



## INSTITUTIONAL PROFILE

<b>Institution</b>	Universitat Rovira i Virgili
<b>Country</b>	Spain
<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://www.urv.cat/en_index.html">http://www.urv.cat/en_index.html</a>
<b>Year founded</b>	1991
<b>Number of UG Students</b>	11574
<b>Number of PG Students</b>	2258
<b>Number of International Students</b>	434 (mobility students)
<b>Contact persons to INU</b>	Rebeca Tomas, Marina Casals

## I. INTRODUCTION/OVERVIEW



The URV was created in 1991 by the Parliament of Catalonia from the already existing university faculties and schools. In this way the Tarragona University of the 16th century was restored. From the very first day its aim has been very clear: to place knowledge at the service of society so as to contribute to the social and economic development of its environment, which has gradually transformed over time.

Social and cultural changes have opened the doors to a new framework in which our students and future workers are obliged to interact in Europe. At the URV we train professionals under the precepts of European harmonization, a key factor for opening the doors to a world of work without frontiers. And we do so by providing a full range of educational possibilities with more than 40 undergraduate courses and 50 master's degrees (many of which are interuniversity), an extensive doctoral programme and a flexible lifelong learning programme so that professionals can constantly update their knowledge and improve their skills. Altogether, our courses are being enjoyed by over 15,000 students.

The Campus of International Excellence Southern Catalonia (CEICS) represents the strategic union of different organizations and structures involved in teaching, research, knowledge transfer and the productive sector in southern Catalonia. It aims to become an international benchmark in knowledge and competitiveness within the areas of chemistry and energy, nutrition and health, tourism, oenology, heritage and culture. It also seeks to become the heart of an authentic region of knowledge that can play a key role in the future growth of the region and in its productive network.

The driving force behind this group is Universitat Rovira i Virgili, an enterprising young university with a well-defined strategic vision that, since 2001, has allowed it to establish a network of research and technology centers that coordinate their activities with the productive and service sectors in the region. It's a unique opportunity to become a learning

region situated in the north-east of Spain, which offers recognized training - with a special emphasis on excellence postgraduate studies – and an excellent research. It is also an entity through which companies have the opportunity to make contacts, to increase their competitiveness and to establish themselves in an environment specializing in five priority areas (chemistry and energy, nutrition and health, tourism, oenology, heritage and culture).

The CEICS gives greater visibility to a strategy that Universitat Rovira i Virgili has been developing since its foundation. Building on its regional character, it has implemented a policy of identifying the priority areas connected with the socio-economic strengths of its environment. This has allowed it to boost its international profile as a research-based university, while at the same time fostering development in the region. At the core of this whole process for positive change is the interaction between the university, knowledge-generating organizations and the productive sector.

The alliance is made up of Universitat Rovira i Virgili and eight public research bodies renowned in their fields of specialization, four science and technology parks, four technology centres, the hospitals and the business associations. This Mediterranean campus of knowledge is completed through international and national alliances with other prestigious universities and research centres. The implementation of ambitious and innovative projects will ensure that the CEICS continues to reinforce its already solid profile and consolidates itself as a magnet for international talent.

## [URV Overview 2015](#)

### II. MISSION, VISION, VALUES

The **mission** of the URV is to place knowledge at the service of society. This mission is implemented in four key ways:

- By generating maximum added value to people's skills throughout their lives.
- By making a significant contribution to the advancement of knowledge and its transfer to society.
- By promoting the transformation and socio-economic development of the region and society.
- By becoming a flexible and versatile organisation oriented towards innovation and providing users with a service.

The vision of the URV is to become a University that offers comprehensive education to people, where they learn to exist, to do, to co-exist and to discover:

- The **university that learns** from people, from society and from itself.
- The **creative and innovation promoting** university, whose distinguishing characteristic is its capacity to generate skills and ideas.
- The university that is **committed to employment**, that promotes entry into the workplace and considers people's continuing education as an indispensable process.
- The university that is **committed to the environment and to society**, that identifies with the reality in Catalonia and which works with all society's agents in order to build a future of progress.
- The **universal university**, that works with people from all over the world, promotes mobility and cooperates with developing societies.
- The **university that progresses**, by analysing, planning and evaluating its activities, the basis of which is to improve quality and to promote the development of its units and societies.
- The **people's university**, that promotes their full development, seeks their satisfaction and encourages their participation.

