Orm Øverland (Bergen); Timothy Jones (Bristol); Cristina Robalo Cordeiro (Coimbra); Roberta Maierhofer (Graz); Guido Langouche (Leuven); Dominique Breillat (Poitiers)

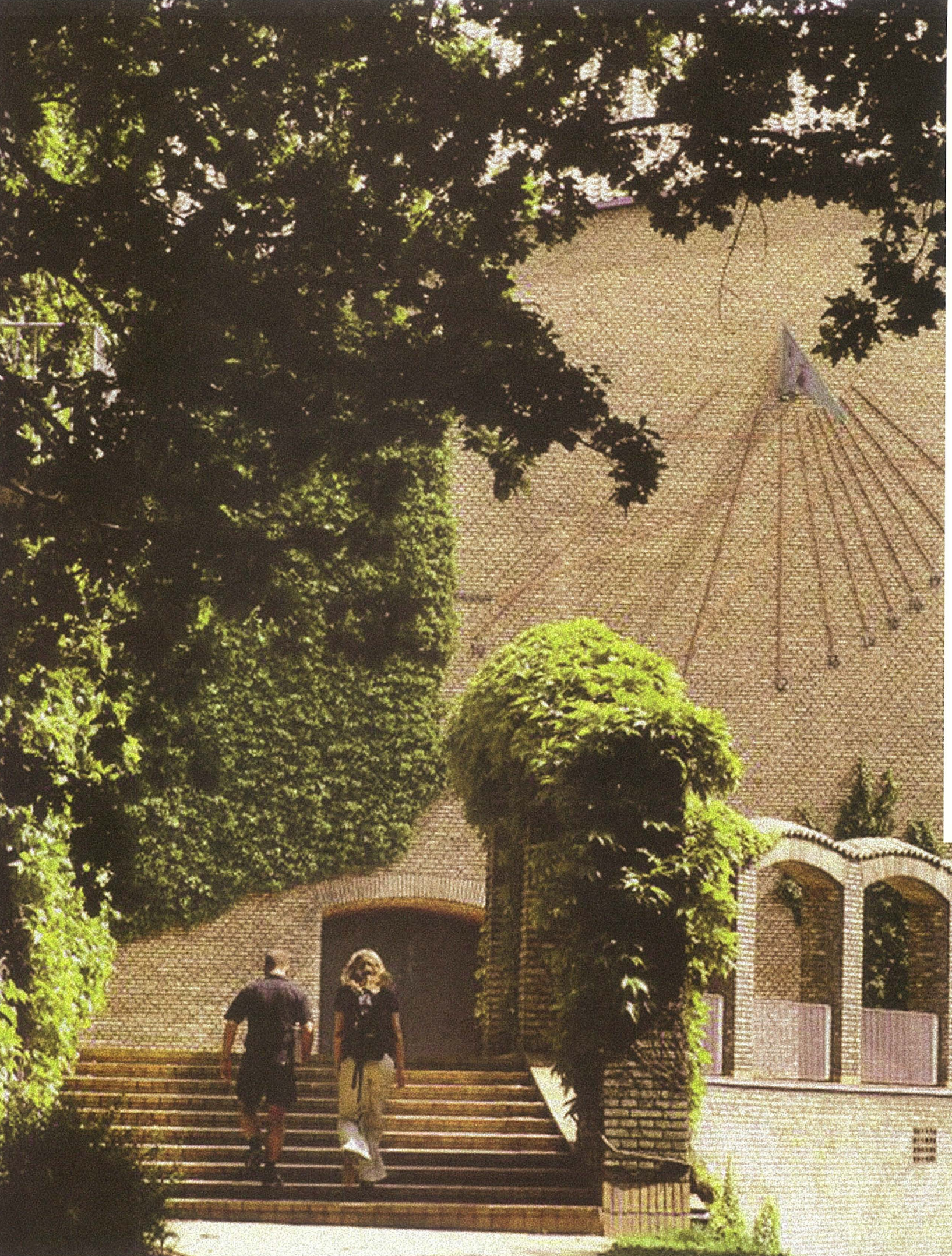
2 0 0 5

- ACP Conference in Louvain-la-Neuve
- General Assembly in Coimbra – 20th Anniversary of the Coimbra Group

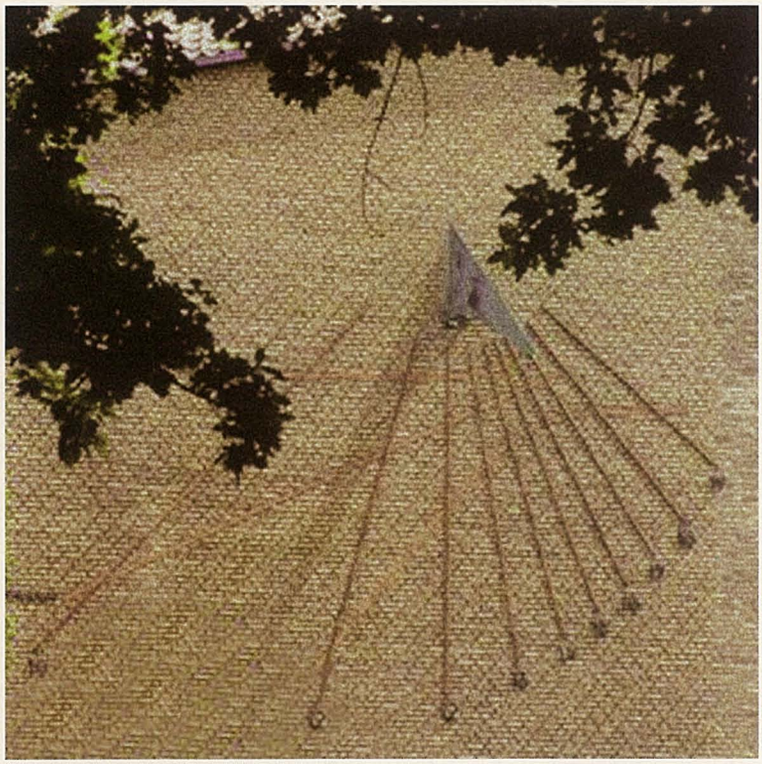


III

UNUM EX PLURIBUS



UNIVERSITY OF AARHUS



UNIVERSITY OF AARHUS

The University of Aarhus is represented on the following task forces: Doctoral Studies and Research, E-learning, European Programmes of Education and Training and Latin America.

At the Annual General Assembly, the University's delegation usually includes the Rector, the Coimbra Group representative and an administrative staff member.

The Coimbra Group's work, activities and programmes are actively promoted internally at the university.

The University participates in the Hospitality Scheme, which means that every year grants are available for scholars from the nominated countries to spend a short-term research period at the University.

The University also takes part in the Staff Visiting Scheme, and although so far only in the role of a host institution, outgoing mobility is expected in the near future.

Finally, the University sends out and receives students from Coimbra Group universities through the Student Exchange Network (SEN) as well as through the NORDPLUS and ERASMUS exchange programmes.

Name of the institution: The University of Aarhus
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The University of Aarhus is the second oldest and second largest university in Denmark, located in the city of Aarhus on the east coast of the peninsula Jutland. The University was founded in 1928 and has more than 20,000 students and 5,000 employees.

The University houses five large faculties: Arts, Health Sciences, Social Sciences, Theology and Sciences which comprise approximately 40 departments altogether. In addition, there is an increasing number of research centres within the various faculties. These centres have been established to accommodate interdisciplinary research projects that transcend the usual departmental boundaries.

The University is a state-run institution. However, it maintains a close relationship with the city government and commercial and industrial sectors, this cooperation being best exemplified by the local Science Park Aarhus.

The University's characteristic yellow brick buildings have achieved international renown. The architecture interplays harmoniously with the rolling hills of the University Park, creating an attractive campus.

Data
Year established: 1928 • Academic Calendar: Semesters: September-January and February-June (incl.)

Degrees
Bachelor's degrees, Master's degrees and doctoral degrees within Arts, Theology, Social Sciences, Health Sciences and Science.

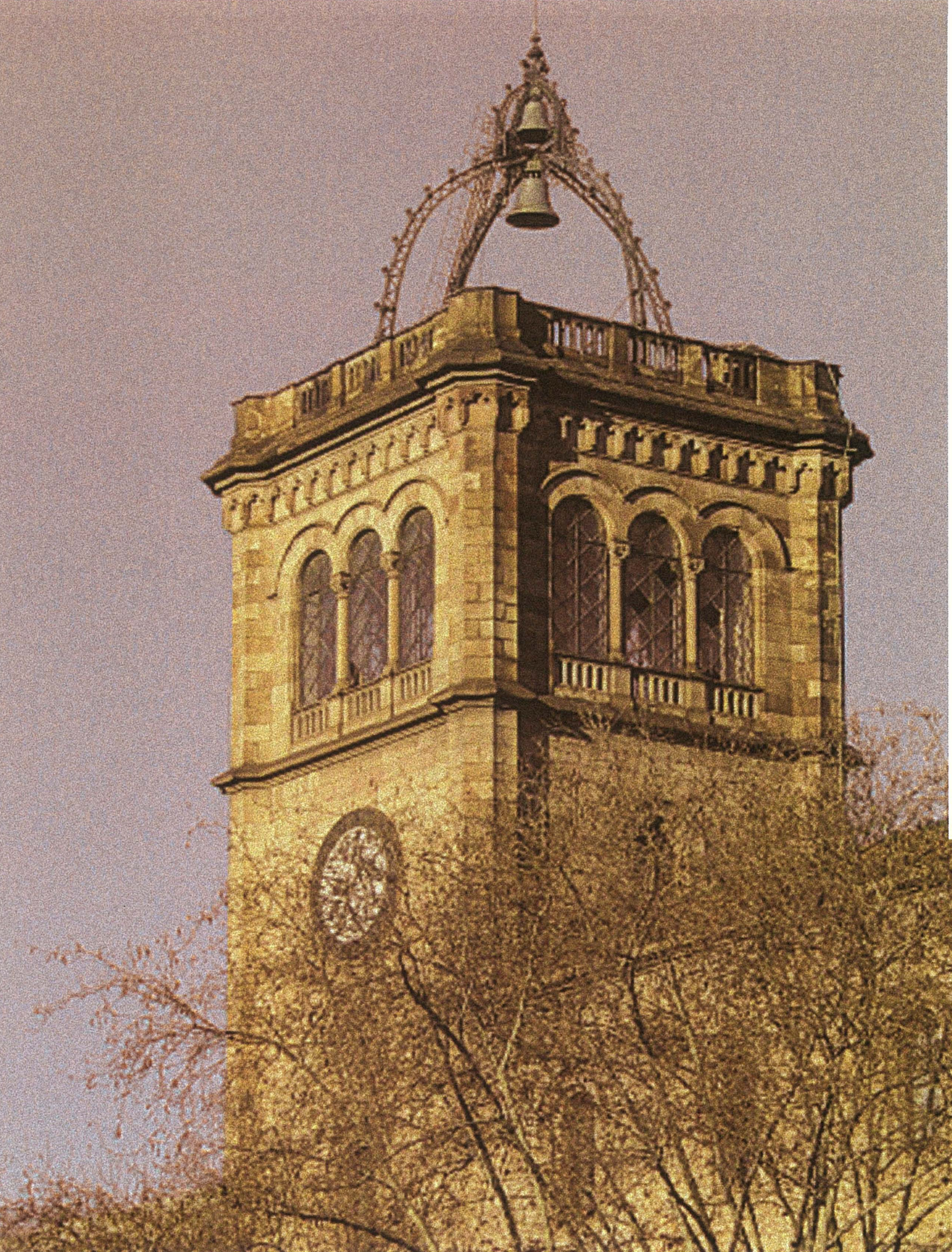
Number of Students
Master's students (2003): 21948 • Ph.D. students (2003): 738 • 500 incoming and 600 outgoing exchange students (2003)

Staff
Academic: 1843 full-time equivalent (2003) • Non-Academic: 1566 full-time equivalent (2003)

Faculties
Arts, Theology, Social Sciences, Health Sciences and Science.

Research Centres
81

Nr. of volumes and serials registered in the main **Library**: 3 486 463



UNIVERSITY OF BARCELONA

UNIVERSITY OF BARCELONA

Founded in 1450, Barcelona's longest-established university offers the widest range of university education, consisting of more than 80 degrees, 400 master's degrees and postgraduate programmes and over 100 doctorate courses. Its teaching and research activities rank it among Europe's leaders in terms of quality and make it a pioneer as regards the use of new technologies. It has the greatest scientific productivity of all Spain's state universities.

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E-mail: monica.margarit@ub.edu
Site: http://www.ub.es
Address: Oficina de Relacions Internacionals • Universitat de Barcelona
Pavelló Rosa • Travessera de les Corts, 131-159 • 08028 Barcelona

The University of Barcelona (UB) is Spain's leading research university, publishing more research than any other Spanish institution with the exception of CSIC, the national research council. In the European ranking for research institutions based on the number of citations, UB is placed 23rd (Second European Report on ST Indicators, 1997).

UB has 101 departments and more than 3000 full-time researchers, technicians and research assistants, most of whom work in UB's 185 research groups. In 2001, UB was awarded 151 national research grants and European grants and participated in over 600 joint research projects with businesses, generating an overall research income of 40 million Euros.

The work of these research groups is overseen by UB's Special Research Centres and Institutes which collaborate with the leading institutions and networks in Spain and abroad. UB is also home to three large Research Foundations: the Fundació Parc Científic de Barcelona, (Barcelona Science Park, PCB), which includes the Institut de Recerca Biomèdica de Barcelona (Institute of Biomedical Research of Barcelona, IRBB); the Fundació Clínic-Institut d'Investigacions Biomèdiques Agust Pi i Sunyer (Bellvitge Biomedical Area-Pi i Sunyer Foundation, ABB-FAPS).

Data
Year established: 1450 • Academic Calendar: September to June

Degrees
75

Number of Students
Undergraduate: 53533 • Graduate: 8793 • International: Exchange: 1581

Staff
Academic: 4448 • Non-Academic: 1991

Faculties
20

Research Centres
30

Nr. of volumes and serials registered in the main **Library**: 1 522 475

UNIVERSITY OF BERGEN

UNIVERSITY OF BERGEN

One of the members of the Executive Committee is from the University of Bergen (UiB) and the Rector of this University also participated in the "Rectors Advisory Group Meetings" in 2003/2004 to discuss the mandate of the Coimbra Group.

UiB is participating in several Task Forces, particularly in the Doctoral Programmes Task Force, which is of significant importance for UiB in 2004/2005 since it is the coordinator of one of six networks in the EUA Doctoral Programmes Project 2004/2005.

UiB also participates in the Coimbra Group Hospitality Scheme.

The top leader of the University participates in the annual meeting, and the main importance of the Coimbra Group for UiB is the information it channels to many international events, particularly regarding European developments.

Name of the institution: The University of Bergen
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Fax: +47 55 58 49 81
E-mail: jan.myklebust@fa.uib.no
Site: http://www.uib.no
Address: P.O.Box 7800 • 5020 Bergen, Norway

UiB is a medium-sized European university located in the centre of Bergen, a beautiful trading city on the West Coast of Norway. The university is engaged in the European Union's Framework programmes for research and technological development and has been designated as a European Research Infrastructure and a Research Training Site in several scientific fields. The University also participates in student exchange networks, and has more than 30 programmes taught in English.

The University of Bergen has an international reputation for research excellence in many areas. In particular, Bergen is considered to be the marine research capital of Northern Europe, and few marine research centres today have such easy access to state-of-the-art laboratory facilities, pristine coastal waters and open sea.

The University of Bergen is heavily involved in international cooperation in research and education, and has agreements of collaboration with university consortia as well as bilateral agreements with institutions on every continent, including academic centres of excellence in Europe, USA and Asia. The University is also committed to cooperating with developing countries and has established programmes with universities in Third World Countries in the areas of health, poverty, and resource management.

Data
Year established: 1946 • Academic Calendar: August to June

Degrees
Bachelor Degree: 3 years (One of the admission requirements is a good command of the Norwegian language) • *Master Degree*: 2 years (Quota scholarship program and self-financing program) • *Integrated Master Programmes*: 4-5 years (for professional studies in certain fields e.g.: Teaching, Law, Medicine, Dentistry and Psychology. (A good command of the Norwegian language is a prerequisite) • *Doctoral Degree*: 3 years
Short time admission for our exchange/self-financing students: 1-2 semesters.
For general information on admissions visit: http://prospective.uib.no/admission

Number of Students
Undergraduate: 8714 • Integrated Master Programmes: 2658 • Graduate: 4197 • International (foreign students at UiB): 1276 • Exchange: 1581

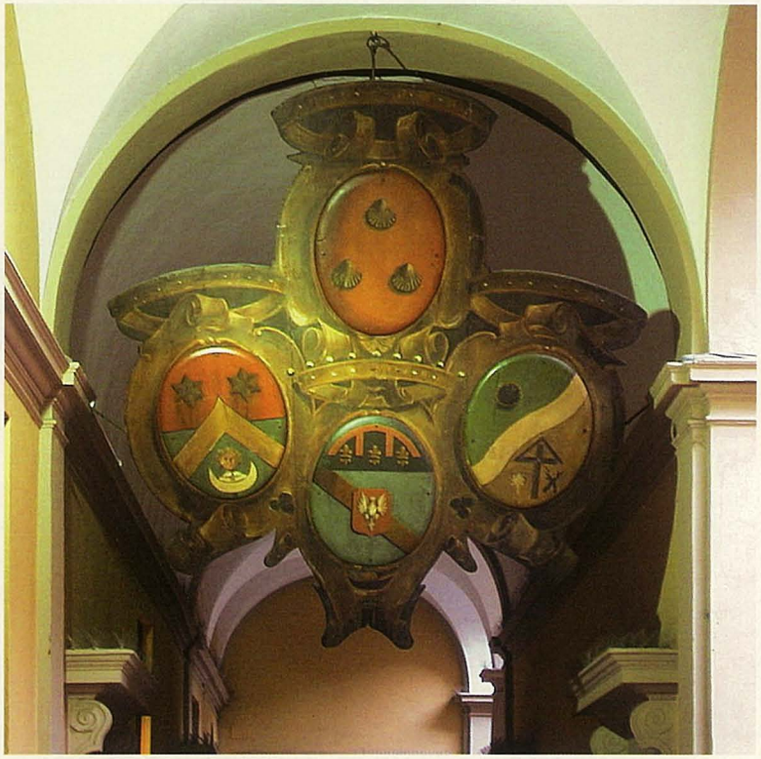
Staff
Academic: 1595 (393 of which are PhD candidates) • Non-Academic: 1057

Faculties
Faculty of Arts, Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences, Faculty of Medicine, Faculty of Dentistry, Faculty of Social Sciences, Faculty of Law, Faculty of Psychology

Research Centres
Aksis – Department of Culture, Language and Information Technology • Bergen Centre for Computational Science (BCCS) • Bjerknes Centre for Climate Research (BCCR) • Centre for Development Studies (CDS) • Centre for Integrated Petroleum Research (CIPR) • Centre for International Health (CIH) • Centre for International Poverty Research (Comparative Research Programme on Poverty (CROP)) • Centre for Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies • Centre for Medieval Studies (CMS) • Centre for Studies of Environment and Resources • Centre for the Study of the Sciences and Humanities • Centre for Women and Gender Research • Centre for Virology • HALOS – Health/Work/Lifestyle/Childhood/ Society • Research Centre for Health Promotion • The Rokkan Centre for Inter-disciplinary Social Science Research. • Sars International Centre for Molecular Marine Biology • The Selmer Centre for Research in coding theory and cryptography

Nr. of volumes and serials registered in the main **Library**: 1, 7 million

UNIVERSITY OF BOLOGNA

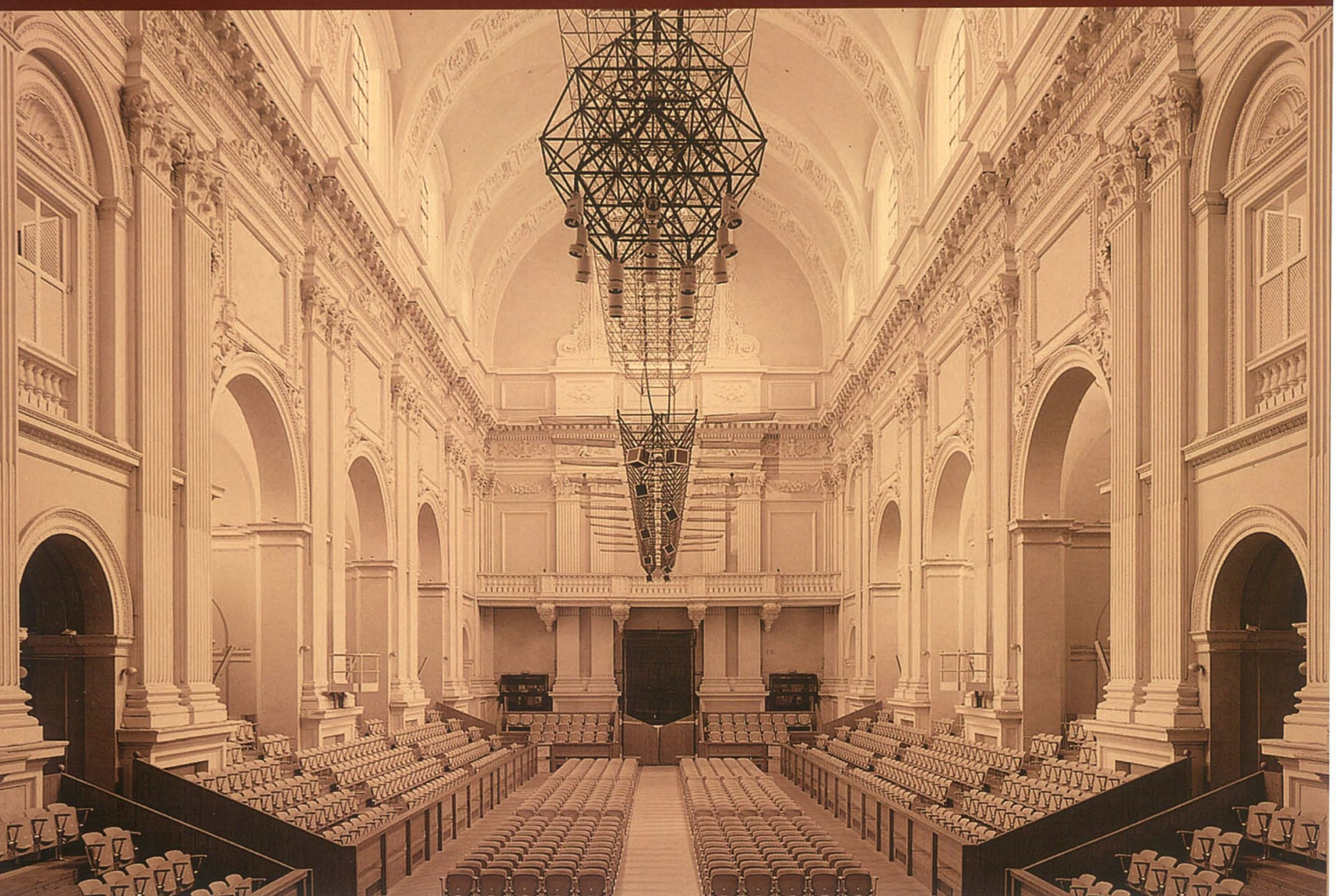


UNIVERSITY OF BOLOGNA

The University of Bologna takes part in many Coimbra Group task forces and projects: African, Caribbean and Pacific countries (ACP); Eastern Neighbouring Countries (ENC); Doctoral Studies and Research; European Programmes of Education and Training (EPET); Latin America and Mediterranean Countries (MED).