The URV aims to achieve a high level of quality in the spheres of study and teaching, research and extra-mural activities, and the assistance provided to members of the university community and management. In order to achieve this, organisational and

institutional quality must be developed through systems that form part of the everyday operation of the University, and allow quality to be measured, evaluated, assured and improved.

This general objective can be subdivided into four sub-aims, which form the basis of the URV quality system:

- **To satisfy educational demand.** To provide a range of courses that match the needs and expectations of society, and is flexible enough to provide a response to changes, and at the same time solid enough to cover our potential for transmitting knowledge.
- **Recognised teaching quality.** To obtain recognition for the quality of the teaching offered at the URV through the satisfaction of students, graduates and employers, and to ensure that this quality is also recognised by others from the point of view of European homologation.
- **Excellent scientific quality.** To achieve excellent levels of scientific quality and productivity (RDI) that makes a significant contribution to the advancement of knowledge and regional development in all spheres. Also, to achieve a competitive level on an international scale, particularly in the fields of priority research.
- **To achieve an effective and efficient organisation.** To continuously direct the University management and administration towards teaching and research goals

### III. RESEARCH

The University aims to promote all the research activities of its members and pays particular attention to the strengthening of research groups, and the quality and the magnitude of its scientific production. There are a variety of complex structures that work together on this task and focus on research groups as the basic unit.

The activities of the research groups can be carried out within departments, university research institutes, both scientific and technical, or other centres.

The main function of the institutes is to organize, develop and evaluate the programmes of basic and applied research or artistic creation in their area of expertise.

The research centres share some of the functions of the Institutes but can be created by the University.

Research is one of the essential functions of the University; it is the basis of teaching and the means by which society progresses. For this reason the URV has a variety of



structures which support the research effort. The main objective of the institutes is to organize, carry out and evaluate the basic and applied research programmes. They also assist the rest of the University and society by providing technical consultancy, and they encourage scientific and pedagogical updating and renewal, as well as continuous training. The research centres, which share some of the institutes' functions, are different in that they can be created by the University or shared with other universities or organizations, or merely linked to the University by a written agreement.

#### Institutes

- [ICAC - Catalan Institute of Classical Archaeology](#)
- [ICIQ - Catalan Institute of Chemical Research](#)
- [IPHES - Catalan Institute of Human Palaeoecology and Social Evolution](#)

- [IISPV - The Pere Virgili Institute for Health Research](#)
- [IREC - The Catalonia Institute for Energy Research](#)

### Technology and Innovation Centres

- [CITEE – Technological Innovation Centre in Electronic Engineering](#)
- [ATIC - Advanced Technology Innovation Center](#)
- [DINAMIC – Innovation Centre in Applied Biotechnology](#)
- [AMIC – Environmental and Industrial Applications of Catalysis](#)
- [TecaT- Innovation Center in Catalyst Development for Sustainable Processes](#)
- [TecnATox - Centre for Environmental, Food and Toxicological Technology](#)
- [CTNS - Technology Centre for Nutrition and Health](#)
- [CTQ - Chemistry Technology Centre](#)

### Centres for Research

- [COS - Centre for Omic Sciences](#)
- [MARC - Medical Anthropology Research Center](#)
- [CRAMC - Research Center for Behavioral Assessment](#)
- [EMaS - Research Centre into Materials Engineering and Micro/Nanosystems](#)
- [CEDAT - The Tarragona Centre for Environmental Law Studies](#)
- [CREIP - Research Centre on Industrial Economics and Public Economics](#)
- [C3 - Centre for Climate Change](#)

## IV. FACULTIES

- Faculty of Chemistry
- Faculty of Arts
- Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences
- Faculty of Education Sciences and Psychology
- Faculty of Legal Sciences
- Faculty of Business and Economics
- Faculty of Oenology
- Faculty of Nursing
- Faculty of Tourism and Geography
- School of Architecture
- School of Engineering
- School of Chemical Engineering



## V. LANGUAGES IN WHICH CLASSES ARE OFFERED



Most degree subjects are taught in Catalan, the official language of the URV. Some courses are also taught in Spanish and English. In the following link you can see the offer of courses in English: [URV Undergraduate courses offered in English](#)

Masters subjects are taught in Catalan, Spanish and English. In the following link you can see the offer of courses in English: [URV Postgraduate courses offered in English](#)



The following masters are taught entirely in English:

- Synthesis, Catalysis and Molecular Design
- Artificial Intelligence
- Chemical Engineering
- Computer Engineering: Computer Security and Intelligent Systems
- Environmental Engineering and Sustainable Production
- English Language Teaching

## **VI. WORK PLACEMENTS OFFERED FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS**

- International Center:

[International office assistant](#)

[Communication technician at International Center - URV](#)

[SMiLE Language assistant](#)

Learning Resources Service: [Offer n°33](#)

Published on [erasmusintern.org](http://erasmusintern.org), and [Stella Junior](#) program (CGU).