The University of Bologna hosts Coimbra Group fellow researchers and awards them a grant and a refund for travel expenses. Since the academic year 2004-2005, the University of Bologna has also been accepting scholars from South America.

As a member of the Coimbra Group, the University of Bologna has collaborated with the European University Association by conducting surveys and interviews with professors, students and non-academic staff in order to provide information and to write the report Trends IV, which is the fourth in a series of biannual reports providing up-to-date information on higher education developments in Europe and exploring how the impacts of the Bologna process on overall institutional developments.



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Contact person: Professor Roberto Grandi, Pro-rector for International Relations
Phone: +39 051 20 9 9419
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The University of Bologna offers a multi-campus structure which is divided into 23 faculties, 68 departments and 5 university campus branches in the cities of Bologna, Cesena, Forlì, Ravenna and Rimini. The University offers 132 first level degree courses, 95 specialised degree courses, and 8 European specialisation courses and other higher education courses and doctoral courses.
There are more than 90 Master's degrees currently active involving tutors in high-level academic activities as well as contacting with the professional world. The research activities ensure that the quality of teaching is closely connected to the quality of research.
According to a recent report by the National Committee for the Evaluation of the University System, the University of Bologna is today the most internationalised of all Italian universities; it promotes, manages and maintains a rich variety of academic collaboration agreements with foreign universities, promoting professors, researchers, and graduate and undergraduate students' mobility.
The University also promotes the organisation of international projects such as summer schools, meetings and other occasions. These projects favour the internationalisation of research and teaching events by means of integrating Italian and foreign professors, research fellows and students.
The University of Bologna associates with other Universities, networks and organisations to carry out cooperative projects in and for developing countries. The aim of all internationalisation programmes is to enhance academic, cultural and human exchange with a view to creating a world community based on knowledge and mutual understanding - concepts which are the cornerstones of university life.

Data
Year established: 1088 • Academic Calendar: October to September

Degrees
Laurea Triennale (First Level Undergraduate Degree course); Laurea specialistica (Second Level Graduate Degree course); Laurea Europea (European specialisation course); Master Degree; Phd.

Number of Students
Undergraduate: 53 303 • Graduate: 2664 • European specialisation course: 6334 • Four years degree course: 38 501 • International (Non Italian citizens): 3523 • Exchange: 1155 (Erasmus) + 350 (from non European countries)

Staff
Academic: 2951 • Non-Academic: 38 501

Disciplinary domains and their constituent faculties
Advanced School of Modern Languages for Interpreters and Translators – SSLMIT, Agriculture, Architecture, Economics, Economics – Forlì, Economics – Rimini, Education Sciences, Engineering, II Faculty of Engineering, Exercise and Sport Sciences, Foreign Languages and Literature, Industrial Chemistry, Law, Letters and Philosophy Mathematical, Physical and Natural Sciences, Medicine, Preservation of Cultural Heritage, Psychology, Statistical Sciences, Veterinary Medicine.

Research Centres
Departments: 60
Interdepartmental Research Centres: 23

Nr. of volumes and serials registered in the main **Library**: 1 250 000 vols. and 400 videos

UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL

UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL

The University of Bristol has always played an active role in Coimbra Group activities and has representatives in most Task Forces. In 2001 the University hosted the General Assembly. Tim Jones is a member of the Executive Board, as was Dr. Peter Goggin in the past. Annemieke Waite is currently chair of the Task Force on European Programmes in Education and Training (EPET). She is also a member of the Eastern Neighbouring Countries Task Force (formerly CEEC) and has been involved in the organisation of the Winterschool in Split, Croatia, from the very beginning. The University has signed up to the Coimbra Group Staff Visiting Scheme and the Hospitality Scheme. The University has taken part in many of the Coimbra Group projects developed by the various task forces, including the Winterschool, e-learning, and projects funded by TEMPUS. Several members of staff participated in the European Commission-funded ACP project on the higher education needs of underdeveloped countries and the University is regularly represented in workshops and conferences organised by the Coimbra Group.

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Fax: ++44 117 954 5770
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Site: http://www.bristol.ac.uk.
Address: International Centre • University Union • Queen's Road • Clifton
Bristol BS8 1LN • UK

The University College of Bristol opened in 1876, after six years of discussions and controversy, in a bid to bring university culture to the provinces. It was the first college in the country to admit men and women on an equal footing. Resources were scarce and support was greatest among local nonconformists like the Fry and Wills families (who made their fortunes in chocolate and tobacco, respectively). After much lobbying, government grants for the University College began in 1889, and in 1893 a Medical School and an Engineering School were opened. In 1908, gifts from the Wills and Fry families enabled the College to apply for a charter, and in 1909 the King and Privy Seal approved the creation of the University of Bristol. H O Wills became its first chancellor, his tenure cut short by his death in 1911. His sons, George and Harry Wills, funded the magnificent Wills Memorial Building, opened by King George V and Queen Mary in 1925. This is still the centrepiece of the University precinct. Growth continued with George Wills' acquisition in 1920 of the Victoria Rooms to house the students' union and the opening of the H H Wills Physics Building by Ernest Rutherford in 1927. The faculty began offering courses to the local community through the new Department of Extra-Mural Adult Education in 1924.

The University's reputation grew steadily throughout the 1930s, helped in no small way by the appointment of Winston Churchill as its third Chancellor in 1929. Future Nobel Laureate (1977) Neville Mott joined the Physics Department in 1933 and assembled a team that would lay the foundations of solid-state physics. Three other Nobel Laureates worked at Bristol: Paul Dirac (1933), Cecil Frank Powell (1950) and Hans Albrecht Bethe (1967). In 1946, the first drama department in the country opened at Bristol, and in 1955 the Faculty of Engineering moved into the new Queen's Building. Student numbers increased steadily, and in 1965 a new Students' Union building opened. The Norah Fry Centre was established in 1988 and is now one of the country's leading centres for research into learning difficulties.

The University's Research and Enterprise Development (RED) division was launched in 2000 to stimulate and support an entrepreneurial culture and encourage the growth of technology--based business.

2003 saw the completion of the Dorothy Hodgkin building, named after the University's fifth Chancellor. The £18 million building is dedicated to research in neuroendocrinology. 2003 also saw the opening of the University's £5 million Centre for Sport, Exercise and Health.

Work on a new, state-of-the-art engineering building is due to be completed in early 2004. The £20 million BLADE project (Bristol Laboratory for Advanced Dynamics Engineering) will bring together the Engineering Faculty's six departments to establish Europe's most advanced dynamics engineering research facilities.

Data
Year established: 1909 • Academic Calendar: October to June

Degrees
Bachelor, Master, Doctor.

Number of Students
Undergraduate: 11 000 • Graduate: 5000 • International: 2000 • Exchange: 350 (included in number above)

Staff
Academic: 3000 (includes admin staff on academic-related scales) • Non--Academic: 2500

Faculties
6: Arts, Science, Medical and Veterinary Sciences, Medicine and Dentistry, Engineering, Social Sciences and Law

Research Centres
Too numerous to list. Each Faculty has several. Information can be found on the University's web site.

Nr. of volumes and serials registered in the main **Library**: 1 389 296 printed volumes (including serials) • Subscriptions to 5365 printed journals and access to 8,317 online journals. (31st July 2004)

EÖTVÖS LORÁND UNIVERSITY

EÖTVÖS LORÁND UNIVERSITY

The Eötvös Loránd University has participated in international conferences organized by the Coimbra Group and has promoted and taken part in the student exchange within the framework of the Coimbra Group's Student Exchange Network and within the framework of the ERASMUS Programme.

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The Eötvös Loránd University is one of the oldest universities in the country. It was founded in 1635 in Nagyszombat by Cardinal Péter Pázmány, Archbishop of Esztergom. By granting of royal consent, the institution was awarded full university status, although initially it only had two faculties – Humanities and Theology. A major step in the development of the University was the establishment of the Faculty of Law in 1667. With the founding of the Faculty of Medicine in 1769 the structure of the University became similar to other European institutions of the same status, and in 1777 the University was relocated to the newly rebuilt Royal Palace in Buda. Up to 1949, the University comprised a Faculty of Law and Political Science, a Faculty of Arts, a Faculty of Medicine and a Faculty of Theology. In that year, the Faculty of Medicine was separated from the University, and since then it has continued its work as the Semmelweis Medical University, with three faculties. In the same year the Faculty of Theology was also separated from the University and continued its work as the Academy of Theology. In order to improve the standard of education in Mathematics and Sciences the Faculty of Arts was divided into two, thus creating the independent Faculty of Sciences.

In 1921, the University changed its name to the Péter Pázmány University, and since 1950 it has borne the name of its previous Rector and Professor, the inventor of the torsion balance, Loránd Eötvös.

Data
Year established: 1635 • Academic Calendar: Autumn term: from September 6, 2004 till December 17, 2004 • Spring term: from February 7, 2005 till May 20, 2005

Degrees
Bachelor's, Master's, Ph.D.

Number of Students
Undergraduate: 28266 • Graduate: 2884 • International: 1820 • Exchange: Erasmus outgoing students: 271 • Erasmus incoming students: 77

Staff
Academic: 1894 (1607 full-time, 287 part-time) • Non-Academic: 1568

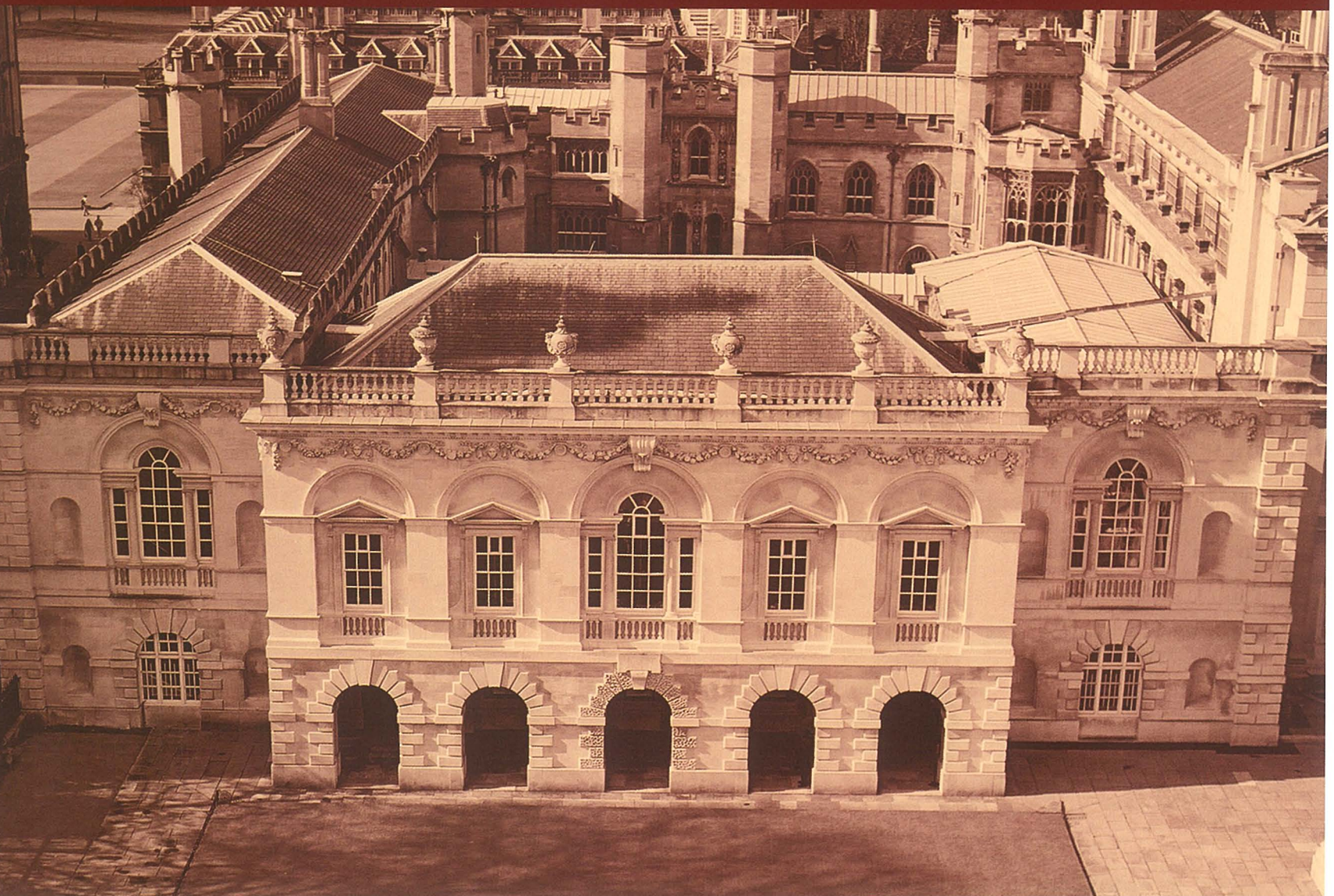
Disciplinary domains and their constituent faculties
Faculty of Law • Faculty of Humanities • Faculty of Sciences Faculty of Education and Psychology • "Bárczi Gusztáv" Faculty of Special Education • Faculty of Elementary and Nursery School Teachers' Training • Faculty of Informatics • Faculty of Social Sciences

Nr. of volumes and serials registered in the main **Library**: 1 184 425

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

The University of Cambridge has contributed to numerous Group organisations (e.g on lectures, research, culture) and to the administration and management of the Coimbra Group through providing the chairmanship of the Administrative and Financial Committee and the recent review of membership criteria. The Group's Treasurer is a Cambridge officer.



Name of the institution: University of Cambridge
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E-mail: aef30@admin.cam.ac.uk
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Address: University Offices, The Old Schools, Cambridge CB2 1TN, England

The University of Cambridge's mission is to contribute to society through the pursuit of education, learning, and research at the highest international levels of excellence. The principal aim of the university is to remain in the first rank of world-class universities, especially through securing world-class staff and students and supporting them as necessary. Cambridge is organised through Schools, Faculties and Departments, related to particular disciplines, and through Colleges, which are inter-disciplinary, and of which all full time students are members.

Data
Year established: 1209 • Type of institution: Self governing, independent, collegiate • Academic Calendar: Academic year begins 1 October, divided into three eight week terms (Michaelmas, Lent, Easter) with a summer Research Period.

Degrees
Bachelor, Master, Doctor.

Number of Students
Undergraduate: 12000 full time (of which 1,600 non UK) • Graduate: 5500 full time (of which 2,850 non UK) • International: Included in above • Exchange: Included in above

Staff
Academic: 4000 • Non-Academic: 4500

Faculties
Schools: Arts and Humanities; Humanities and Social Sciences; Biological Sciences (including Veterinary Medicine); Physical Sciences (including Mathematics and Earth Sciences); Technology (including Management); Clinical Medicine.
Also: Cambridge - MIT Institute • Also: Colleges: 31

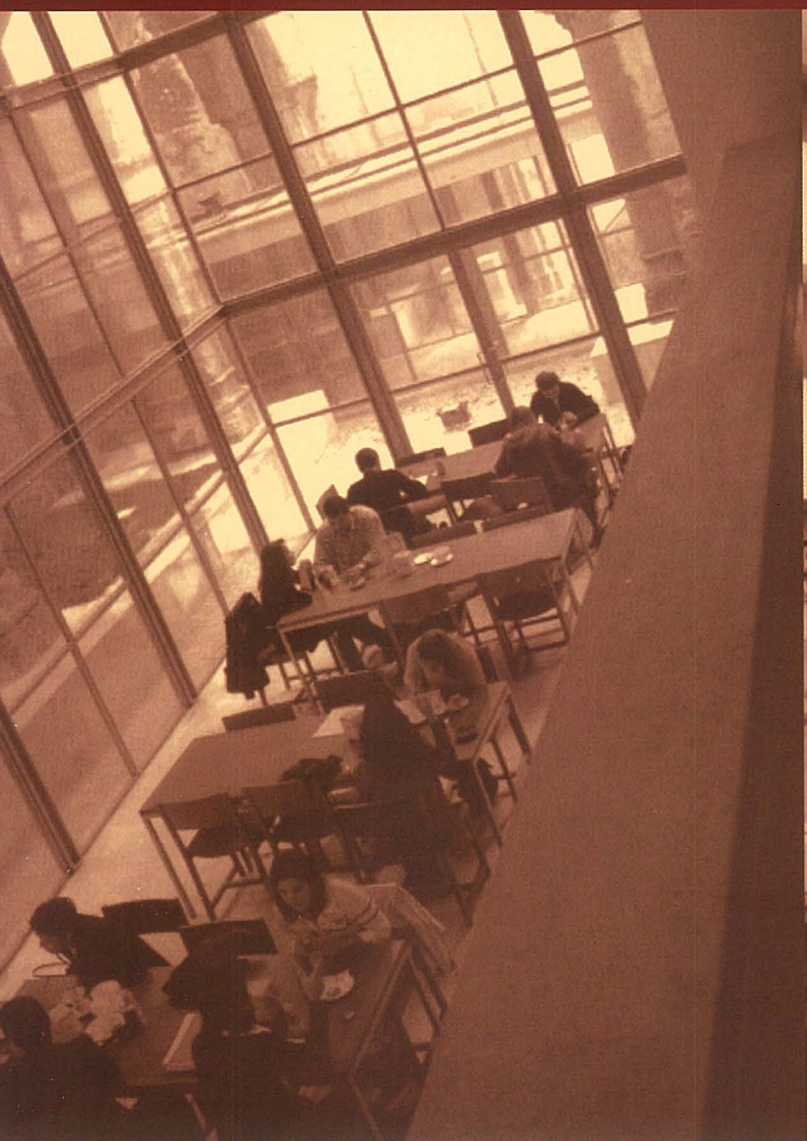
Research Centres
Numerous included in the Schools • Also CARET (Centre for Applied Research in Educational Technologies), CRASSH (Centre for Research in the Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities).

Nr. of volumes and serials registered in the main **Library**: 8 million plus

UNIVERSITY OF COIMBRA

UNIVERSITY OF COIMBRA

For the past twenty years, the University of Coimbra has almost always been represented in the various leadership committees and has taken part in different task forces. The second meeting of the Group was held in Coimbra in May 1986. At the present time, the University actively participates in the Task Forces EPET, ACP, Latin America, Doctoral Studies and Research. It is also a member of the Coimbra Group Staff Visiting Scheme and of the Student Exchange Network (SEN). It has been represented by two Vice-Rectors – Prof. Jorge Veiga from 1985 to 2002, and by Prof. Cristina Robalo Cordeiro since 2003 – both also members of the body presently referred to as the Executive Board. The Rector, Prof. Fernando Seabra Santos, is a member of the Rector's Advisory Group. From its inception, the Coimbra Group Office, an important instrument in the development of the Group's activities, has been fully supported by the University of Coimbra. In all of the Group's strategic plans, the University of Coimbra has constantly worked for the benefit of the Group. At the same time, the University has promoted the Coimbra Group within the University itself, involving its academic and administrative staff in a wide range of projects. The exchange of about 100 students each year and the exchange of staff have been significantly facilitated by the contact persons of the different universities as well as the participation in different European projects.



Name of the institution: University of Coimbra
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E-mail: fmc@ci.uc.pt
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The University was founded by King Dinis in 1290 and in the same year it received the Papal confirmation from Nicolas IV. Situated above the banks of the river Mondego at a strategically important location 100 kilometres south of Porto, the University of Coimbra is one of the oldest universities in Europe.

For centuries the University of Coimbra was the country's only university and received students from the Azores and Madeira and from the former overseas provinces (Brazil, Angola, Mozambique, Macau, Timor, Guiné, etc.). Many of these students played an important role in the political, religious, legal, scientific and cultural life of the Portuguese-speaking world and have created in Coimbra an enduring tradition of academic excellence.

In total, the University offers 63 undergraduate courses, 294 postgraduate and Master's degree courses and 46 areas of Ph.D study. The University has 85 periodical publications and study collections, 176 units of R&D, 1 general library, 31 libraries and specialised documentation centres and 9 thematic museums.

In addition to the so-called "classical" degrees offered by a university with over 700 years of history - ranging from the Social and Human Sciences to Medicine, from Law to Pharmacy, and from the Pure Sciences to Sports Sciences - all the faculties have been concerned to constantly update the content of their courses so as to meet the demands of contemporary realities.

Although internationalisation has always been important for the University of Coimbra, Portugal's entry into the European Union opened up new and different paths and opportunities and, as a result, the University has developed more organised and professional structures and models of co-operation. The University has experienced significant changes in its goals and has established European co-operation and co-operation with Brazil as its main priorities.

Aware of the complexity and difficulties of multilateral co-operation, the University decided to promote networking by supporting the foundation of important European networks, one of them being the Coimbra Group, in which the University plays an important role.

The University of Coimbra attributes particular importance to the European co-operation programmes. Within the framework of the Socrates/Erasmus programme it has established more than 300 institutional bilateral agreements and welcomes more than 500 students annually. In addition, each year almost 500 students from Coimbra are given the opportunity to experience a period of study abroad.

To support this policy, the University of Coimbra has a central organisation, the International Relations Unit, which works directly with the Rector and is in permanent contact with the individual faculties.

Data
Year established: 1290 • Academic Calendar: 1st semester* - from October to January; 2nd semester - from March to July
* At Faculty of Sciences and Technology, the 1st semester begins in September

Degrees
Undergraduate Courses, Postgraduate and Master's Degree Courses, Ph.D

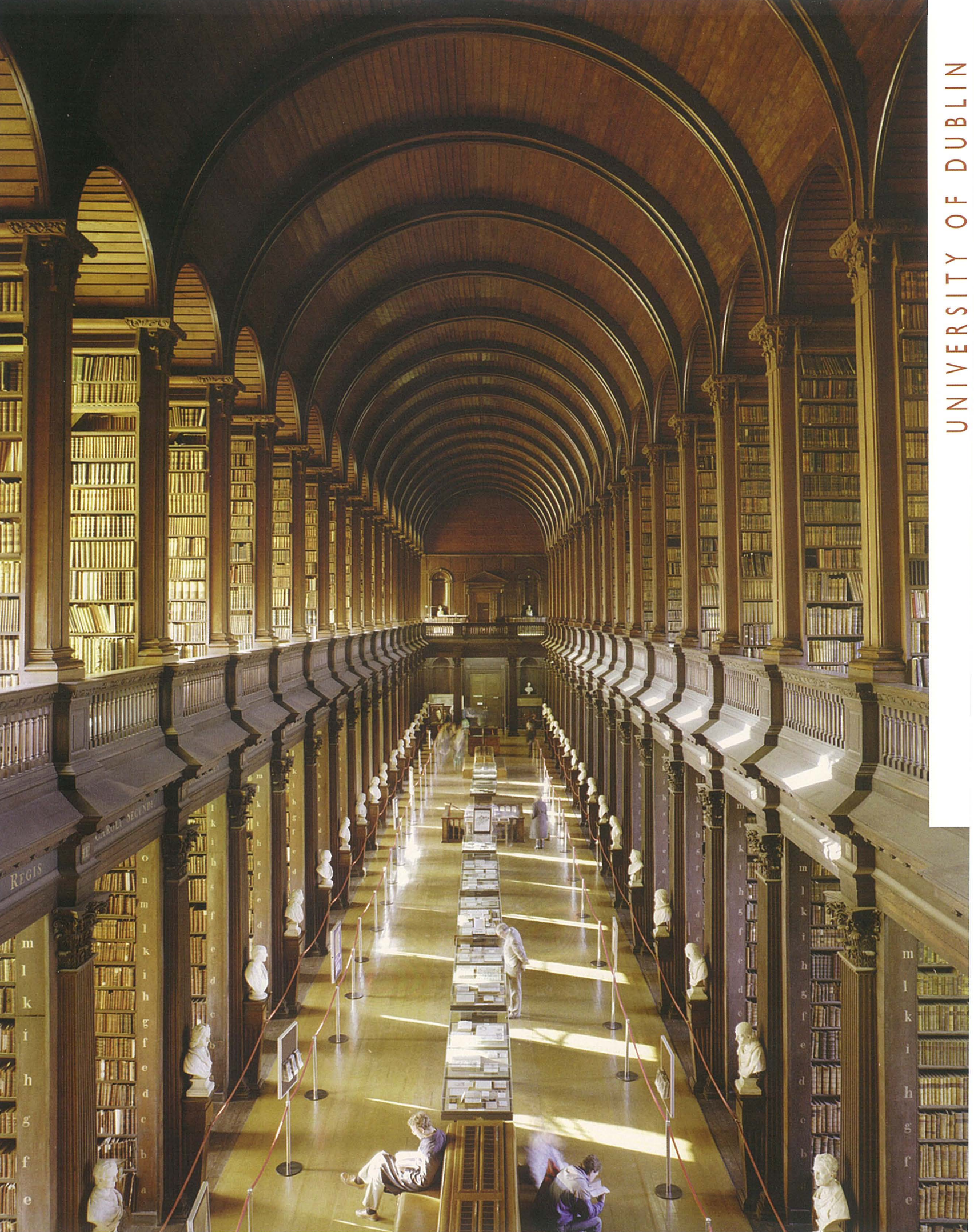
Number of Students
Undergraduate/Diploma: 16500 • Graduate/Doctoral Degrees: 3500 • International: 1600 • Exchange: 550

Staff
Academic: 1371 • Non-Academic: 719

Faculties
Humanities, Law, Medicine, Science & Technology, Pharmacy, Economics, Psychology & Teacher Training, Sports Sciences

Research Centres
94 • Law: 11; Humanities: 13; Psychology: 9; Medical Sciences: 12; Sciences and Technology: 45; Social Sciences: 4

Nr. of volumes and serials registered in the main **Library**: 1 million volumes • N° periodical publications: 320 000 • Non-book resourses: 50 500



UNIVERSITY OF DUBLIN

UNIVERSITY OF DUBLIN

The University of Dublin, Trinity College has been a member of the following Coimbra Group Task Forces: Culture Task Force, Doctoral Studies and Research, Eastern Neighbouring Countries (ENC) Task Force, E-Learning Task Force, European Programmes of Education and Training (EPET) Task Force, and Careers Guidance Group. The University participates actively in the various activities organised by the Coimbra Group. Among these, the University participates in the Group Staff Visiting Scheme and the Registrar attends the Rectors meetings and the General Assembly. It also welcomes each year many Socrates/Erasmus students from our Coimbra Group partners. The University has also strengthened the ties between Coimbra Group partners through recent partnership with one of the foremost institutions in Eastern Europe: Jagiellonian University in Krakow. Trinity College was as well one of the twelve Coimbra Group universities which participated in the recent project gathering data for the EUA Trends IV report. EUA researchers carried out site visits to a number of European universities, and were very appreciative of the additional contribution by the Coimbra Group.

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Trinity College, the single constituent college of the University of Dublin, was founded by Queen Elizabeth I in 1592. It is the oldest university in Ireland and one of the older universities of Western Europe. Much influenced in its early history by Oxford and Cambridge, the university extends over 15 hectares in the heart of the city. The west end includes five quadrangles of squares with many fine buildings from the 18th century, notably the Old Library - home to the priceless 8th century manuscript, The Book of Kells. Many of the famous people of Irish letters and history were educated at Trinity - writers such as Swift, Goldsmith, Wilde and Beckett, and Ireland's first President, Douglas Hyde, as well as the recent President of Ireland, Mary Robinson. No stranger to controversy, Trinity has provided an independent and liberal voice in the affairs of the state. Over the last decade Trinity has been the most successful university in the Irish Republic in research development across most disciplines. Trinity prides itself also on its tradition of personal contact between staff and students, encouraged by its collegiate atmosphere. Its seventeen thousand staff and students form a compact academic community, with several hundred students and a number of staff living on campus.

Data
Year established: 1592 • Type of institution (public/private): Private with public funding • Academic Calendar: September to July

Degrees
Bachelors, Masters, Doctors

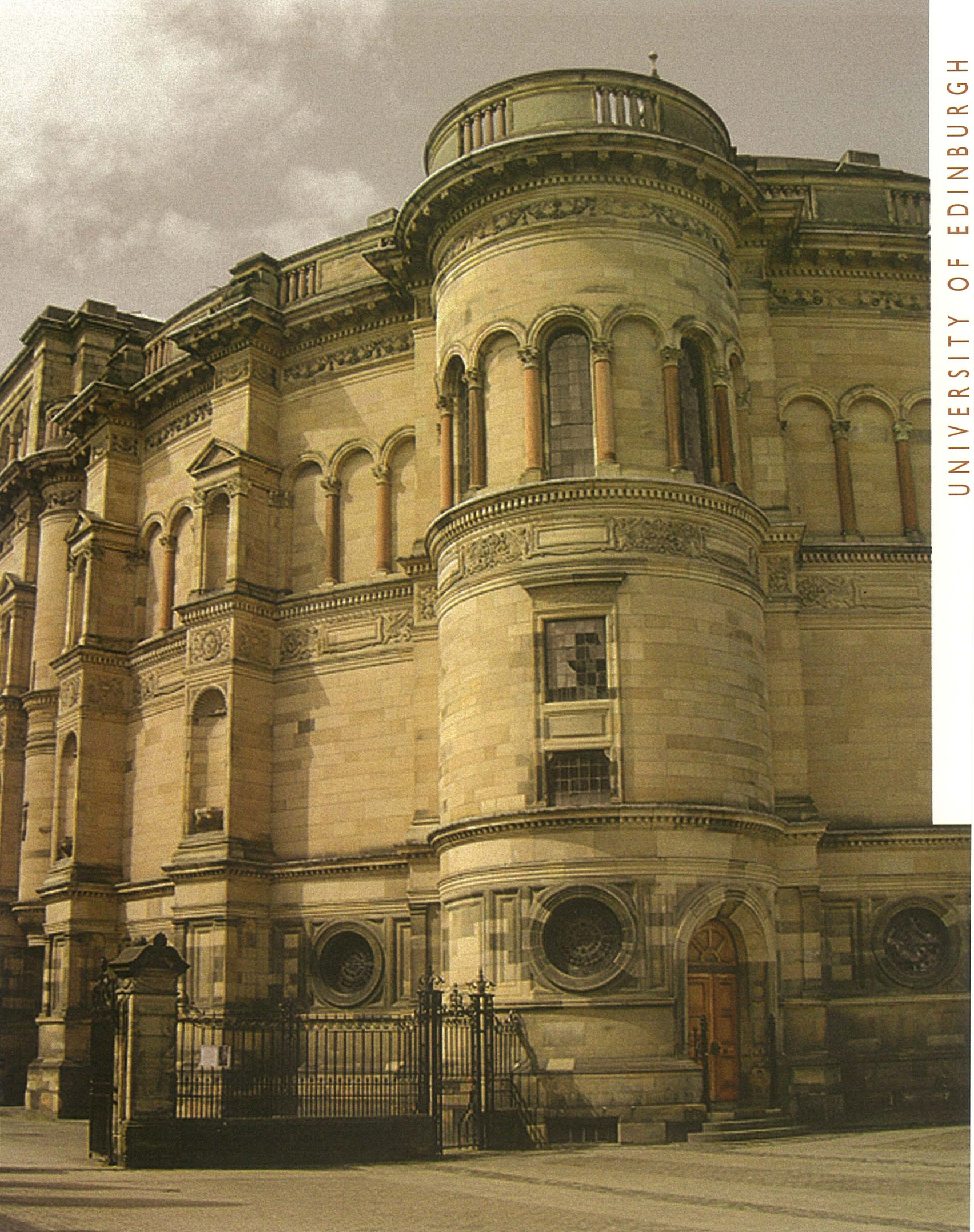
Number of Students
Undergraduate: 15500 • Graduate: 4500 • International: 1500 (incl. EU) • Exchange: 500 (EU and international)

Staff
Academic: 600 (+c.500 research staff) • Non-Academic: 1700

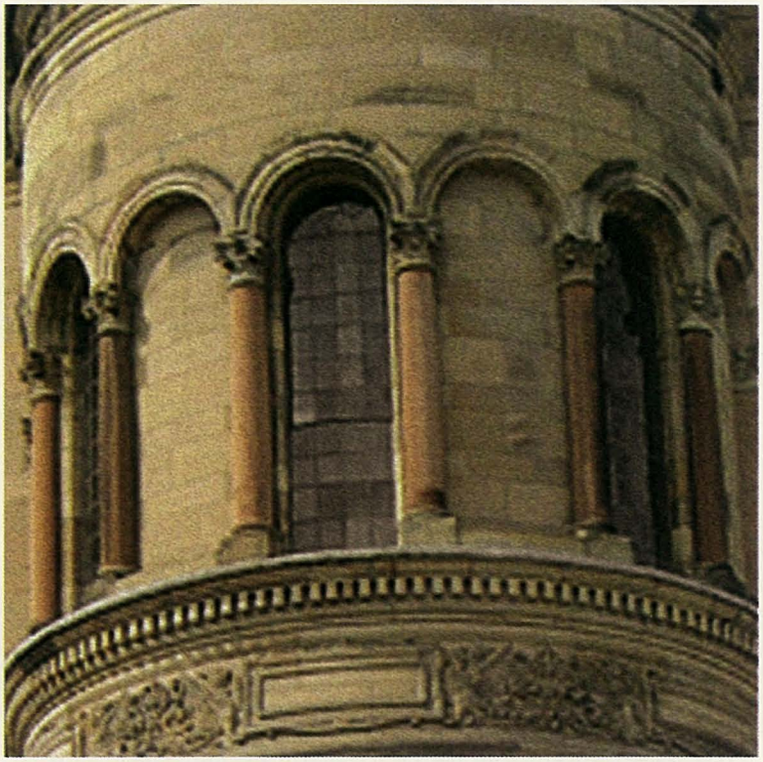
Faculties
Faculty of Arts (Humanities) • Faculty of Arts (Letters) • Faculty of Business, Economic and Social Studies • Faculty of Engineering and Systems Sciences • Faculty of Health Sciences • Faculty of Science.

Research Centres
Under the College's Strategic Plan 2003-2008, four main research themes are identified as follows: Establishing and applying new knowledge in health sciences and health management • Meeting the challenges of the Information Society • Helping to develop public social policy and to understand the dynamics of globalisation • Contributing to a deeper appreciation of culture and the creative arts in Ireland and the world.
Trinity's goal is that in at least one of these sub-themes the College will become the world reference point and leader over the next five to ten years.

Nr. of volumes and serials registered in the main **Library**: 4,25 million Volumes; 30 000 current serials



UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH



UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH

The University participates in two main activities within the Coimbra Group. It is part of the EPET Task Force and contributes to the general debate and discussion relating to developments in the area of student exchange, the new generation of EC programmes and the implementation of the Bologna Process. The University is also a participant in the E Learning Task Force which is chaired by Dr Jeff Haywood from the University of Edinburgh who has been instrumental in obtaining a number of EU funded projects managed by the Task Force.

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EH8 9JU, Scotland, UK

From its location at the heart of Scotland's capital, the University of Edinburgh has been providing outstanding educational opportunities for over 400 years. One of Scotland's ancient universities, it was founded in 1583 and was the first civic university in Britain. Although distinctively Scottish in character, the University was internationalist in outlook from the outset with students coming from across the globe. By the 18th century, it was a leading centre of the European Enlightenment. This international tradition has continued to the present day – the University currently has students from 130 different countries, and partnerships and collaborations with nearly 300 international higher education institutions. The University of Edinburgh is the largest in Scotland, and one of the leading universities in the UK. Its academics are at the forefront of international developments in such fields as medicine, biotechnology, computer-based disciplines, management, Islamic studies and international languages and cultures. As a great civic university, Edinburgh values its intellectual and economic relationship with the Scottish community, which provides the foundation from which it looks to the widest international horizons, enriching both itself and Scotland.

Data
Year established: Founded in 1583 • Academic Calendar: Semester 1 – mid September to mid December • Semester 2 – start January to end May

Degrees
Undergraduate: MA, BA, BEd, BSc, LLB, MEng, MPhys, MChem, MChemPhys, MBChB, BMV&S.
Postgraduate: MSc, LLM, MEd, PGCert, Diploma, MMus, MTh, DClinPsychol, MBA, PhD, MPhil, EdD, Master of Clinical Dentistry, MRes.

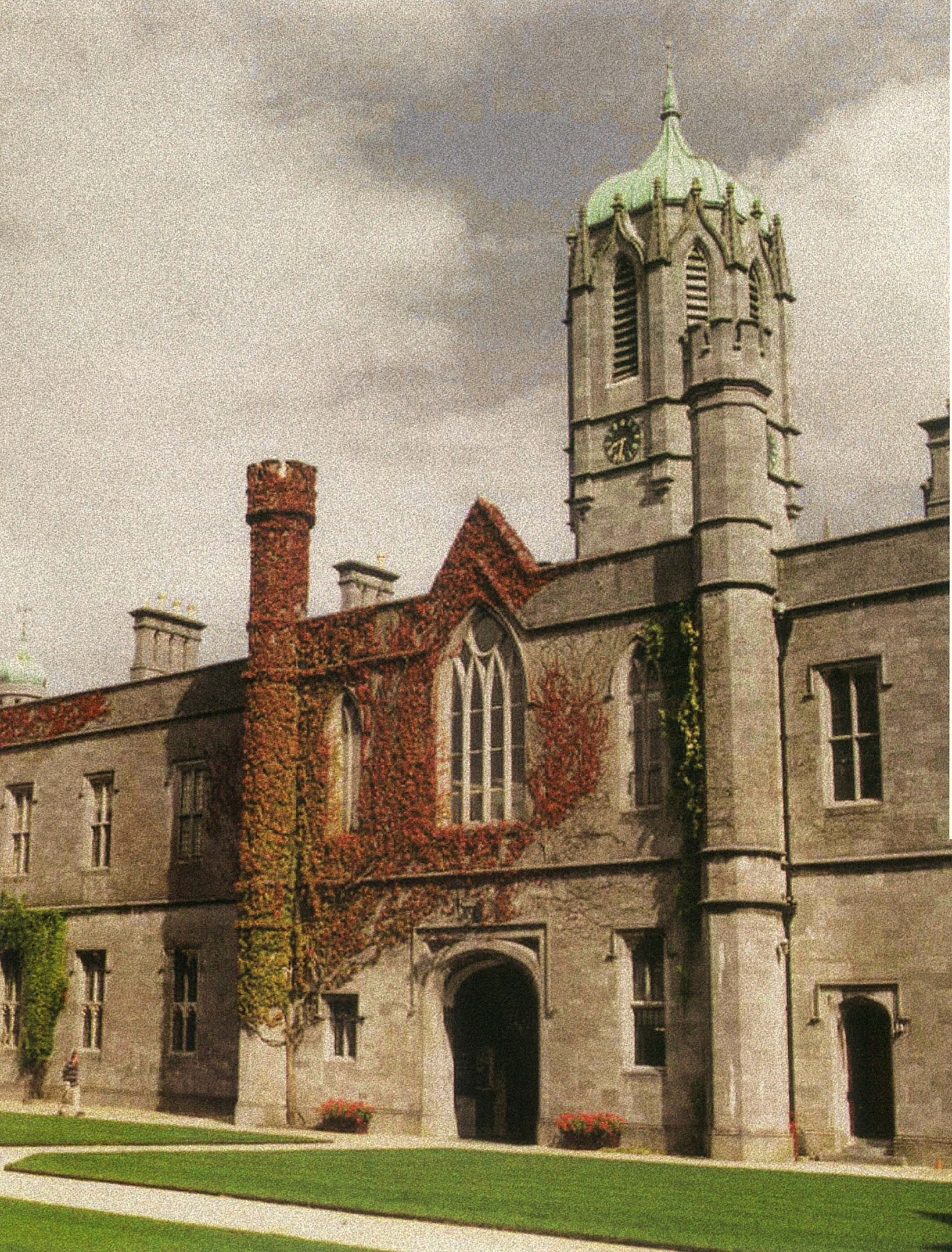
Number of Students
Undergraduate: 16930 • Graduate: 5433 • International: 2980 overseas (plus 1785 EU – from outside the UK) • Exchange: Approx. 300 students are sent and received each year through ERASMUS with another 150 students exchanged annually through other exchange links.

Staff
Academic: 4014 • Non-Academic: 3257

Faculties
3 Colleges: Humanities and Social Science • Science and Engineering • Medicine and Vet Medicine

Research Centres
Research Centre for Social Science • Arts and Humanities Research Board • Human Communication Research Centre • Brain Imaging Research Centre • Centre for Financial Markets Research • Credit Research Centre • Centre for the Study of Retailing in Scotland • IPSAR (Institute of Public Sector Accounting Research • The David Hume Institute • Centre for Entrepreneurship Research

Nr. of volumes and serials registered in the main **Library**: 3 400 000



NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF IRELAND

NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF IRELAND

NUI Galway has been a member of the Coimbra Group since 1986 and it hosted the Annual General Meeting in September 1988. The University was very active from the beginning in the ERASMUS exchanges initiated by the Coimbra Group and has remained deeply involved with them since then. It has taken a leading role in several of the consortia involved, especially in Law, and has endeavoured to accommodate proposed exchanges with fellow Coimbra Group members as much as possible. Regarding participation in Task Forces, NUI Galway was active in the running of EPET for several years and hosted certain meetings. It has played a central role in the Folklore and Culture Task Force including the hosting of the conference in September 2004. It has also participated in activities directed to Latin American Universities, including a strategic management advisory group for Universidade Federal de Pelotas in 2000 and the Salamanca and Belo Horizonte conferences in 2003 and 2004. NUI Galway has also been represented at every Annual General Meeting, both at Rector (or deputy) and Representative level. The President is also currently an active member of the Rectors' Advisory Group.

Name of the institution: National University of Ireland, Galway/Ollscoil na hÉireann, Gaillimh
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NUI Galway was founded in 1845 as Queen's College, Galway, one of three colleges founded under the Queen's College (Ireland) Act, 1845. The College opened for students in October 1849. In 1908, Queen's College, Galway became a constituent College of the new National University of Ireland, and under the new charter, the name of the College was changed to University College, Galway. In 1929, the College was given a special statutory responsibility under the University College Galway Act in respect of the use of the Irish language as a working language in the College. Under the Universities Act, 1997, University College, Galway was reconstituted as a University, under the name of Ollscoil na hÉireann, Gaillimh / National University of Ireland, Galway and became a Constituent University of the National University of Ireland.