- Other offers at URV: [Tauler d'ofertes](#)

## **VII. STRATEGIC PLAN**

The URV bases its planning on the twin axes of strategic planning and operational planning.

In 1998 the Strategic Plan of the URV was created and has provided the general reference frame for drawing up the subsequent strategic plans of the university faculties and departments and the university's strategic sectorial plans.

A strategic plan was created by each of the university faculties and departments (making a total of thirty plans) and these were presented during October 1999.

The university has also drawn up the following sectorial plans: the [Strategic Research Plan \(2001\)](#), [the Strategic Teaching Plan \(2003\)](#), the [Strategic Plan of the Third Mission \(2014\)](#) and [the Strategic Internationalization Plan \(2014\)](#).

Operational planning has involved drawing up performance contracts with the URV faculties, schools, research centres and research groups.

## **VIII. INTERNATIONALIZATION STRATEGY**

Website: [http://www.urv.cat/internacionalitzacio/pei/en\\_index.html](http://www.urv.cat/internacionalitzacio/pei/en_index.html)

A priority objective for universities today is the development of an international dimension that will enable them to become principal agents in the knowledge society, fundamental to the international competitiveness of their country or region. Internationalization involves not just the university's teaching mission but also its research activity and the transfer of knowledge. In an increasingly globalized world, higher education institutions must be internationalized if they aim to belong to the emerging world knowledge network and provide a valuable service to their societies.

With this vision in mind, in 2009 the Universitat Rovira i Virgili (URV) approved its first Strategic Internationalization Plan. Since then, this plan has guided our

international activities and we have been responding successfully to the challenges set. The increase in the URV's international dimension has been significant from several perspectives. From the teaching perspective, for example, we have concentrated on promoting the international dimension of our postgraduate, master's and PhD programmes since we believe these programmes exemplify our main objective and are key to consolidating our future research activity and improving its quality and international competitiveness. Our provision of quality teaching at all academic levels is reflected in our high proportion of international students, which has reached 28% at the postgraduate level and is up to 35% for our doctoral programmes. In research, this international dimension is clearly illustrated by the fact that in 2012 for the first time our first source of research finance was the European Union.

These two examples are also supported by our recognition in 2010 as the Campus of International Excellence Southern Catalonia. As well as a reflection on the URV's quality and our strategic links with our socioeconomic environment, this recognition provides a constant challenge to the university to continually improve in all its missions. The URV's international position and its strong regional impact have also been recognised by international organisations such as the OECD. One synthetic indicator of our university's increasing international dimension in teaching and research is the fact that this year the URV has been included in the Times Higher Education World University Rankings. This list of the best higher education institutions in the world includes a heavily weighted internationalization component.

The URV's relatively good international position has been achieved by meeting the objectives that were laid out in the first Strategic Internationalization Plan. The updated Plan now proposed by the University Senate should help the university to consolidate the dynamics it has already set in motion and confirm the cultural changes it has introduced. And of course it should also serve to define the new objectives that will help our university take a further leap forward in the development of its international dimension. Once these objectives are met, the URV will possess a solid foundation from which to contribute even more strongly to increasing the international competitiveness of the social, economic and cultural fabric of the region.

## **IX. INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS**

**AUIP** Asociación Universitaria Iberoamericana de Postgrado  
**CGU** Compostela Group of Universities  
**EAIE** European Association for International Education  
**EAN** European Access Network  
**EPUF** EuroMed Permanent University Forum  
**EUA** European University Association  
**EUCEN** European Universities Continuing Education Network  
**IIE Network** Institute of International Education  
**IMHE-OECD** Programme on Institutional Management in Higher Education  
**INU** International Network of Universities  
**ISEP** International Student Exchange Programs  
**Leo-Net** Leveraging Education into Organisations Magna Charta  
Observatory Magna Charta Universitatum  
**RECLA** Red de Educación Continua de Latinoamérica y Europa  
**RIDUP** Red Iberoamericana de Universidades de Investigación  
**RUEPEP** Red Universitaria de Estudios de Postgrado y Educación Permanente  
**SGroup** European Universities' Network  
**UCOSMIC** International Standards and Open Source Tools for Higher Education