The University has over 14,500 students with academically strong programmes of teaching and research in its seven Faculties (Arts, Celtic Studies, Commerce, Engineering, Law, Medicine and Health Sciences, Science). The campus itself is situated on the banks of the River Corrib, close to the centre of Galway city and adjacent to the largest Gaeltacht (Irish- speaking region) in the country. With a population of 65,000, Galway is the third largest city in the Republic of Ireland and one of Europe's fastest growing urban centres. Galway, with its special town and gown tradition, enjoys on international reputation for its vibrant cultural life, including the largest Arts festival in the country.

Data
Year established: 1845 • Type of institution: Public • Academic Calendar: Semester 1: Early September – Christmas • Semester 2: Mid-January – End May

Degrees
Undergraduate: BA, BComm, BE, BSc, BCL, BCorp Law, BNS, MB, BCh, BAO
Postgraduate: MA, MLitt, MEd, PhD, DPsych Sc, MEcon Sc, MBS, MBA, MAcc, MRD, LLB, MSc, MAppl Sc, MMed Sc, ME, MED, MIT, MHS.

Number of Students
Undergraduate: 10500 • Graduate: 2800 • International: 1000 • Exchange: 200 (included in number above)

Staff
Academic • Non-Academic

Faculties
Arts, Commerce, Science, Engineering, Law, Medicine and Health Sciences, Celtic Studies

Research Centres
Biomedical Engineering Science, Marine Science, Human Rights, Digital Enterprise Research, Irish Studies, Regenerative Medicine, Environmental Change, Human Settlement and Historical Change, Innovation and Structural Change, Social Sciences, Health Promotion and several others

Nr. of volumes and serials registered in the main **Library**: 350 000 books; 260 000 bound journal volumes; 8000 full-text electronic journals and 2100 hard-copy journals taken annually

UNIVERSITY OF GENEVA


VERSITE
GEOLOGIE
A
C. VOGT

UNIVERSITY OF GENEVA

Within the Coimbra Group, the University of Geneva has a specific contact person – mainly a professor – for each of the Task Forces; these persons participate actively in the meetings as well as the General Assembly. The present Rector of the University of Geneva, Professor André Hurst, is a member of the first Rectors' Advisory Group, which was created during the Granada General Assembly in 2003. According to the developments undertaken by the Coimbra Group, the University of Geneva is ready to potentially participate in any of the activities; so far, it has been especially involved in the following fields: Hospitality Scheme, LA scholarships, MED scholarships, Staff visiting scheme, EPET (including SEN).

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From the time of its creation in 1559 by Jean Calvin, right up to the recent discovery by University astrophysicists of extra solar planets, the University of Geneva has continued to grow and develop while maintaining its longstanding tradition of excellence with an international angle.

The University of Geneva is the second largest university in Switzerland and is a public institution of the Republic and Canton of Geneva. It pursues three missions: teaching (classes are, in general, taught in French), research, and service to the wider community.

With its seven Faculties, its Institute of Architecture and its School of Translation and Interpretation, the University of Geneva is a multifaceted institution of higher learning. It offers cutting-edge education in any of a vast range of broad-based undergraduate degree courses as well as further education at a postgraduate level. Over the past few years the University has also developed its on-going education programme, offering more than 100 programmes for people in employment.

Data
Year established: 1559 • Academic Calendar: 2 semesters of equal length: 14 weeks of courses + 3 weeks of examinations: Winter semester: mid-October – end of February; Summer semester: 1st week of March – 1st week of July

Degrees
"Licence" – Postgraduate Diplomas – Doctorate • As from October 2005: Bachelor – Master – Postgraduate Diplomas – Doctorate • Coming up: Master in advanced studies

Number of Students
Undergraduate: 10100 • Graduate: 4500 • International: 5600 • Exchange: 830

Staff
Academic: 3320 • Non-Academic: 1770

Faculties
Sciences • Medicine • Arts • Economics and Social Sciences • Law • Protestant Theology • Psychology and Educational Sciences • Institute of Architecture • School of Translation and Interpretation

Research Centres
Institute of the History of the Reformation • University Informatics Centre • University Centre of Human Ecology and Environmental Sciences • European Centre of Human Ecology • University Centre for the Study of Energy Problems • European Institute of the University of Geneva • Interfaculty Centre for Gerontology

Institutes in close association with the University of Geneva
Graduate Institute of International Studies • Graduate Institute of Development Studies • Ecumenical Institute at Bossey

Nr. of volumes and serials registered in the main **Library**: 2 400000 volumes • 15 000 serials

GEORG-AUGUST UNIVERSITY OF GÖTTINGEN

GEORG-AUGUST UNIVERSITY OF GÖTTINGEN

As a member of the Coimbra Group, The Georg-August University of Göttingen has participated in Student and Staff exchange. It has also exchanged information on all topics concerning Higher Education within and outside Europe. Furthermore, the University has cooperated in Joint Projects namely three Task Forces – EPET, ENP, Doctoral Studies – in which faculty members participated actively.

Name of the institution: Georg-August University Göttingen
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The Georg-August University of Göttingen was founded in 1737 in the spirit of the Enlightenment. Keeping this spirit alive, it has always been successful in attracting world-famous scientists to Göttingen. These very scientists have in their work laid and are still laying the foundation - both in the natural sciences and in the humanities - for the present day excellent reputation of the University. Its name is linked with the lives of over 40 Nobel Prize winners and is justly famous for basic research. The Georg--August-University is very active in its international partnerships and invests in expanding its research networks with a great number of universities worldwide. International guest researchers are invited to teach at the University, international study courses have been introduced, and modularized study programmes (Bachelor, Master, and Ph.D. degrees) are being offered. Students are encouraged to study abroad and international students are integrated both into the German-language course programme and have access to the English-language offerings. More than 12% of all students are international students, therefore providing evidence of the international reputation of the University.

Data
Year established: 1737 • Academic Calendar: Winter term: 1 October – 31 March; Summer term: 1 April – 15 July

Degrees
Magister Artium, Diploma, Teacher Certification, Bachelor, Master, PhD, MSc, the Doctorate Degree, Business Pedagogy II, State Exam and Church Exam

Number of Students
23368 (summer term 2004) • International: 2960 (summer term 2004) • Exchange: 418 Erasmus-Outgoings, 327 Incomings (winter term 2004/04 and summer term 2004)

Staff
Academic: 2117 (of these, Medicine: 989) • Non-Academic: 6207

Faculties
Theology, Law, Medicine, Philosophy, Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Geosciences, Biology, Forest Sciences & Forest Ecology, Agriculture, Economics & Business Administration, Social Sciences

Research Centres
DFG Research Centres (German Research Foundation) for the Molecular Physiology of the Brain (CMPB) • 20 Interdisciplinary Research Centres • 8 Special Research Projects • 13 Graduate Schools

Nr. of volumes and serials registered in the main **Library**: With more than 4.5 million volumes, over 16 000 academic journals, 12 635 documents, 265 000 maps, 3100 incunabula, 350 collections of unpublished works, 150 CD-ROM data bases and 1.3 million micro-forms, the Lower Saxony State and University Library is one of the most extensive university libraries in Germany. In past centuries the Göttingen library started as the first library with both scientific and universal holdings. Today its historic holdings - like, for example, the Gutenberg Bible, a UNESCO world treasure item - are being made available to everybody by an extensive digitalisation program. In addition to the Lower Saxony State and University Library, the University has also 143 independent subject-specific libraries throughout the university Institutes and Seminars.

UNIVERSITY OF GRANADA

UNIVERSITY OF GRANADA

The University of Granada (UGR) takes an active part in the Task Forces created in the Coimbra Group with a University's representative on the following task Forces: ACP, ENC, Culture, Doctoral Studies and Research, E-learning, EPET, Latin America and MED. The representatives attend usually all the Taskforce meetings and the academic events organized in the frame of the Group. In April 2004, UCL organized with the support of the Coimbra Group Office the workshop "Lovain Workshop - Bologna Process and Latin America", which was attended by the UGR Vice-Rector. In June 2004, an ENC Task Force Workshop was held in Cracow.
In September 2004, the Culture Task Force organized the Coimbra Group Conference which took place in Galway. UGR took part in the first edition of the "Coimbra Group Scholarships Programme for young professors and researchers from Latin American Universities" offering two grants and is actually participating in the second edition launched in 2005. UGR is an active member in the organisation of the Winter School in Croatia with a member in the Scientific Committee and will host a meeting of this Committee on July 4, 2005. UGR takes part in the newly approved "Coimbra Group PHD Mobility Programme" allowing postgraduate research students registered in a University of the Group to attend PhD Courses at UGR without payment of fees. Lastly, UGR hosted the "Coimbra Group General Assembly" in 2003.

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UGR has a long-standing tradition in international educational cooperation. In recent years, worldwide universities have recognised the need to consolidate their international activities and also extend them even further. This entails, on the one hand, improving the quality of the bilateral agreements and networks and, on the other, using information-sharing and technical--assistance systems so as to make the international programmes available to all the university communities. UGR's international profile is soundly reflected in its students. Foreign students study alongside many others who have already been on placements at universities abroad, or who are currently preparing to spend a period of time studying in another country. Similarly, credit recognition has already become a part of our academic tasks, meaning that we are already on the road to creating the European Area of Higher Education. But we have also strengthened our relations with institutions in South-America, the Arab nations, Eastern Europe and Asia. UGR's growing presence abroad is greatly due to the dedicated effort and work of many people within our University. The job of the Pro-Vice-Chancellor's Office for International Relations is to ensure that this work can be carried out under the best possible conditions. This International Student Guide provides both national and foreign students with information regarding the opportunities available in order to participate in the University's international activities; an area in which UGR is significantly interested and committed to.

Data
Year established: 1531 • Type of institution: Public • Academic Calendar: October to September

Degrees
230

Number of Students
Undergraduate: 57051 • Graduate: 2796 • International: 3689 • Exchange: 1950

Staff
Academic: 3423 • Non-Academic: 1729

Faculties
30

Research Centres
11

Nr. of volumes and serials registered in the main **Library**: 921 247 (data December 2003)

UNIVERSITY OF GRAZ

UNIVERSITY OF GRAZ

Active participation in the Coimbra Group allows the University of Graz together with strong and experienced partners to promote the Bologna Process and strengthen focus areas such as the integration of institutions of higher education from South-Eastern European countries, this area forming the main focus of the internationalisation process of the University of Graz. Roberta Maierhofer, Vice Rector of International Relations, considers the Coimbra Group a strong force in changing the face of higher education in Europe and as a member of the executive board is actively involved in promoting academic collaboration and internationalisation. As member of the task forces ENC, EPET, Doctoral Studies and Research, Culture as well as E-Learning the University of Graz works on internationalising the curriculum and increasing mobility of students, faculty and staff as well as improving the quality of the programmes - based on the excellent academic cooperation with partners within the Coimbra Group. Innovative programmes, such as the Coimbra Group Visiting Scheme (initiated by Vice Rector Maierhofer), the Coimbra Group Hospitality Scheme and the Coimbra Group Winter School, allow members of our universities to share their experiences and expertise.

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The University of Graz takes part in an exciting dialogue between tradition and innovation and since its foundation in 1585 has been a forming influence on scientific work and social life in Austria. Worldwide networking leads to constant improvement of the quality in teaching and research and a high participation in international research projects. With this aim in mind, the university cooperates with about 500 partner institutions worldwide, 18 of which are hand-picked comprehensive partner-institutions, actively promoting the Bologna Process in all those cooperating partners. Research projects, curricula development, mobility of staff and students, internships and visiting scholars are important quality marks.

For more than a decade, the University of Graz has been cooperating successfully with 300 partner institutions in numerous EU-education programmes. As the only Austrian university, it proves its role as an innovative and reform-oriented force in the Coimbra Group and UTRECHT Network. Its geographical situation and historical tradition enable the University to act as pivot and scientific point of reference for its partner institutions. It has come as a natural consequence of the expertise and knowledge about both the needs and cooperation potentials of Southern-Eastern European partners that a university-wide focus "Southern-Eastern Europe" has been created.

Data
Year established: 1585 • Academic Calendar: http://international.uni-graz.at/e/ /welcome/calendar.html

Degrees
Bakkalaureaus (Bakk) / Magister (Mag) / Doktor (Dr.)

Number of Students
23544 • Undergraduate: 1780 • Graduate: 584 • International: 8% • Exchange: 726

Staff
Academic: 1268 • Non-Academic: 968

Disciplinary domains and their constituent faculties
Humanities, Catholic Theology, Natural Sciences, Social Sciences, Law, Medicine (a separate University as of January 1st 2004)

Research Centres
Nanoscience on Surfaces • Modernity – Vienna and Central Europe around 1900 • Optimization and Control • Biomembranes
http://www.uni-graz.at/forschung/sfb/

Nr. of volumes and serials registered in the main **Library**: 3 350 000

UNIVERSITY OF GRONINGEN

UNIVERSITY OF GRONINGEN

The University of Groningen has representatives in all Task Forces. This has resulted in the participation in a wide range of projects, symposia and exchanges involving academic and administrative staff and students of the University. Every year, about 100 students from the University of Groningen participate in exchanges with Coimbra Group Universities. The participation in the Hospitality Scheme and the Student Exchange Network gives extra opportunities for exchange. The Coimbra Group is the backbone for several networks on disciplinary level, for instance in Law, Economics and Business. The exchange of teachers and students, the organisation of intensive programmes and curriculum development projects are the main instruments to establish strong links between the faculties. The Coimbra Group is at the forefront when it comes to new developments in education and training: establishment of thematic networks in Europe, the introduction of joint programmes of studies, training of PhD-students, use of ICT in education are a few of examples of these. Symposia of the Coimbra Group and participation in joint projects provide input for new activities in our own university. This goes for the contacts with Central and Eastern Europe, Mediterranean countries, ACP countries and Latin America.

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The University of Groningen (Rijksuniversiteit Groningen) was founded in 1614. It has been an important part of the city for centuries, and its growth reflects the changing views and social developments that have taken place over the years. The University's image has evolved gradually; what was once a storehouse of knowledge, has now become an institution which opens wide its doors to society. The University of Groningen is one of the oldest of the 14 universities in the Netherlands providing the highest level of education. It offers a full range of academic degree courses leading to Bachelor's, Master's and PhD degrees within ten faculties: Law, Medical Sciences, Mathematics & Natural Sciences, Arts, Economics, Behavioural & Social Sciences, Philosophy, Theology & Religious Studies, Spatial Sciences and Management & Organization. A growing number of bachelor and master courses are taught in English language. The University of Groningen offers academic excellence, extensive international networks and personal development. At national and international level, there is intensive cooperation between the University on the one hand and healthcare, industry, education, other universities and the government on the other. An increasing number of students make the transition to future employment by means of work experience or internships during their studies. In addition to purely theoretical research, the University devotes a substantial part of its resources to applied research that produces practical and readily usable solutions. Today, more than ever, the University is at the heart of the community. The University of Groningen, with its current enrolment of approximately 21,000 students, offers the widest range of academic and technical courses available in any university in the Netherlands. All faculties offer courses and degrees at Bachelor's, Master's and PhD level. Presently, 775 PhD candidates are preparing their theses. The University of Groningen has always been a research university, committed to the close interweaving of teaching and research. Its research is innovative, international and interdisciplinary. The university also provides professional training for teachers, chemists, doctors, dentists, accountants and information experts. With some 6000 academic and non-academic members of staff, the University of Groningen is one of the main research centres of the Netherlands. It receives most of its funding from public sources and is governed by an independent body.

Data
Year established: 1614 • Academic Calendar: 1st Semester: 6 September 2004 – 13 February 2005; 2nd Semester: 14 February 2005 – 8 July 2005

Degrees
Bsc, BA, MSc, MA, LL.M., PhD

Number of Students
Undergraduate & Graduate: 21251 • International (bachelor's & master's programmes): 761 • Exchange: 457 (incoming), 646 (outgoing) • University of Groningen Ubbo Emmius grant recipients (international PhD-students): 206

Staff
Academic: 2293 (full time equivalents) • Non-Academic: 2062 (full time equivalents)

Faculties
10

Research Centres
37

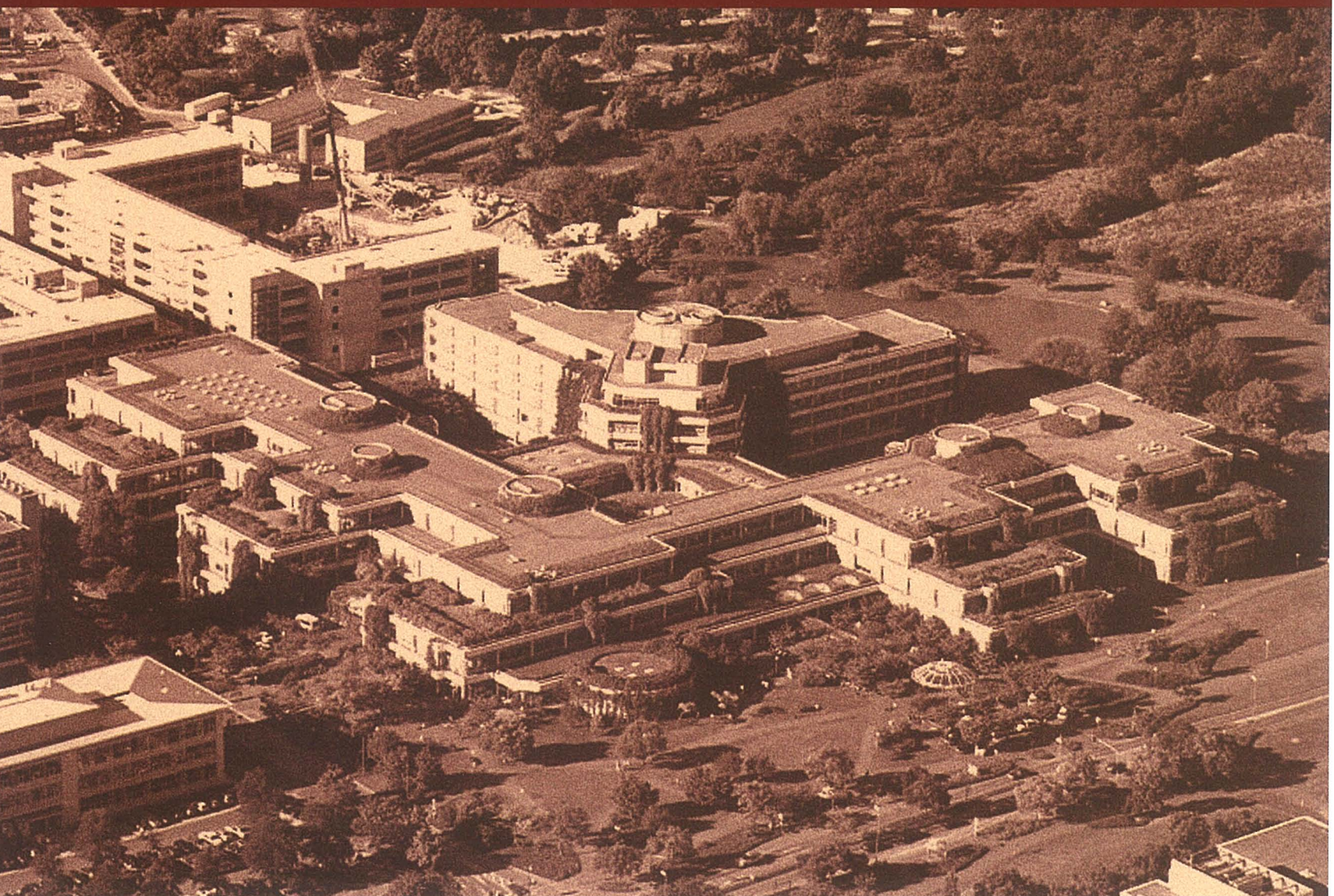
Annual Turnover
€ 500 M

Nr. of volumes and serials registered in the main **Library**: 1,5 million

UNIVERSITY OF HEIDELBERG

UNIVERSITY OF HEIDELBERG

As a founding member of the Coimbra Group, the University of Heidelberg has participated in many joint projects with other member universities and hosted the General Assembly in 1991. At present we are involved in various activities comprising the Doctoral Studies & Research (DS&R), European Programmes of Education and Training (EPET), Eastern Neighbouring Countries (ENC) Task Forces. The University also participates in the TEMPUS project with Croatian Universities and in other activities which include the Student Exchange Network (SEN), Staff Exchange Scheme, Hospitality Scheme for South-East European Countries.



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Founded in 1386, the Ruprecht-Karls-Universität is Germany's oldest university. In the course of its history, the University has established itself as a centre of excellent research and teaching, where many renowned scholars and scientists – among them eight Nobel laureates – worked and are still working. Today 27,000 students study at 12 faculties. 5,700 foreign students from 130 different countries as well as hundreds of visiting professors and researchers contribute to its international atmosphere. The University of Heidelberg offers a wide range of study programmes in Natural and Life Sciences, in Law, Economics, Social Sciences and Humanities, including specific graduate programmes for international students taught in English. As a research university, it ranks among the leading institutions in Europe.

Data
Year established: 1386 • Type of institution: Public • Academic Calendar: mid-October to mid-February, mid-April to mid-July

Degrees
Magister, Diplom, Staatsexamen, Bachelor, Master, Doktor

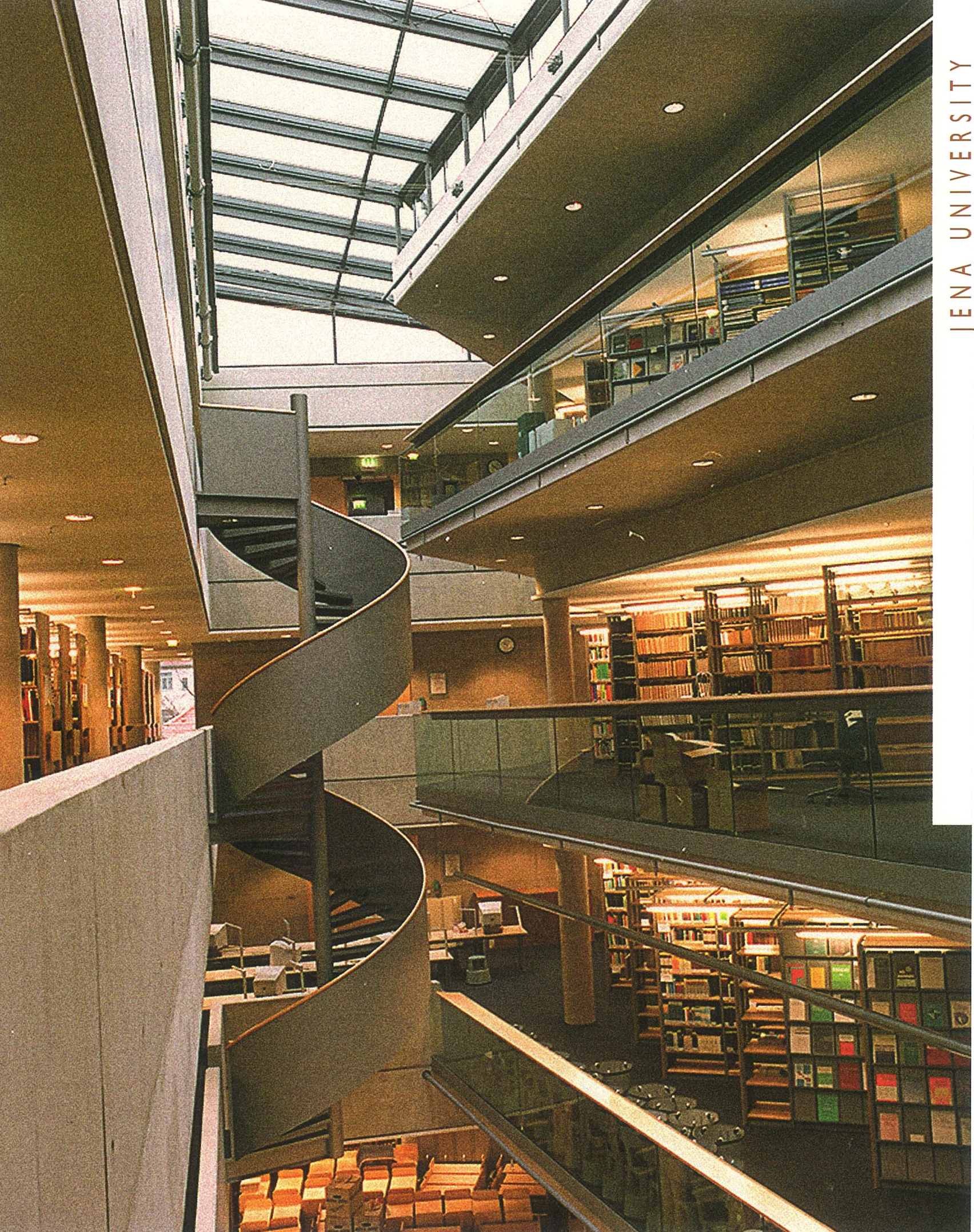
Number of Students
Undergraduate / Graduate: 27000 • International: 5700 • Exchange: 700-800 exchange students per year

Staff
University without university hospitals: Academic: 2082 (plus 1,754 part time lecturers, readers etc.) • Non-Academic: 1854
University hospitals: Academic: 2077 • Non-Academic: 5988

Faculties
Theology, Law, Medicine, Philosophy, Modern Languages, Economics & Social Sciences, Behavioural Sciences & Cultural Studies, Mathematics & Computer Science, Chemistry & Geosciences, Physics & Astronomy, Biosciences

Research Centres
Molecular Biology, Biochemistry, Neurosciences, Interdisciplinary Scientific Computing, South Asian Studies, American Studies

Nr. of volumes and serials registered in the main **Library**: 3,5 million, 11000 periodicals



JENA UNIVERSITY

JENA UNIVERSITY

From the beginning, Jena University has been involved very actively in the Task Forces CEEC (now ENC) and EPET. Jena University was among the initiators of the Coimbra Group Hospitality Scheme and the Student Exchange Network. It also joined the Task forces DSR and Culture. The Rectors of Jena University have been very committed ever since the University has become a member of the Group and has made considerable efforts to bring in the rectors and presidents' expertise into the work of the Coimbra Group.

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Founded in 1558, Jena University played a major role in the history of ideas in Germany, such as the centre of German philosophical thought or as a unique example for the integration of science, technology and industry. Jena is a modern university on the move. Jena University comprises ten faculties: Theology, Law, Economics and Business Administration, Philosophy (Arts and Letters), Social and Behavioural Sciences, Mathematics and Computer Science, Physics and Astronomy, Chemistry and Earth Sciences, Biology and Pharmacy, and Medicine.

High-tech industries and top research institutions at Jena are consistent with the strong research potential and high level teaching at the University and add to the inspiring and thriving atmosphere of interdisciplinarity, collaboration and openness. Research in fields such as quantum optics, laser physics, glass, bio-materials, cellular regulation processes, neuro-sciences, oncology, auto--immune diseases, developmental psychology, social developments after radical change, Turn-of--the-century culture in 1800, or Late Antiquity represent and determine the state of the art.

Graduate students, postgraduates and young scholars have the unique chance to join top research projects. Both graduate and undergraduate students find courses covering a wide variety of subjects leading to a degree (as Magister, Diplom, or Master) or complementing their studies at their home universities. International students and scholars enjoy a mixture of high intellectual standards, rich cultural heritage, prosperity, and local colour, all embedded in a beautiful landscape.

Data
Year established: 1558 • Academic Calendar: 1 October - 31 March; Summer Semester: 1 April - 30 September

Degrees
Diplom (Sciences, economics, business admin., psychology, theology, sports) • Magister (Humanities, social sciences, sciences, others in combination of two majors or one major and two minor subjects) • State Examination (Medicine, dentistry, pharmacy, law, teaching career) • Bakkalaureus / Bachelor (Mathematics, business mathematics, physics, geography, applied environmental sciences) • Master (post--gradual) (German as a Foreign Language, Political Science, Law (LL.M.), Commercial Law (LL.M.))

Number of Students
20000 • Undergraduate: (irrelevant) • Graduate: (irrelevant) • International: 950 • Exchange: 360 out; 250 in

Staff
Academic: 2000 • Non-Academic: 4200 (including hospitals)

Faculties
Theolog, Law, Economics and Business Administration, Philosophy (Arts and Letters), Social and Behavioural Sciences, Mathematics and Computer Science, Physics and Astronomy, Chemistry and Earth Sciences, Biology and Pharmacy, Medicine

Research Centres
Metal-induced reactions modelled on nature, Event Weimar - Jena. Turn-of-the century culture in 1800, Social developments after radical change, Multifunctional signal proteins, Gravitational waves astronomy, Marie Curie Training Site: Physics of ultra-intense laser-plasma interactions, Centre of Applied Developmental Sciences (CADS)

Nr. of volumes and serials registered in the main **Library**: 3,9 million

IAGIELLONIAN UNIVERSITY

JAGIELLONIAN UNIVERSITY

Jagiellonian University is active in several task forces, particularly in Central/Eastern European Task Force, EPET, and Doctoral Studies and Research. The University participated in projects coordinated by the Coimbra Group, such as very successful Tempus projects. In the year 2000, a conference of Coimbra Group rectors was organised in Kraków as part of the celebration of the 600th anniversary of the new Royal Charter given to the University. In the summer of 2004, a seminar on East/West cooperation after the EU enlargement was organised at Jagiellonian University, with the participation of colleagues from new neighbouring states. Jagiellonian University is recognised worldwide. It is a member of the Utrecht Network, the Coimbra Group and the SYLFF Institutions' Network.

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Jagiellonian University is the most prestigious and oldest Polish university. It is also one of the oldest universities in Europe. It was founded in 1364 by the Polish king Casimir the Great. Its students were, inter alia, astronomer Nicolaus Copernicus and Karol Wojtyla, later known as Pope John Paul II.

Jagiellonian University has its great past built on outstanding achievements of scientific, cultural and national importance. Jagiellonian University is one of Poland's leading research institutions. It has been recently rated number one among 75 academic schools in Poland. This winning position is based on numerous features of which to name only two: it has the biggest number of publications per academic teacher, and it has the biggest number of quotations (in the Philadelphia list of serials) per academic teacher. The University also leads in the number of professors: over one thousand for the 38,000 students.

Jagiellonian University, as a dynamic institution, is developing new degree programmes and courses that satisfy the needs of contemporary science, in Poland and in Europe. The University has launched a project to build a new campus, which will ultimately contain the teaching and research units of the natural sciences faculties, along with all necessary facilities.

Data
Year established: 1364 • Type of institution: Public • Academic Calendar: 2 semesters, the winter semester starts on October 1, and ends at the end of January, the spring semester starts in mid-February and ends at the beginning of June.

Degrees
BA, BS, MA, MS, PhD

Number of Students
The number of students (including Collegium Medicum students) • Total: 37385 (4311) • Regular studies: 24391 (3233) • Evening studies: 3387 (644) • Extramural studies: 8905 (434) • Extern studies: 702 • Postgraduate studies: 2293 (67) • Doctoral studies: 2219 (218)
The Jagiellonian University does not gather data in the following format (Undergraduate, Graduate, International, Exchange). Upon making special arrangements, the University is able to submit the data on the number of graduate students in case there is such requirement.

Staff
Academic: 3407 (1172) • Non-Academic: 2 966

Faculties
13

Research Centres
Regional Laboratory of Physicochemical Analyses and Structural Research

Nr. of volumes and serials registered in the main **Library**: 3 926 244 (incl. 684 727)

LEIDEN UNIVERSITY

LEIDEN UNIVERSITY

Leiden University is a founder member of the Coimbra Group. The Leiden representative, Dr Peter Floor, has chaired the Steering Committee (now the Executive Board) for several years, and the University hosted the yearly General Assembly in 1995. Since Leiden University has a Department of Latin American studies, it is active in the Task Force for Latin America. The University also participates in EPET, the task force for European Programmes of Education and Training. Leiden University has contributed to various projects in the field of e-learning and ICT too.

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Leiden University focuses not just on knowledge transfer, but also on debate and critical thinking whereby students' ability to think independently is greatly stimulated. In all programmes, there is a strong relationship between education and research.

Leiden University has nine Faculties and a School of Management. While undergraduate programmes are usually taught in Dutch, the language of instruction in postgraduate education is predominantly English.

Research at Leiden University is well developed, and houses many university research institutes and centres. The University participates in over forty nation-wide research schools, and is at the heart of twelve of them. Leiden University is a founding member of the League of European Research Universities, a network aiming to raise awareness of the importance of fundamental research.

Leiden University maintains a lively exchange of researchers and students with universities abroad. The University has a firmly established international position among the top research universities and institutes in many fields.

Data
Year established: 1575 • Academic Calendar: September - September

Degrees
Bachelor's, Master's, PhD

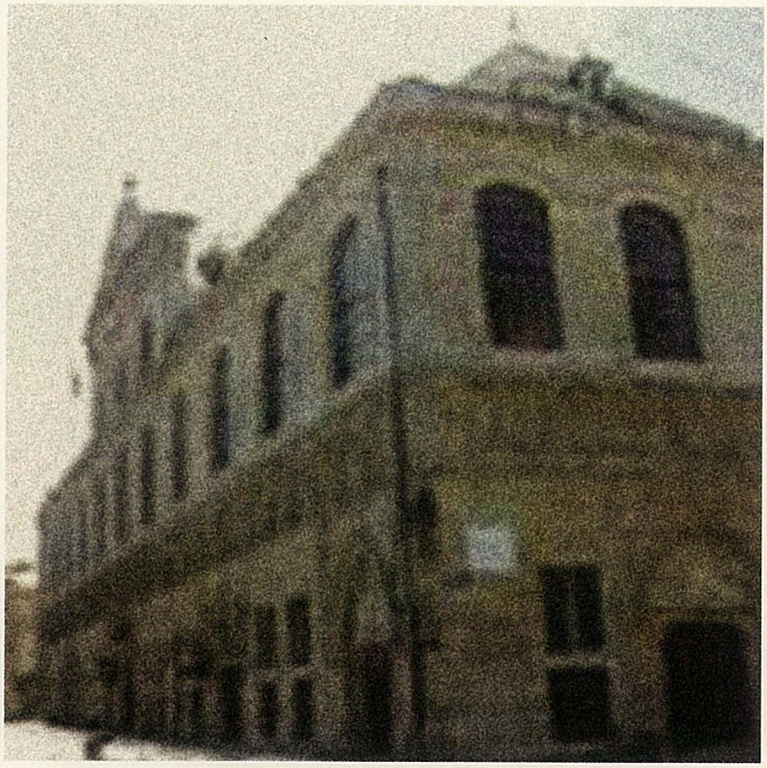
Number of Students
Undergraduate: 12500 • Graduate: 5500 • International: 600 • Exchange: 400

Staff
Exclusive of Faculty of Medicine/University Hospital • Academic: about 1150 • Non-Academic: about 1400

Faculties
Religion, Law, Medicine, Mathematics and Natural Sciences, Arts, Social and Behavioural Sciences, Philosophy, Archaeology, Creative and Performing Arts; School of Management.

Nr. of volumes and serials registered in the main **Library**: about 2 500 000

CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF LEUVEN



CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF LEUVEN

The Catholic University of Leven (K.U.Leuven) was one of the founding members of the Coimbra Group in 1985. From the very beginning the university has been involved in activities of the network, such as the creation of the (then) Task Force on Central and Eastern European Countries. K.U.Leuven nowadays actively participates in the Task Forces EPET, ENC, MED, ACP, Latin America and e-learning. It is involved in the Hospitality Scheme, the Scholarships for Latin American scholars and the Winterschool in Split. Prof. Guido Langouche of K.U.Leuven is a member of the Executive Board of the Coimbra Group.

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K.U.Leuven was founded in 1425 and has today expanded into the largest university of Flanders, with 29000 students. Its history of nearly six hundred years has provided K.U.Leuven with its own dynamic international dimension. Today international co-operation is regarded as essential for a modern university. Top-level research is judged according to international standards and implies interaction, co-operation and exchange, both of researchers and results. One European survey ranks K.U.Leuven among the top ten European universities in terms of its scholarly output. Likewise with regard to teaching, several quality surveys demonstrate that K.U.Leuven is on a par with internationally respected institutions in a large number of fields.

This academic reputation attracts students from all over the world. K.U.Leuven has been involved in the Erasmus student exchange programme since its launch in Europe in the 1980s; the growing success of the Erasmus programme later on led to the launch of the Socrates programme, and today K.U.Leuven has over 300 contracts under this programme. Each year around 600 international Erasmus students spend part of their study programme in Leuven, while about 500 of our students share the same European experience at a foreign university. The TEMPUS-PHARE programme was set up for students and researchers from Eastern Europe, while contacts with universities in the former Soviet Union are being built up through the TEMPUS-TACIS programme. The co-operation with universities in Latin America falls within the ambit of the ALFA programme. Besides these exchange programmes, the university has set up a number of international academic programmes aimed both at Belgian and international students. Unlike the regular Dutch--language programmes, the international academic programmes are taught in English. Most of these programmes confer graduate degrees: undergraduate programmes are offered in English only in the fields of theology, philosophy and canon law.

Data
Year established: 1425 • Academic Calendar: 22-27 September 2004: Orientation Days for International Students; 28 September 2004: Start of classes in the first semester; 24 December 2004: End of classes in the first semester; 24 December 2004-9 January 2005: Christmas and New Year holidays; 10-16 January 2005: Exam preparation. No classes; 7 January-5 February 2005: First semester exams; 6-13 February 2005: Mid-year break. No classes; 10-14 February 2005: Orientation Days for International Students; 14 February 2005: Start of classes in the second semester; 26 March-10 April 2005: Easter holidays; 28 May 2005: End of classes in the second semester; 28 May 2005-2 June 2005: Exam preparation. No classes; 13 June-9 July 2005: Second semester exams; 22 August-17 September 2005: Examination retakes for failed students

Number of Students
Undergraduate: 10 710 • Graduate: 10 076 • International: 3594 • Exchange: 741

Staff
Academic: 6669 • Non-Academic: 3409

Faculties
Faculty of Theology • Faculty of Canon Law • Institute of Philosophy • Faculty of Law • Faculty of Economics and Applied Economics • Faculty of Social Sciences • Faculty of Arts • Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences • Faculty of Medicine • Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences • Faculty of Kinesiology and Rehabilitation Sciences • Faculty of Science • Faculty of Engineering • Faculty of Applied Bioscience and Engineering

Research Centres
http://www.kuleuven.ac.be/onderzoek/kernprojecten

Nr. of volumes and serials registered in the main **Library**: In December 2002: total amount for the whole university (the libraries in every faculty): 4 558 345
In December 2002: total amount for the central university library: 1 227 466

CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF LOUVAIN

CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF LOUVAIN

The Catholic University of Louvain (UCL) is one of the founding universities of the Coimbra Group. The initiative for the creation of the Coimbra Goup came from UCL, in 1985, that wished to establish a strategic alliance of European Universities. Today, UCL is actively involved in each of the Coimbra Task Forces and is chairing the ACP TF. Among recent activities, UCL organised, in March 2004, in collaboration with Coimbra Group, Columbus and Cinda networks in Louvain-la-Neuve, an international workshop on the implementation of the Bologna Process for Latin American Institutions of Higher Education. In June 2004, UCL participated in the organisation of the ENC seminar in Cracovia on the evaluation of the Tempus programme. UCL has also been very active in the implementation of the ECP contract with the EU and will host the Coimbra Group Conference on Higher Education Cooperation with ACP countries on March 10th -11th 2005. UCL also collaborates to the Coimbra Hospitality Scheme. Finally, UCL prepared the legal basis of the Coimbra Group which was approved and voted upon during the 2002 General Assembly in Granada.

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Address: Administration des relations internationales, Place de l'Université 1,
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Founded in 1425, the Catholic University of Louvain is one of the oldest universities in Europe. It was split in 1971 into two separate universities, one Dutch-speaking remaining in Leuven (K.U.Leuven), one French-speaking (Université catholique de Louvain-UCL), set up on two newly-built campuses located in Louvain-la-Neuve and in Brussels. Louvain-la-Neuve is no ordinary campus. In twenty-five years, it has established its reputation as a city in itself. UCL is a complete university and has 21 000 students studying in 10 faculties. The Faculty of Medicine of UCL, (4,000 students) has chosen to establish itself in Brussels where a new university hospital was built. UCL is a European and International University. There are several options for students who wish to do part of their study programme at a partner university. Today one out of four graduates has had a significant international experience. Since 2004, UCL is involved in the Erasmus Mundus scheme, welcoming students from the world. From the third Framework programme (EU) onwards, UCL has been amongst the leading European universities (7th). The three Science Parks of UCL (Louvain-la--Neuve, Brussels, Seneffe) have as a mission to promote close collaboration between industry and the university, to contribute to regional development. The Science Park in Louvain-la--Neuve welcomes about 100 companies and provides employment for more than 4,000 people. Over the past couple of years, UCL has initiated about ten spin-off companies in the field of computer sciences, bio-industry and other high--tech areas.

Data
Year established: 1425 • Type of institution (public/private): Free University • Academic Calendar: 15/9-20/12; 20/1-15/5

Degrees
UCL offers 33 programmes for the 1st cycle (called Bachelor's degrees under the Bologna reform) and 250 programmes for 2nd and 3rd cycle.

Number of Students
Undergraduate: 14 772 • Graduate: 6229 • International: 3779 (non EU) • Exchange: 800

Staff
Academic: 3080 (1302 professors and 1798 assistants or scientists) • Non--Academic: 1929

Faculties
Medicine; Theology • Philosophy • Psychology • Humanities and Liberal Arts • Economic, Social and Political Sciences • Polytechnics • Sciences • Bio-engineering • Law
Two university hospitals (one in Brussels and the other in Wallonia) • Doctoral schools: 19

Research Centres
200 research units.

Nr. of volumes and serials registered in the main **Library**: 2 000 000 volumes, 5000 current periodicals, 10 000 electronic periodicals.

UNIVERSITY OF LYON

UNIVERSITY OF LYON

Within the Coimbra Group, the University of Lyon is mainly represented in the EPET and the E-learning groups.

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Site: http://www.pul.fr
Address: Pôle Universitaire de Lyon • 37 rue du Repos
69361 Lyon Cedex 07 France

Lyon is the first university city in France, after Paris, as regards to the number of students, 12% of whom are international students. Fifteen universities and higher education institutions, either public or private, act as a consortium in order to promote the interdisciplinary excellence of the higher education and research offered by their member institutions.

Students wishing to improve their French language skills can take French courses at any level and sit examinations for diplomas in one of the three centres offering French taught as a second language.

Special programmes, taught in English, are designed to welcome foreign students and allow them to join regular degree programmes taught in French.

The research sector is very active.

Data
Year established: 1995 for the consortium and as old as 1835 for some faculties • Type of institution: public for the status of the consortium itself but including both public and private establishments • Academic Calendar: September through June

Degrees
L M D

Number of Students
Undergraduate: 86 000 • Graduate: 15 000 • International: 12 000 • Exchange: 2500

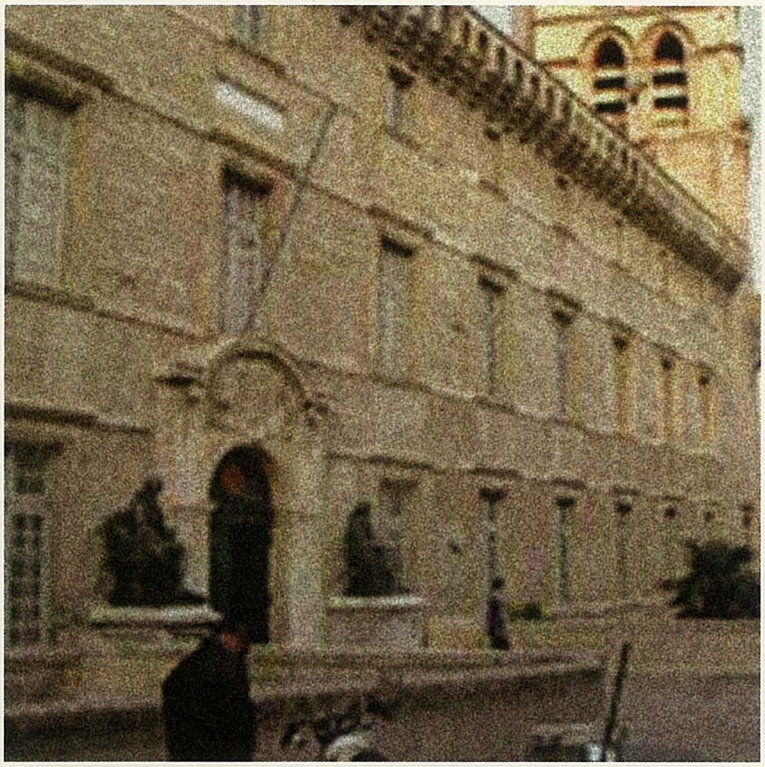
Staff
Academic: 6000 • Non-Academic: 4200

Faculties
The range of higher education courses is very wide: Sciences • Engineering • Information Technology • Urban Planning • Environment • Medicine • Health • Veterinary Studies • Food Sciences • Arts • Business • Management • Economics • Law • Political Sciences • Communication • Languages • Humanities • Social Sciences • Sports • Librarianship • Sciences of Education.

Research Centres
460 laboratories and research teams • 900 PhD theses were defended in 2004

Nr. of volumes and serials registered in the main **Library**: More than 250 000 volumes 195 000 PhD reports, 1400 paper serials and 6000 serials on line.

UNIVERSITY OF MONTPELLIER



UNIVERSITY OF MONTPELLIER

The University of Montpellier as a whole participates in various Task Forces. The University of Montpellier 1 takes part in the African, Caribbean, Pacific Countries – ACP Task Force, the Central & Eastern European Countries – CEEC Task Force, and the Doctoral Studies & Research Task Force. The University of Montpellier 2 participates actively in the E-Learning Task Force. The University of Montpellier 3 participates in the Culture Task Force, the European Programmes for Education & Training – EPET Task Force, the Latin America Task Force – LATF, and the Contact person international office.

Name of the institution: University of Montpellier
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Fax: 00 33 4 67 14 21 59
E-mail: alain.blayac@univ-montp3.fr
Site: http://www.univ-montp1.fr • www.univ-montp2.fr • www.univ-montp3.fr
Address: University of Montpellier 1: 5, Boulevard Henri IV – BP 1 017 – 34006 Montpellier Cedex 1
University of Montpellier 2: Place Eugène Bataillon – 34095 Montpellier Cedex 5
University of Montpellier 3: Route de Mende – 34199 Montpellier Cedex 5

The University of Montpellier is divided into three Universities: the University of Montpellier 1, the University of Montpellier 2 and the University of Montpellier 3. At the University of Montpellier 1, law and medicine have been taught side by side since the 13th century. Alongside these subjects, there is a wide range of state diplomas and university degrees in the fields of economics, management sciences, health care and sports and work-oriented programmes in computer sciences applied to law, safety management, food sciences, rural economics and biology, based on close collaborations with corresponding socio-professional sectors. Located in different sites around the city, its premises guarantee a dynamic framework for your studies. The University of Montpellier 2 is focused on sciences and technology: mathematics, astronomy, physics and chemistry, zoology, botanic, mineralogy. A wide range of specialisations and the creation of a number of work-oriented programmes are offered. Computer sciences, electronics, robotics and networks, materials sciences and international business complete its high-ranking technologica network, contributing to the University's wide scope. An international centre draws scientists from all around the world. The University of Montpellier 3 owes its name to the poet Paul VALERY. Literature, foreign languages, including some rarely taught ones, art and social sciences form a harmonious body. More recently, some new exciting diplomas have been added: information and communication, management of social rehabilitation projects, organisation of cultural events, cinema, etc. The multi-ethnicity is reflected in its myriad of languages. Its language institute, renowned for its intensive one-term and summer French courses, is a must for students who wish to improve their French.

Data
Year established: the constitution of the Universities of Montpellier 1, Montpellier 2 and Montpellier 3 has been registered from the 24th November 1969 • Type of institution: PubliC • Academic Calendar: 1st semester: beginning of September – December the twentieth. 2nd semester: mid January – beginning of May.

Degrees
L M D

Number of Students
61 298 (UM1, UM2, UM3) • Graduate: 9906 • International: 7237 • Exchange: 1100

Staff
Academic: UM 1: 1228; UM 2: 1600; UM 3: 930 • Non-Academic: UM 1: 750; UM 2: 638; UM 3: 635

Faculties
UM 1: 7 Faculties: Law, AES, Economics, STAPS, Odontology, Medicine and Pharmacy • UM 2: 5 Faculties: UFR Sciences, 2 IUT, IAE, Polytech Montpellier • UM 3: 6 Faculties: UFR 1: Arts, Philosophy, Linguistics, Psychoanalysis. UFR 2: Languages, Literatures and Foreign Civilisations. UFR 3: Human Sciences and Environment Sciences. UFR 4: Economics and Social Sciences. UFR 5: Personal and Social Sciences. UFR 6: Roman and Mediterranean Languages.

Research Centres
University of Montpellier 1: 52 Laboratories with 1 000 researchers • University of Montpellier 2: 50 Laboratories with 1 230 researchers • University of Montpellier 3: 33 Laboratories with 510 researchers

Nr. of volumes and serials registered in the main **Library**: 2 000 000

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

Oxford was a founder member of the Coimbra Group and hosted the General Assembly meeting in 1992 under the Presidency of its then Vice-Chancellor, Sir Richard Southwood. Over the years it has been involved in a range of task force activities. In particular, it built on its existing links with universities of Eastern Europe, to participate in the Central and East European Task Force in the 1990s. From 1990-93, it co-ordinated one of the earliest TEMPUS projects in Social Sciences: Applied Economics and Management, involving some 13 Coimbra Group universities and 9 universities in Poland, Hungary and Slovakia It was subsequently involved in TEMPUS projects in university management with universities in Poland and Romania. Many of the Oxford's Socrates Erasmus links are with other Coimbra Group universities including Padua, Siena, Bologna, Leiden, Thessaloniki and Groningen.

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Fax: 44 1865 27270077
E-mail: sue.Bennett@admin.ox.ac.uk
Site: http://www.ox.ac.uk
Address: University of Oxford, University Offices, Wellington Square, Oxford OX1 2JD, UK

After nine centuries of continuous existence, the University is justly famous for its ancient college buildings, its outstanding museum collections and its extensive libraries. However, it is also a forward-looking University with modern teaching and research facilities, including highly rated science and medical departments. New undergraduate and graduate courses continue to be developed, including an increasing number of one-year taught Master's programmes. Oxford has retained its traditional collegiate structure, with some 39 colleges related to the University in a federal structure. Colleges provide accommodation, meals, welfare support and social facilities for their students, as well as tutorial teaching for undergraduates.

The University sets course content, organises lectures and seminars, provides laboratories, central libraries and computing facilities, sets examinations and awards degrees.

The University is internationally renowned for the quality of its research and collaborates widely with international academic and industrial partners.

It has around 3,000 postgraduate students working on research of whom around a half come from outside the UK.

Data
Year established: No clear date of foundation but known to exist in some form from 1090 • Type of institution: Public • Academic Calendar: October to June

Degrees
(BA), Master's (M.Sc., M.St., M.Phil., M.Litt.) Doctorate (D.Phil)

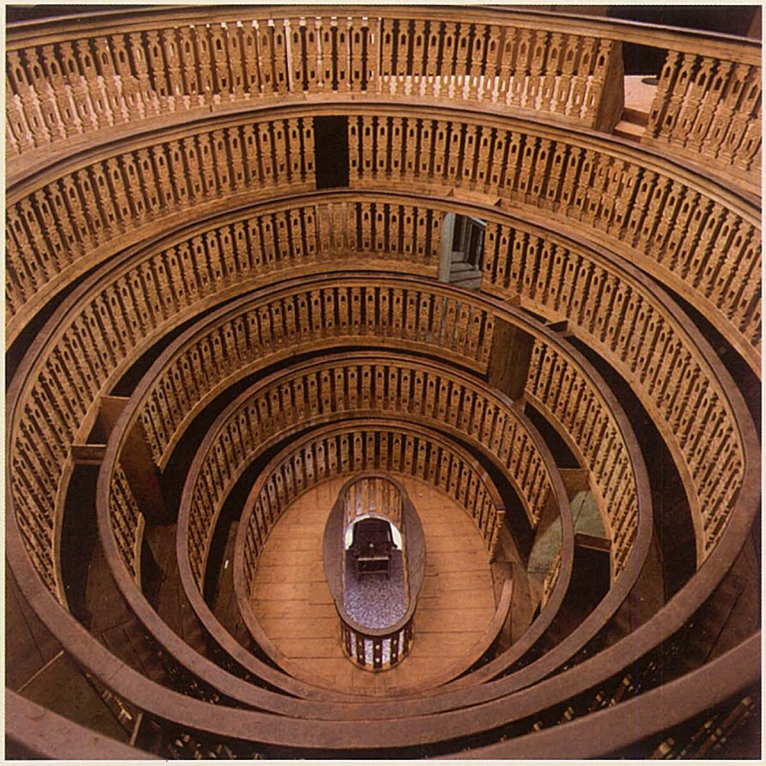
Number of Students
Undergraduate: 11 086 • Graduate: 6096 • International (included in the above totals): 1041 (undergraduate) and 3319 (postgraduate) • Exchange: No figures available.

Staff
Academic: 1428 (teaching and research) 2383 (research only) • Non-Academic: 3828

Faculties
Humanities: English, History, Literae Humaniores, Music, Oriental Studies, Fine Art, Modern Languages, Linguistics • *Life and Environmental Sciences*: Anthropology, Archaeology, Biochemistry, Geography, Plant Sciences, Zoology • *Mathematical and Physical Sciences*: Engineering, Materials, Chemistry, Physics, Earth Sciences, Mathematics • *Medical Sciences*: Clinical Medicine, Physiological Sciences, Psychology • *Social Sciences*: Law, Management, Economics, Politics, Educational Studies, Development Studies

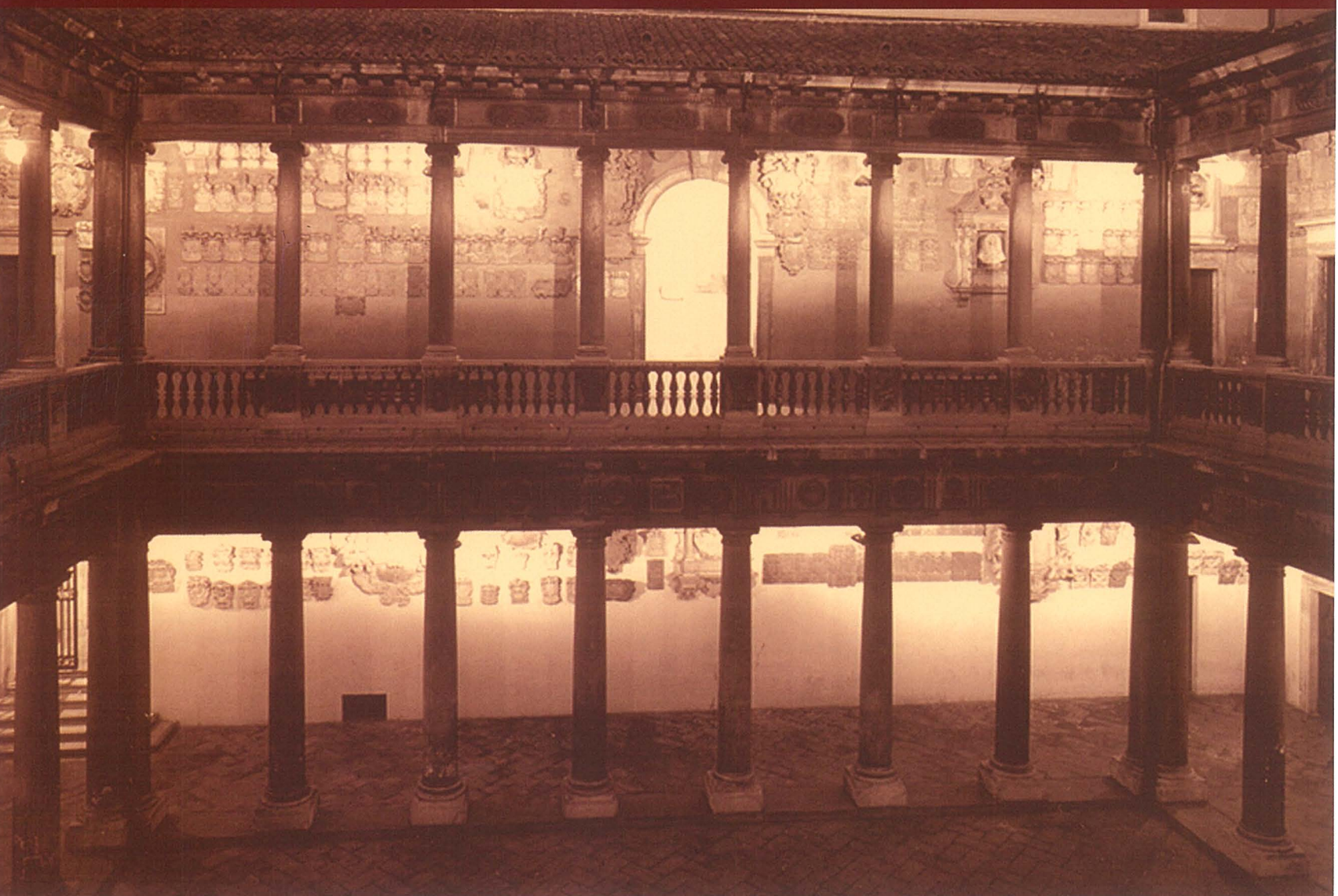
Nr. of volumes and serials registered in the main **Library**: Over 7 million volumes

UNIVERSITY OF PADOVA



UNIVERSITY OF PADOVA

The University of Padova joined the Coimbra Group in 1998. Since then it has participated in most Task Forces with several active representatives. Padova has often hosted and supported Task Force meetings and workshops. Among the main events, we recall the Meeting of the Círculos Europeos de América Latina, in summer 2002, and the Workshop on Coimbra Group Joint Degrees, in February 2003. An important contribution was also given to the implementation of the service contract signed with the European Commission in 2002, in order to carry out a preparatory study for a higher education cooperation programme between EU and ACP countries. A last organisational effort was the participation through the EPET Task Force in the EUA consultation concerning the TRENDS IV Report.



Name of the institution: Università degli Studi di Padova
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Fax: 049 -8273060- 049 8273917
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Site: http://www.unipd.it
Address: Via VIII Febbraio, 2 35122 Padova

The University of Padova was founded in 1222 and it is one of the most ancient universities in Europe. Throughout centuries many professors, jurists and literati made the University of Padova a centre, which irradiated culture all over Europe. The School of Medicine has been of significant importance with the founding of the first permanent anatomy theatre in 1594.

Galileo Galilei, to mention only one, was professor at the University of Padova, and Elena Lucrezia Cornaro Piscopia was the first woman in the world to graduate at a university in 1678.

At present the University of Padova consists of thirteen Schools (Faculties) and 65 Departments in almost all subject areas. It has about 62.600 registered students on a total population of 205.000 inhabitants. It has extremely active relations with other academic institutions and research centres all over the world, through exchanges of students, teachers, information and publications.

Data
Year established: 1222 • Type of institution: Public • Academic Calendar: *1st and 2nd cycles*: from October 1st to September 30th. Both a semester organisation and a three-term organisation coexist. *Doctoral cycle*: January 1st to December 31st.

Degrees
120 – 1st cycle degrees (Bologna Reform) • 83 – 2nd cycle degrees (Bologna Reform) • 95 – Doctoral Programmes grouped into 25 Doctoral Schools • 65 – Schools of Specialisation • 55 – "Italian Master" courses (at least 60 ECTS, mostly for LLL)

Number of Students
We are in transitory phase, during which the Bologna reforms are gradually applied. Figures in bold refer to academic year 2004-05, other figures to 2003-04: Undergraduate: 39408 in the 1st cycle of the Bologna Reform; 11701 in the old organisation of studies, aiming at getting the old degree • Graduate: 7275 in the 2nd cycle of the Bologna Reform; 1410 doctoral students; 1899 students of Schools of Specialisation; 1040 students of "Italian Master" courses • International: 1893 in the Bologna cycles and in the old organisation 60 Doctoral students • Exchange: about 800 out, 600 in

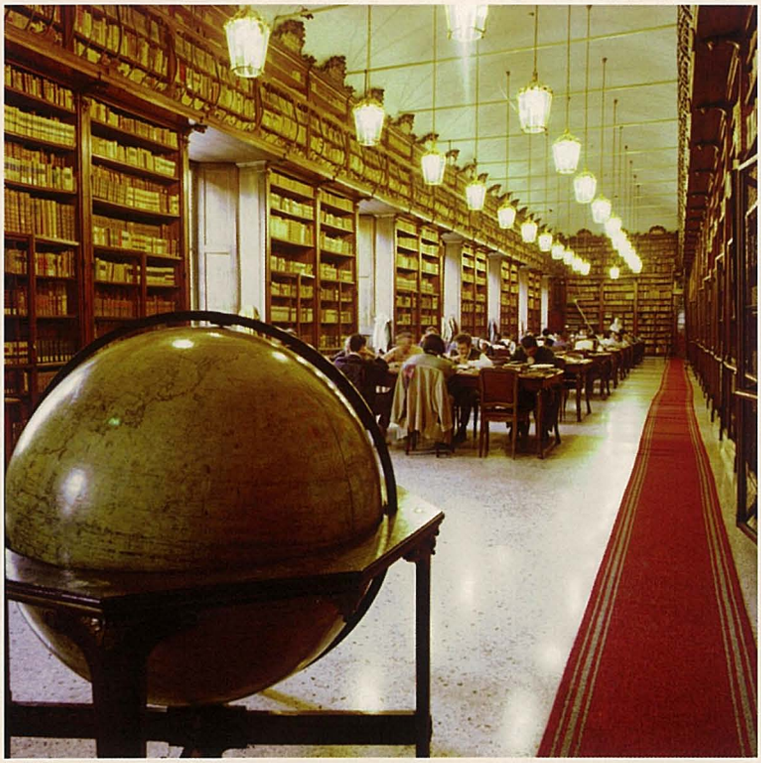
Staff
Academic: 3146 • Non-Academic: 2162

Faculties
13

Research Centres
65 Departments and more than 60 other centres

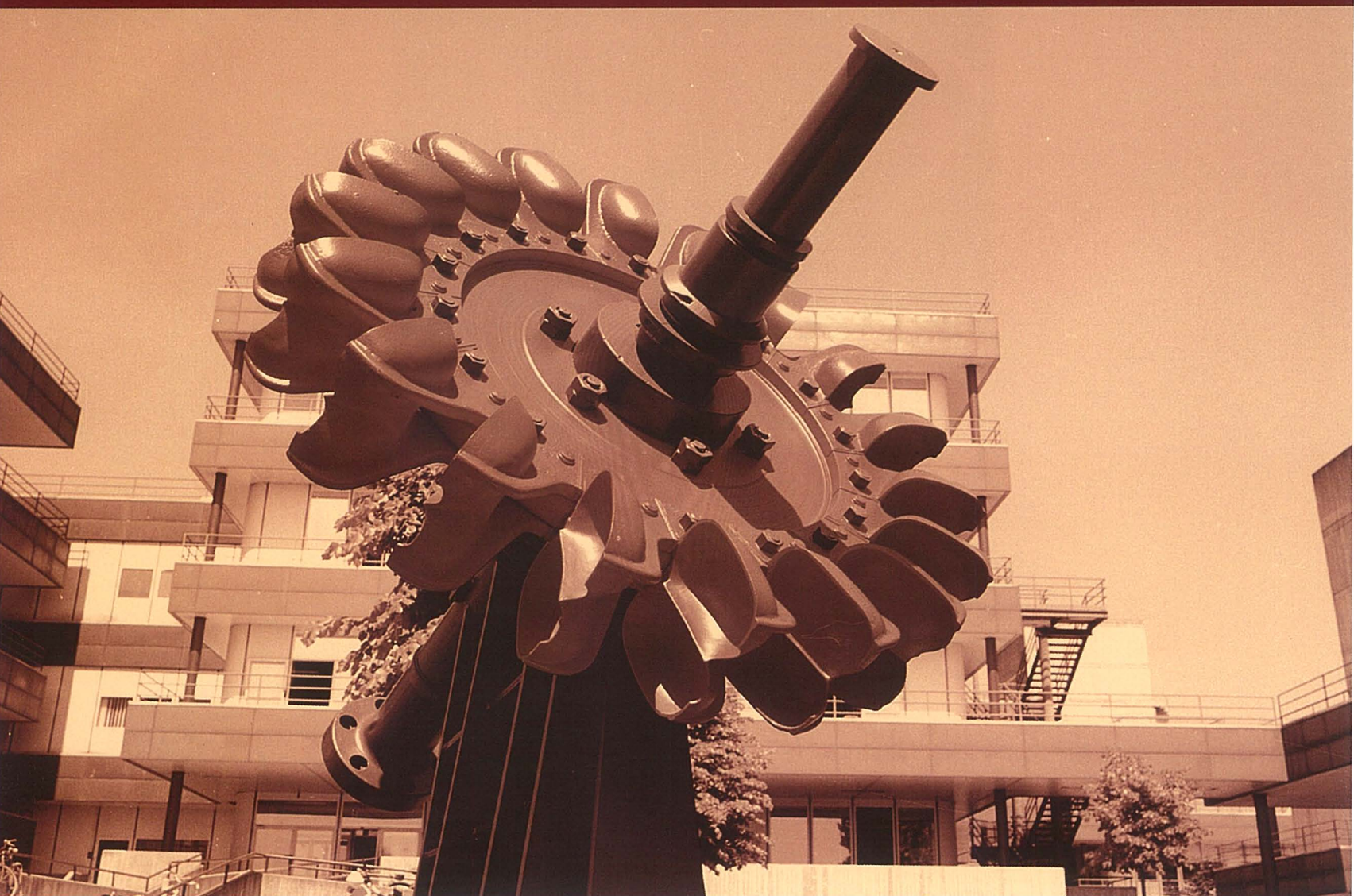
Nr. of volumes and serials registered in the main **Library**: A unified system of 54 University libraries offers 1 900 000 volumes, 12 500 magazines, 4000 on-line magazines, more than 90 data banks.

UNIVERSITY OF PAVIA



UNIVERSITY OF PAVIA

The commitment of the University of Pavia vis-à-vis the Coimbra Group has always been very intense. As a founding member of the Group, the University of Pavia was the venue of the meeting in 1987 when the original 19 participant universities signed the Group's Charter. Rectors and representatives regularly attend the annual General Assemblies and actively contribute to the development of the Group's policy. In this respect, the General Assembly that took p1ace in Pavia in June 1999 was memorable, when special tribute was paid to Alessandro Volta, who was Rector of the University, on the occasion of the 200th Anniversary of his invention of the electric battery. Representatives of the University of Pavia were elected to the Group's Executive Board in 1987 and again in 1999. The current Chairman of the Executive Board comes from this University.



Name of the institution: Universita'Degli Studi di Pavia
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Address: Corso Strada Nuova 65, I 27100 Pavia, Italy

The origins of the University of Pavia date back to the year 825 when Lothar, King of Italy, established a School for Higher Education for the officers of the kingdom. The School obtained the status of "Studium Generale" from the Emperor Charles IV in 1361. Over the following centuries, and in particular in the Renaissance and from the second half of the 18th century up to the present time, the fame of the University of Pavia spread well beyond Italy because of its qualified scholars and prominent scientists. Very typical of the University of Pavia, and unique in Italy, is the presence of a system of colleges and residences attached to the University – their origins dating from the 15th century. In the peaceful and charming setting of a small and ancient town, located close to the lively and stimulating metropolitan area of Milan, students from Italy and abroad attend courses held by qualified teachers and prepare themselves for the challenges of modern society.

Data
Year established: 1361 • Type of institution (public/private): Public • Academic Calendar: annual courses: 1st November to 15th May; semester courses: 1st October to 15th January; 1st March to 15th June.

Degrees
1st level, 2nd level, Master, Doctoral

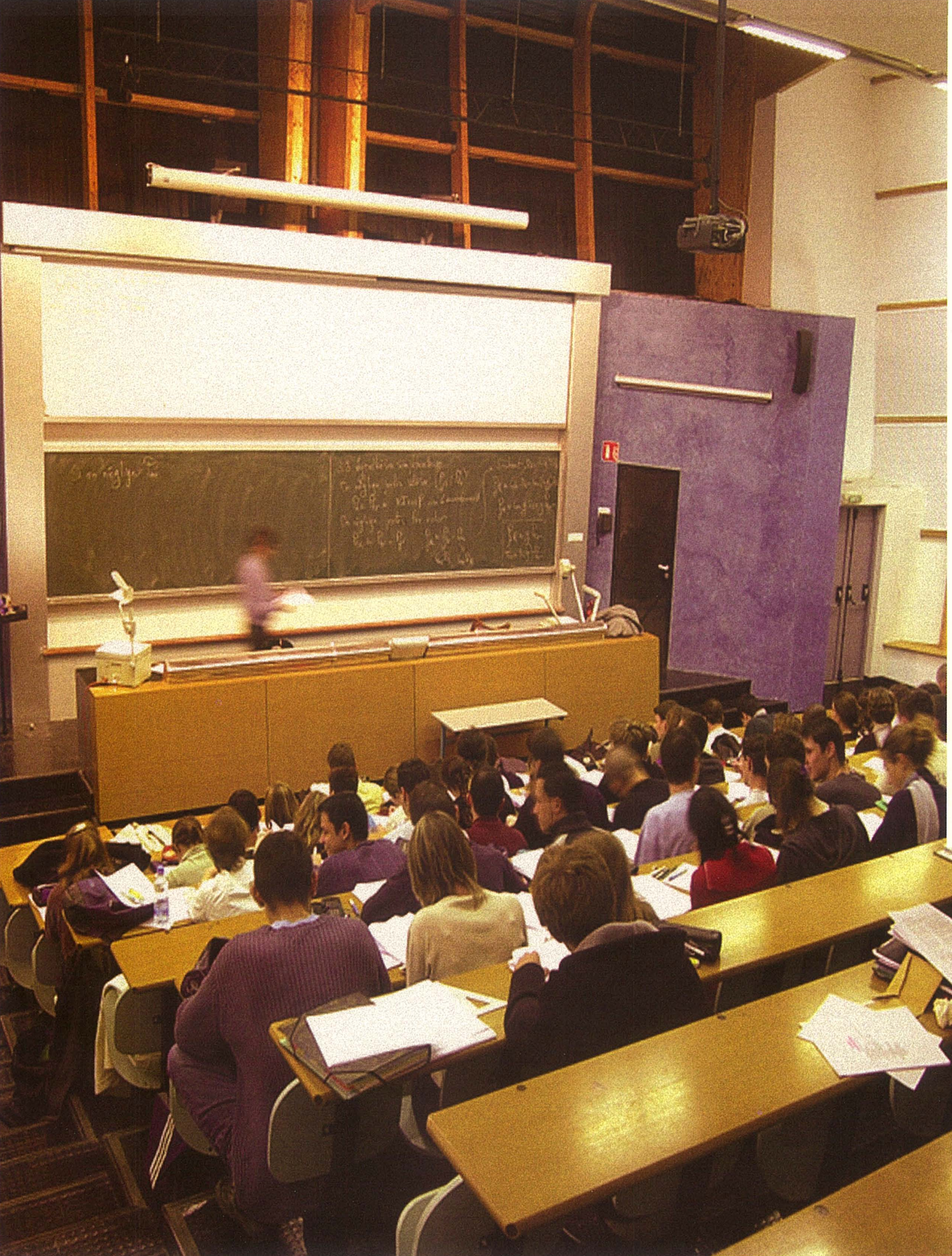
Number of Students
Undergraduate: 22 247 • Graduate: 3585 • International: 705 undergraduate + 87 graduate • Exchange: 436 (incoming + outgoing Erasmus students)

Staff
Academic: 1134 • Non-Academic: 970

Faculties
9 (Musicology, Literature & Philosophy, Medicine & Surgery, Economics, Law, Political Sciences, Natural Sciences, Engineering, Pharmacy)

Research Centres
20, in various fields

Nr. of volumes and serials registered in the main **Library**: Volumes about 500 000 / serials: about 5000



UNIVERSITY OF POITIERS

UNIVERSITY OF POITIERS

Professor Dominique BREILLAT of the University of Poitiers is a member of the Coimbra Group Steering Committee. Mrs. Salwa NACOUZI, Vice-Rector of the University of Poitiers, is chairperson of the MED Task Force. The University of Poitiers is also represented in the EPET Task Force on Educational Programmes by Mr. Christian CORMIER.

The University of Poitiers also participates in the Coimbra Group Student Exchange Network (SEN).

Name of the institution: University of Poitiers
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Fax: 33.(0)5.49.45.30.39
E-mail: ri@univ-poitiers.fr
Site: http://www.univ-poitiers.fr
Address: 15 Rue de l'Hôtel Dieu – 86034 Poitiers – France

Founded in 1431, the University of Poitiers is a community of over 25000 students and 2600 faculty members and staff.

Located in the capital of the region, the university has three major sites – in the town centre, on campus and in the training area of the Futuroscope complex. Its influence extends throughout the entire Poitou-Charentes region with its extension centres in several towns: Angoulême, Châtellerault, Niort.

The University of Poitiers offers over 200 national diplomas at different levels including some hundred professional curricula.

Research at the University of Poitiers contributes to the advancement of knowledge in many scientific fields, guaranteeing high-quality curricula and actively participating in the dynamics of socio-economic development.

The University of Poitiers has signed academic and research agreements with over 255 universities across the globe promoting student, faculty and administrative staff exchange, joint research and pedagogical expertise.

Data
Year established: 1431 • Type of institution (public/private): Public • Academic Calendar: See www.univ-poitiers.fr; rubrique formation

Degrees
Over 200 national diplomas

Number of Students
24800 • Undergraduate: 11034 • Graduate: 8163 • International: 3548 • Exchange: 600

Staff
Academic: 1450 • Non-Academic: 900

Faculties
14

Research Centres
51

Nr. of volumes and serials registered in the main **Library**: 500 000 volumes, 6000 magazines titles

CHARLES UNIVERSITY

CHARLES UNIVERSITY

Charles University is a member of the Coimbra Group and participates in the General Assembly.

Name of the institution: Charles University in Prague
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The University was founded in 1348 and originally consisted of 4 faculties. Today, Charles University comprises 17 relatively independent and self-governing faculties, which are located in Prague, Pilsen, and Hradec Kralove.

Charles University prides itself on its high quality teaching, excellent research records and academics who are leading professionals in their field.

Charles University has over 42,000 students, including international students coming to the University to obtain their degree. Charles University welcomes applications from all international students. Some international students come to study to the University on their own initiative, but others thanks to a wide range of schemes, inter-governmental programmes, exchange programmes or study abroad programmes.

Data
Year established: 1348 • Type of institution (public/private): Public • Academic Calendar: October, 1 – June, 30

Degrees
Bc (3 yrs), MUDr. (Medicine – 6 yrs), Mgr. (4-6 yrs), PhD (3yrs)

Number of Students
Undergraduate: 3752 • Graduate: 5237 • International: 4305 • Exchange: in 1701; out 2784

Staff
Academic: 5208 • Non-Academic: 465

Faculties
17

Research Centres
6

Nr. of volumes and serials registered in the main **Library**: 37 000

UNIVERSITY OF SALAMANCA

UNIVERSITY OF SALAMANCA

The University of Salamanca's main activities in the Coimbra Group are related to its participation in the African, Caribbean and Pacific Countries, Doctoral Studies and Research, European Programmes of Education and Training, E-learning, and Latin America Task-Forces. The University also participated in the "Coimbra Group Winter School".

Name of the institution: Universidad de Salamanca
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Fax: 34 923 29 46 14
E-mail: vic.internacional@usal.es
Site: http://www.usal.es
Address: Patio de Escuelas, 1. CP: 37071. Salamanca

The University of Salamanca has it origins in the thirteenth century when King Alfonso IX of León founded the Estudium for the teaching of Theology, Arts, Law and Medicine. In 1254, Alfonso X granted the statute (Carta Magna) by which it received the name of University.

In 1255, the Pope Alexander VI granted universal validity to the degrees given by Salamanca (ius ubique docendi) as well as the use of its own seal.

The University attained its maximum splendour during the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries. It began to decline in the middle of the seventeenth century and recovered its splendour at the beginning of the twentieth century.

At present, the University of Salamanca is a public institution, with legal entity and its own property. It has autonomy in academic, economic and financial matters and its government. It is recognised by the Spanish Constitution (art. 27.10) and by other Spanish laws.

Data
Year established: 1218 • Type of institution (public/private): Public • Academic Calendar: 27th September to 11th July

Degrees
190

Number of Students
Undergraduate: 30446 • Graduate: 1800 • International: 7000 • Exchange: 1300

Staff
Academic: 2700 • Non-Academic: 900

Faculties
16

Research Centres
Centro de Documentación Europea; Centro de Investigación del Cáncer; Centro de Historia Universitaria Alfonso IX; Centro Tecnológico de Diseño Cultural y de Desarrollo de las Comunicaciones; Centro Hispano Luso de Investigaciones Agrarias; Centro de Investigación y Desarrollo Tecnológico del Agua; Centro de Investigaciones Lingüísticas (CILUS); Centro Tecnológico Multimedia; Centro de Investigación en Ciencias del Comportamiento (CICCO)

Nr. of volumes and serials registered in the main **Library**: Volumes existing in the whole University are over of one million

UNIVERSITY OF SIENA

UNIVERSITY OF SIENA

The University of Siena has been a member of the Coimbra Group since its inception, and participates actively today in the activities of the Group. In particular in the PhD Exchange Programmes, the Scholarships Programme for Young professors and researchers from Latin American Universities, the Coimbra Group Staff Visiting Scheme, and the Coimbra Group SEN Programme. Furthermore, the University of Siena is represented in the Culture and Doctoral Studies and Research Task Forces in which the Chairperson is from the University of Siena. The University is also a member of the European Programmes of Education and Training (EPET), the E-learning, Latin America, and African, Caribbean and Pacific Countries (ACP) Task Forces.

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The University of Siena is a large and ancient institution of education and culture, open to relations with other Universities in Europe and in the rest of the world. Since the Middle- Ages, cradle of modern culture, the University's history has developed along the cultural tradition of Tuscany, today territory where technological innovation develops from the angle of sustainable development. The community of the University of Siena includes some twenty thousand students, a thousand teaching staff and a thousand technical and administrative staff.

Economics, Law, Medicine, Earth and Life Sciences, Humanities, and, most recently, Communication Sciences, all characterise teaching and research at the University of Siena.

Today, biotechnology is the focus of much research activity undertaken by the University of Siena, operating in a productive and technological reality which boasts some of the most important laboratories equipped for the production of vaccines and pharmaceuticals used in biogenetic therapies. Research projects developed in collaboration with foreign universities and international institutes are also numerous.

With the aim of promoting the excellence of its post-graduate studies and, in particular, of the Doctorates, the Graduate College Santa Chiara has recently been created and hosts Italian and international students who want to do a PhD in Siena.

Data
Year established: 1240 • Type of institution (public/private): Public • Academic Calendar: October – June (specific by Faculty)

Degrees
Bakkalaureaus (Bakk) / Magister (Mag) / Doktor (Dr.)

Number of Students
Undergraduate: 18089 • Graduate: 450 • International: 18 (bilateral agreements) • Exchange: 480

Staff
Academic: 1029 • Non-Academic: 1150

Faculties
Faculty of Economics • Faculty of Law • Faculty of Humanities • Faculty of Humanities in Arezzo • Faculty of Medicine and Surgery • Faculty of Political Sciences • Faculty of Engineering • Faculty of Pharmacy • Faculty of Mathematical, Physical and Natural Sciences

Research Centres

Nr. of volumes and serials registered in the main **Library**: 924 462 volumes • 25 423 serials

UNIVERSITY OF TARTU

UNIVERSITY OF TARTU

The University of Tartu (UT) established early on fruitful dialogue and agreements with a number of Universities within the Coimbra Group. Being a member of the group enables valuable relationships to be established with others. UT is present in the work of several Task Forces (RDS, CH ,ENC, EPET), and would like to participate in new projects and existing schemes such as the Hospitality Scheme and Staff Visiting Scheme in order to facilitate the integration process. We consider it very important to carry out the monitoring of the impact of the Bologna process and mobility of students and continue the developments in Erasmus Mundus activities.
UT would be especially keen on developing partnership in Doctoral studies through the Centres of Excellence of Estonian Science at the University: Centre of Molecular and Clinical Medicine, Institute of Physics, Centre of Gene and Environmental Technologies, Centre of Behavioral and Health Sciences, Centre of Chemistry and Material Sciences, Centre of Basic and Applied Ecology.

Name of the institution: University of Tartu (Tartu Ülikool)
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Site: http://www.ut.ee
Address: 18 Ülikooli Str. • EE-50090 Tartu, Estonia

The University of Tartu is one of the oldest universities in Northeastern Europe, having been founded in 1632 by King Gustav II Adolf of Sweden. With its eleven faculties, UT is the only classical university in Estonia. It remains central to the continuity of Estonian intelligentsia, bringing together scholars, faculties and students from all over the country. The students of UT represent one third of the total student population of Estonia. Throughout its history, the University has played a particularly prominent role in the development of science in Estonia - about 60% of the doctoral theses completed in Estonia are defended at UT. From an international viewpoint its most successful research areas include molecular and cell biology, gene technology, laser and biomedicine, pharmacy, environmental technology and semiotics. In 2001, UT embarked on new activity areas by establishing the Institute of Technology to facilitate Estonia's shift to a model of knowledge-based society. Out of Estonia's ten Centres of Excellence six are based at the UT - Centre of Molecular and Clinical Medicine, Institute of Physics, Centre of Gene and Environmental Technologies, Centre of Behavioral and Health Sciences, Centre of Chemistry and Material Science, Centre of Basic and Applied Ecology. To improve the opportunities for higher education in the outlying regions of Estonia, UT has established a network of Contact Offices and six colleges located each in a different town. Distance education and web-based learning projects developed by the University also serve to improve access to education. UT strives to become an international research university. At present, it has more than 30 active partnership agreements for student and staff exchanges, joint projects and scientific events. UT also participates in a number of international networks. According to its Strategic Plan 2008, UT will facilitate the development of foreign language curricula in order to increase UT's share of international students.

Data
Year established: 1632 • Type of institution: Public • Academic Calendar (for the academic year 2004/05): Orientation course for international students: 24-27 Aug • Autumn semester 2004: 30 Aug/19 Dec • University's anniversary: 1 Dec • Christmas holiday: 20 Dec 2004/2 Jan 2005 • Winter holiday: 29 Jan/6 Feb • Spring semester: 7 Feb/27 June

Degrees
Diploma Study: 3…4 years (until 2002/03 admission) • Diploma of Basic Medical Study: 6 years • Diploma in Pharmacy: 5 years (since 2002/03 admission) • Diploma in Dentistry: 5 years (since 2002/03 admission) • Class Teacher Diploma: 5 years (since 2002/03 admission) • Bachelor (BA, BSc): 4 years (until 2002/03 admission) • Bachelor: 3 years (since 2002/03 admission) • Master (MA, MSc, mag.theol., mag.iur.): 2 years • Doctor (PhD, Dr.iur., Dr.med., Dr.theol.): 4 years

Number of Students
Undergraduate: 14052 • Graduate: 3194 • International: 409

Staff
Academic: 1292 (incl. 439 research fellows) • Non-Academic: 1568

Faculties
Currently the University has more than 70 departments and institutes arranged in 11 Faculties: Theology; Law; Medicine; Philosophy; Biology and Geography; Economics and Business Administration; Exercise and Sport Sciences; Mathematics; Physics and Chemistry; Social Sciences; Education.

Colleges
Pärnu College, Türi College, Narva College, EuroCollege, Institute of Law, School of Teacher Education

Research Centres
Estonian Marine Institute, Institute of Physics, Institute of Technology, Training Centre of Medical Physics and Biomedical Engineering, School of Exact Sciences, Testing Centre

Nr. of volumes and serials registered in the main **Library**: 3 813 941 items (incl. monographs 2 638 638 items and serials 626 056 items).

ARISTOTLE UNIVERSITY OF THESSALONIKI

ARISTOTLE UNIVERSITY OF THESSALONIKI

The new Rectory has been following with great interest the innovative activities of the Coimbra Group and hope that the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki will have a greater contribution in the future.

Name of the institution: Aristotle University of Thessaloniki
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Site: http://www.auth.gr
Address: : University Campus, GR 54124 Thessaloniki

The Aristotle University of Thessaloniki is a state institution established in 1925 during the First Greek Republic under Decree no. 3341/14.6.1925 which was ratified by the Fourth National Assembly, proposed by the Prime Minister Alexander Papanastasiou.

Five faculties were initially set up; those of Theology, Philosophy, Legal and Economic Sciences, Physics and Mathematics, and the Faculty of Medicine. Since then many new faculties have been established covering a wide range of humanities and applied sciences.

The structure of the University today, its range of activities and its size make it the largest and most complex institution of higher education in the country. The University campus covers about 107 acres close to the centre of Thessaloniki. Some University Schools' laboratories and facilities are situated off campus as well as some independent educational or research units connected to the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki.

Data
Year established: 1925 • Type of institution (public/private): Public • Academic Calendar: September 1st - August 31st

Degrees
Ptychio (Degree), Metaptyxiako (Postgraduate), Didaktoriko (PhD)

Number of Students
Undergraduate: 86000 • Graduate: 9000 • International: 6516 • Exchange: 455

Staff
Academic: 3238 • Non-Academic: 819

Faculties
Theology; Philosophy; Science; Law, Economics and Political Sciences; Geotechnical Sciences; Health Sciences; Engineering; Fine Arts; Education; Independent Schools (Journalism and Mass Media Studies; Physical Education and Sport Science; Physical Education and Sport Science (in Serres))

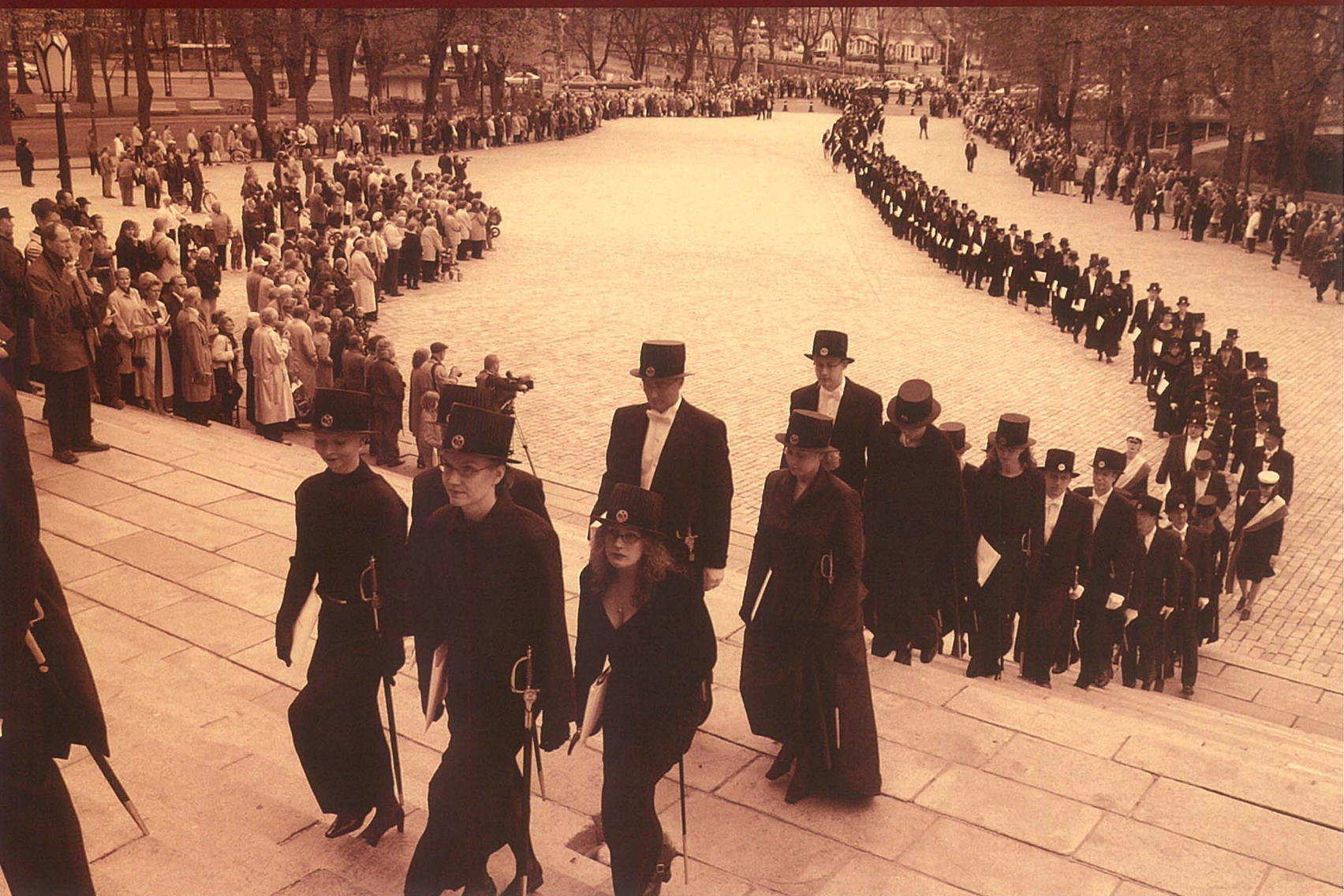
Research Centres
Research Committee: The Aristotle University of Thessaloniki has realized, during the 12 years of the existence of the Research Committee, 4,500 programmes, in which over 10000 University staff and external cooperators have participated. Within the framework of these programmes, there has been extensive cooperation with Universities, research centres and other bodies both in Greece and throughout Europe, as well as in other countries outside Europe. These research programmes cover many different scientific fields and have various objectives.

Nr. of volumes and serials registered in the main **Library**: Central Library with approximately 2 million volumes and 38 School Libraries

UNIVERSITY OF TURKU

UNIVERSITY OF TURKU

The University of Turku has nominated a representative in most of the Task Forces within the Coimbra Group. To enhance the cooperation between the member universities the University has supported and will encourage also in the future both student exchanges and staff visits. Within the EPET Task Force the University has actively participated in seminars and various surveys run by the Task Force, and our special interest is on exchange of information on the organisation of the career guidance services. The quality of E-Learning is an area in which the University will, together with other member universities participating in the EU funded project VICTORIUS, have a special interest as the University of Turku is coordinating many national virtual mobility projects. The University has actively participated in the meetings of the Doctoral Studies and Research Task Force and intends to be an active partner in the planned project activities. The University is participating in the scholarship programmes of the Task Forces, for instance, the Hospitality Scheme, in which funds have been reserved for young scholars from non-EU countries to visit Coimbra Group universities.



Name of the institution: University of Turku (Turun yliopisto)
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The University of Turku is the second largest university in Finland. Our reputation rests on the quality of research, teaching and services we provide to the community. As a multi-disciplinary university we offer exciting research and learning opportunities across a wide range of disciplines. The university's centres of excellence in research, which have gained both international and national recognition, focus on biosciences, particularly biomedical research, and information technology. In education, the centres of excellence have focused on medicine, biosciences, history, law and social policy.

To serve our international student community we offer a wide range of high quality and innovative learning opportunities in English ranging in scale from individual courses up to entire Master's and Doctoral programmes.

Our strategic goal is to strengthen our position as a multi-disciplinary research-led institution of higher education to meet the global, international and regional challenges.

Data
Year established: 1920 • Type of institution: Public • Academic Calendar: Two semesters (August-December, January-July): both divided in two periods (each 7 weeks teaching/coursework)

Degrees
Bachelor, Master, Licentiate, Doctor

Number of Students
Undergraduate: 13030 (Bachelor & Master students) • Graduate: 2038 (Doctoral & Licentiate students) • Other: 2806 (e.g. Specialist's degree in Medicine) • International: 325 (in 2004) • Exchange: 662 (in 2004)

Staff
Academic: 1379 • Non-Academic: 1332

Faculties
6 (Humanities, Mathematics and Natural Sciences, Medicine, Law, Social Sciences, Education)

Research Centres
7 (Centre for Environmental Research , Functional Foods Forum, Turku Centre for Biotechnology, Turku PET Centre, Turku Centre for Computer Science, Tuorla Obervatory, Centre for Maritime Studies)

Nr. of volumes and serials registered in the main **Library**: ca 2 million volumes; 14 800 serial subscribed annually; electronic library (ca 10 000 journals)

UPPSALA UNIVERSITY

UPPSALA UNIVERSITY

Uppsala University decided to participate selectively in Coimbra Group activities complementing those that already exist in the main stream of its international cooperation with more than 1,000 universities worldwide. Thus, the university has participated in various student exchange activities and also taken initiatives in furthering Coimbra Group interests, for instance by leading a delegation to Canada in order to promote stronger links between Coimbra Group members and Canadian institutions. The university also takes active part in a number of workshops, especially on IT issues in education. It has also initiated joint programmes among a number of member universities. The university is a member of a limited number of task forces, and usually stands for continuity in its commitments. Uppsala University was also an initiating force behind the recent SWOT analysis of Coimbra Group affairs resulting in a number of changes in the organisation of the group.

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This university is an international research university of great diversity. Education and research are pursued across nine faculties in three disciplinary domains – Humanities and Social Sciences, Medicine and Pharmacy, and Science and Technology. Education has strong ties to research – a way to guarantee state of the art approaches both for students and researchers. In a large number of fields Uppsala University is right on the cutting edge, both nationally and internationally. Uppsala University is now associated both at home and abroad with dynamic developments regarding investment in new companies – above all in the field of biotechnology. The solid foundation, crucial to this process of transformation, nevertheless remains the historically rooted diversity of the University's nine faculties. The fact that Uppsala University – founded in 1477 – is the oldest university in the Nordic countries is one component of its strength. Deep tradition, advanced knowledge and extensive experience provide a solid foundation for all activities.

Data
Year established: 1477 • Academic Calendar: Sept 1 - June 7

Degrees
Uppsala University offers several Kandidat (Bachelor) and Magister (Master) degrees, as well as some 20 professional degrees in various fields. In addition, Uppsala University grants the research degree Doktor (Ph.D.) and the intermediate research degree Licentiat (closest eq. to a research Master) in all its faculties.

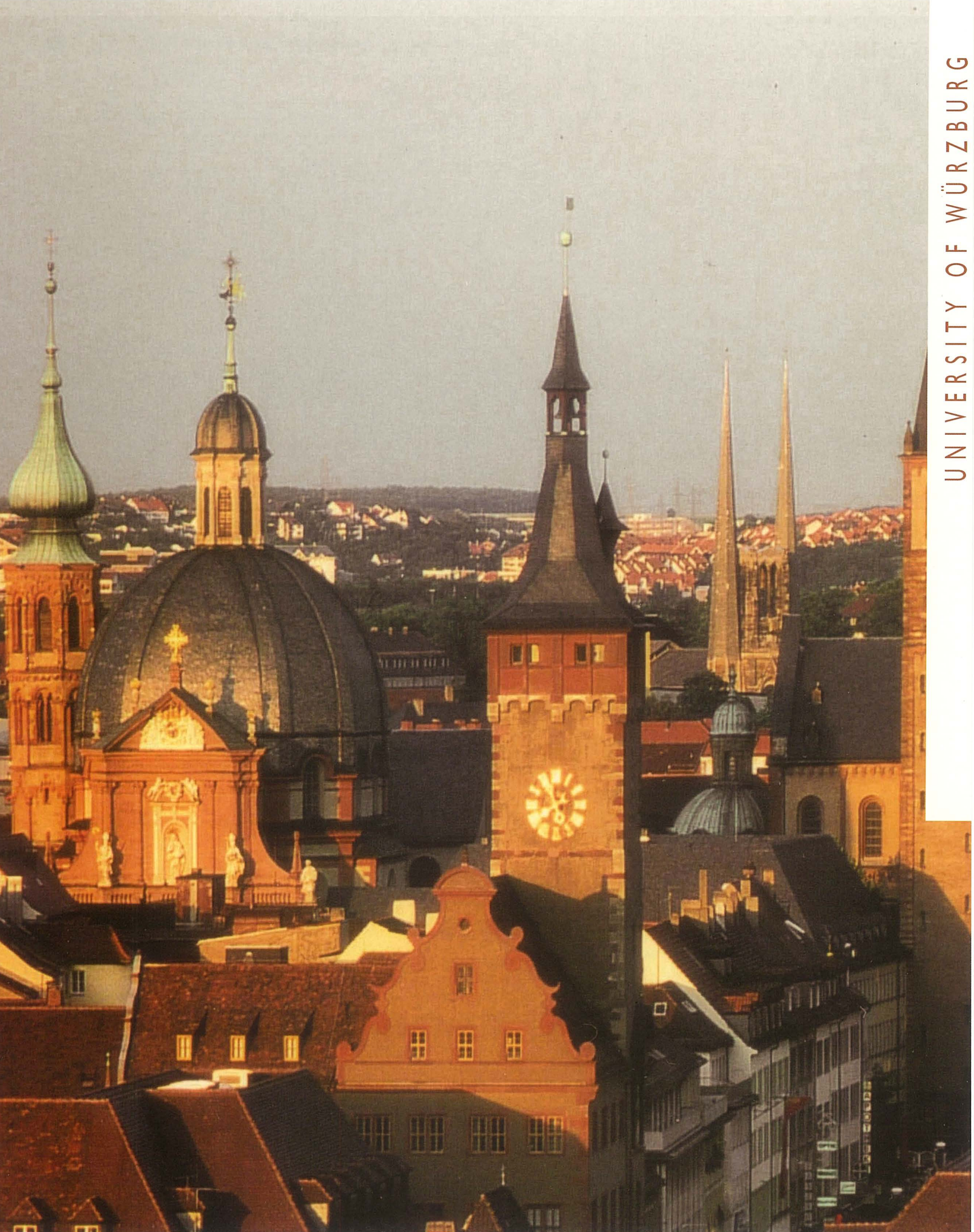
Number of Students
Undergraduate: 33000 • Graduate: 3000 • International: 1500 • Exchange: 850 (included in number above)

Staff
Academic: 3800 • Non-Academic: 2000

Disciplinary domains and their constituent faculties
Humanities and Social Sciences: Faculty of Theology, Faculty of Law, Faculty of Arts, Faculty of Languages, Faculty of Social Sciences.
Medicine and Pharmacy: Faculty of Medicine, Faculty of Pharmacy
Science and Technology: Faculty of Science and Technology (sections: Mathematics and Computer Science, Physics, Technology, Chemistry, Biology, and Earth Sciences).
Faculty of Educational Sciences

Research Centres
Centre for: Diabetes Research • Disability Research • Economic Sciences • Entrepreneurship • Environment and Development Studies • Gender Research • Image Analysis • Language Studies • Mass Spectrometry • Multiethnic Research • Research Ethics • School Management Training • Surface Biotechnology

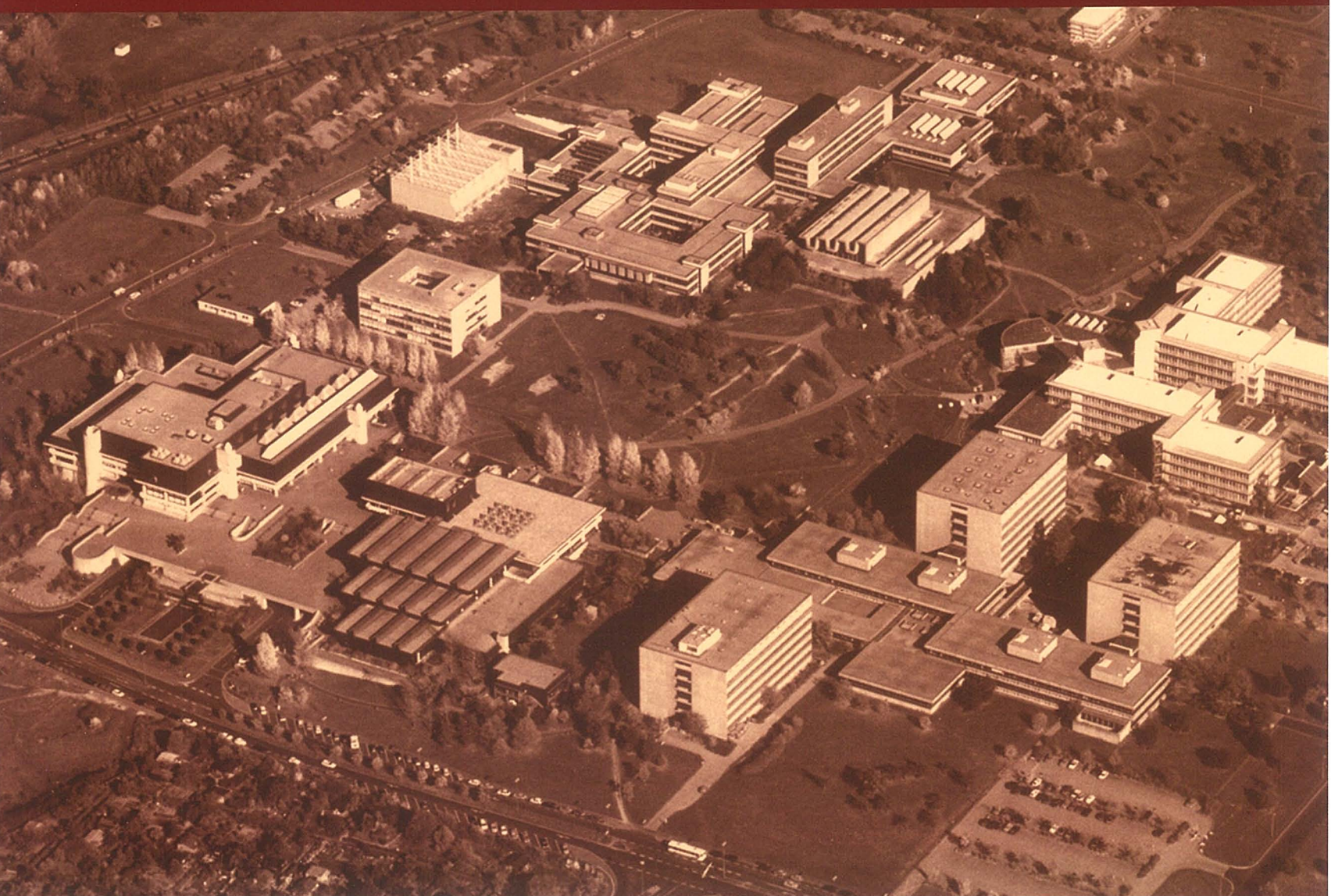
Nr. of volumes and serials registered in the main **Library**: 5 251 800



UNIVERSITY OF WÜRZBURG

UNIVERSITY OF WÜRZBURG

The University of Würzburg participated actively in the student and staff exchange and strongly encourages exchange of information between the Coimbra Group universities. The University also takes part in the research projects organised by the Group, and participates in various task forces such as EPET, Career Guidance, DS&R, and ACP.



Name of the institution: Bayerische Julius-Maximilians-Universität Würzburg
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The University of Würzburg was first founded in 1402 and is one of the oldest in Germany. From the very beginning, it has been a "full" university possessing the classical faculties of Theology, Law, Medicine and the Liberal Arts, followed by all the Natural Sciences, Business Administration and Economics. Today nearly 19,000 students are enrolled in twelve faculties and can study almost any subject ranging from Archaeology to Zoology, with all degree courses proceeding to PhD-level.

The Natural Sciences in particular have prospered since the late 19th century. In 1895, the physicist Wilhelm Conrad Röntgen discovered the x-rays and was awarded the First Nobel Prize ever – seven further Nobel Prizes were to follow., a strong focus is put on Life Sciences At the University of Würzburg, and interdisciplinarity is a key feature at the Theodor-Boveri-Institute for Bio-Sciences and the Rudolf-Virchow-Centre for Experimental Biomedicine.

The University of Würzburg has signed international partnership agreements with over 30 universities worldwide and cooperates with more than 140 European universities within the SOCRATES/ERASMUS programmes.

Data
Year established: 1402 / 1582 • Type of institution (public/private): Public (state) university • Academic Calendar: winter semester: 01 October – 31 March • Summer semester: 01 April – 30 September

Degrees
B.A., B.Sc., Licentiate, M.A., MBA, M.Sc., LL.M., LL.M. Eur., Diploma, State Examinations (in Law, Medicine, Dental Medicine, Pharmacy, Food Chemistry as well as State Examinations for teachers), Ph.D.

Number of Students
18990 • Undergraduate • Graduate • International: 1715 • Exchange: 260

Staff
Academic: 2592 • Non-Academic: ca. 8000 (including university hospitals)

Faculties
12 • (Theology, Law, Medicine, 3 Arts Faculties, 5 Science Faculties, Business and Economics)

Research Centres
9 Special Research Areas (funded by the German Research Society • 12 Interdisciplinary Research Centres • 6 Graduate Colleges • 5 Research Groups

Nr. of volumes and serials registered in the main **Library**: Wuerzburg University Library holds more than 3.3 million volumes and over 9.000 academic journals. About half of the media is accessible in the main library; the other half is located in about 90 departmental libraries throughout the university, its institutes, seminars and medical clinics. With 280 databases (online and on CD-ROM), 12.000 licensed electronic journals, 900 digital dissertations and further numerous electronic resources the University Library ensures the supply of information for research, teaching and studying at Wuerzburg University and constitutes the main regional information center for academic research in Lower Franconia. The cultural history of the University Library is reflected in its special collections. The unique treasures of the department "Handschriften und alte Drucke" (Manuscripts and Rare Prints) include 2087 manuscripts (e.g. the famous Kiliansevangeliar), 8848 maps and 2949 incunabula. The department "Fränkische Landeskunde" (Franconican History and Culture) contains the largest existing collection of Franconian literature and media on Franconia, its culture and its history.

ÅBO AKADEMI UNIVERSITY

ÅBO AKADEMI UNIVERSITY

Åbo Akademi University is active in the following task forces: ENC, EPET, Doctoral Studies & Research, Culture and E-learning. The University has participated in several projects since entering the group in 1995, among others HUMANITIES, SIGMA, the ALFA project "Patagonia – distance education" and in several TEMPUS projects. The department of Nordic Folkloristics at Åbo Akademi University took the initiative of establishing the Folklore working group, which eventually became the Culture Task Force. The university participates in the Hospitality Scheme, which was initiated by the ENC Task Force (the former CEEC Task Force).

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Finland's first university was founded in 1640 in Åbo/Turku, one of the officially bilingual towns in Finland – Finnish and Swedish. Åbo Akademi University is also the only Swedish-language multi-faculty university in Finland. Åbo/Turku is located on the southwest coast of Finland, 160 kilometres west of Helsinki, its capital. The city of Åbo and its surrounding towns have a population of 270.000. The city offers a wide selection of services, as well as cultural and sports activities for its inhabitants and visitors. The city is the oldest in Finland, and has maintained contacts with Scandinavia and continental Europe since medieval times.

Today, more than 8.000 students study at Åbo Akademi University and about 600 of these are international students coming from around 60 different countries.

Data
Year established: 1918 (The Royal Academy in Åbo was founded in1640) • Academic calendar: September-December and January-May

Degrees
Master's, Licentiate (postgraduate) and Dr. (PhD)

Number of Students
Undergraduate: 6033 • Graduate: 885 • International: 568 • Exchange: 158

Staff
Academic: 382 (+ 308 research staff) • Non-academic 369

Faculties
Faculty of Arts • Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences • Faculty of Economics and Social Sciences • Faculty of Chemical Engineering • Faculty of Theology • Faculty of Education • Faculty of Social and Caring Sciences

Research Centres
Active research is pursued both within the faculties and by independent institutions. Out of a total of approx. 900 research students some 90 are involved in research schools. The following research schools are coordinated at Åbo Akademi University: Chemical Engineering, Materials Research, Turku Centre for Computer Science, Informational and Structural Biology, Stochastics and Human Rights. Formally appointed centres of excellence in research are: Centre for Formal Methods in programming, Åbo Akademi Process Chemistry Centre, Formation of Early Jewish and Christian Ideology.

Nr. of volumes and serials registered in the main **Library**: Of the printed material, some 2 million volumes. Two special collections should be mentioned: the large holdings of the Manuscript Department and the Picture Collection.
In accordance with the law governing legal deposits and the ordinance concerning legal deposits, printing houses in Finland deliver six copies of every printed item produced to a total of seven legal deposit libraries, one of which being the Åbo Akademi University Library. The Åbo Akademi University Library has had the right to receive such legal deposits since 1919.

I N D E X

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