

REPORT ABOUT UCLM

1. Brief presentation of the University of Castilla-La Mancha

The University of Castilla-La Mancha opened its doors in 1985, although it was formally established by law on the 30th of June, 1982 as a result of the political autonomy granted to the Spanish regions and the collective desire of the residents of Castilla-La Mancha. This desire was equally shared by the regional government.

Since its inception, the UCLM has played a great role in the territorial and social cohesion of the region with one clear objective: to be a fundamental cornerstone in the economic, social, cultural and technological development of the region, all the while responding to its present and future needs.

In 1982, the management commission was created with the mission to establish the University of Castilla-La Mancha. From 1983 to 1988, Professor Isidro Ramos Salavert served as president of the commission and is now Honorary President of the university. Salavert's successor was Professor Luis Arroyo Zapatero, who was followed by Professor Ernesto Martínez Ataz in 2003. He served in this capacity until 2011. The position of university president is currently held by Professor Miguel Ángel Collado Yurrita, after winning elections in November of 2011 and subsequently being reelected most recently in February, 2016.

When the project of establishing a regional university became a reality, the various teaching centers were unified under one university system. Since 1985, the university has given the youth across the region access to higher education and has also breathed new life into the cities that host the university's four campuses: Ciudad Real, which houses the headquarters of the rectorate, Albacete, Cuenca and Toledo. In addition, there are satellite campuses in Almadén and Talavera de la Reina.

Throughout this process, the regional university has evolved from an initial enrollment of 5,570 students to more than 30,000 today. Additionally, starting with only 307 professors the university's teaching staff has grown upwards to current total of 2,325. Moreover within 30 years, a budget of 6 million euros in its first academic year has increased to almost 250 million euros.

The university of Castilla-La Mancha spans over 67,000 square kilometers geographically with 325,000 square meters of teaching and research facilities, 4,530 study spaces, 1,100,000 books in its libraries, 1,230 computers available to students, 55 halls available for videoconferencing, 650 Wi-Fi hotspots, 80,000 e-mail accounts

and 650 km. of fiber optics. These are the pillars from which form the backbone of a multi-campus university with both a generalist and research vocation. 2,325 professors and researchers, more than one thousand administrative personnel, and 260 research assistants provide assistance to over 32,000 students. Our research programs are based upon 420 research projects and technological transfers with 200 companies. There are also 300 activities which promote cultural and extra-curricular activities within the university's campuses.

2. Educational programs for Chinese Students

The process of internationalization is vital for our university. As a cornerstone of this strategy, our university would like to initiate the collaboration with different areas of the world in order to disseminate knowledge and the transferring of innovation and research. From the beginning, the university has given special importance to Asian nations amongst which China has had particular relevance.

Firstly, Spanish has become one of the most influential languages in the world and it is predicted that the demand for Spanish will continue to grow in the coming years. Nowadays, China is one of the countries in which the demand for learning the Spanish language is amongst the highest. Chinese students are really interested in taking part in educational programs in Spanish as there appears to be a greater demand for professionals in sectors such as tourism and business administration.

With this mutual interest, the UCLM is in a position to offer Chinese universities opportunities for studying in a Spanish-speaking country. Considering that Chinese students have had for decades a high level of interest in learning Spanish, the UCLM has a great deal of accumulated experience in this area thanks to the prestigious Spanish Courses for Foreigners called "ESTO" and "ESPACU". These programs are held on the campuses of Toledo and Cuenca, historical cities declared Human Heritage Cities by UNESCO.

Amongst the educational opportunities available to the Chinese students is the "Diploma of Spanish for Professional Purposes" (DEFP), which is organized by ESTO within the general foundation of the UCLM. To obtain this diploma, students need to pass a two-year long course in which the first year focuses on learning the Spanish language and the second year is dedicated to learning Spanish in the context of economics and business. After obtaining this diploma and in line with the agreements signed with partnered Chinese universities, the students can access various degree programs within the UCLM.

Another possibility that the UCLM would like to explore is related to doctoral education. This option will be linked to teacher training for professors and researchers belonging to any knowledge area, developing joined Master programs with Chinese universities. The main focus, due to the interest shown by the institutions involved, will be the study and teaching of the Spanish language. The mobility related to this program could have a reciprocal aspect in that some of the Master programs could culminate with a research fellowship at the UCLM for Chinese students.

3. Information and Advisory Services for Chinese Students

There is a blog for International Relations that is available in different languages, Chinese being amongst them, which is constantly being updated. The blog has been in existence for the past four years and is managed through the vice-presidency of International Relations and Lifelong Learning and under the coordination of the Office of International Relations.

Equally, the UCLM offers Chinese language and cultural courses to members of the university community through the university's Language Center (CEL). These courses provide a basic knowledge and acquisition of the language which helps promote mobility for students, faculty and administrative staff. These courses are taught by native-speaking language assistants provided by the Institute of Confucius.

In this regard, the CEL has also become a cornerstone in the internationalization process of the UCLM, strengthening relationships with Chinese universities. All this effort has led to the accreditation of the UCLM as an official HSK exam center. This is an official exam organized by the Institute of Confucius. Additionally, there is a project for opening a delegation of the Institute of Confucius and the UCLM.

Finally, the UCLM is intensifying collaborative activities with Chinese universities going beyond the learning of the Chinese and Spanish languages. Within this past year, this effort has reaped a great return in the enrollment of Chinese students in degree programs at the UCLM. The program will allow students who have finished their first year in a Chinese university, along with having studied Spanish within that year, to complete the last three years of their degree at the UCLM. During that time they will continue to improve their knowledge of Spanish, acquiring a two-dimensional education (e.g. Spanish language and Economics). Apart from student mobility, this collaboration could include the mobility of faculty members of the UCLM, who would then, in turn, be able to teach Spanish to future Chinese students during their first year of university studies.

1. Activities developed in China by the UCLM.

The UCLM has been always interested to the opportunities that China offers. This interest has been expressed in many occasions in the bilateral meetings held by the UCLM with its Chinese counterparts. As a result of these meetings and visits, several agreements of collaboration were created and signed. These agreements will give the change to the students to further their scientific and research talent in the Asian country. Also, with the agreements signed by the UCLM with other Chinese University, the graduate students will have the opportunity to train their capacities in Chinese Universities. With no hesitation, these relationships between the UCLM and other Chinese universities will mean an increase in the research and scientific production for the receiving organization.

In this context, the collaboration activities with Chinese Universities have been strengthened and widened in the past few years and, specially, since June 2014, when took place the institutional visit that a UCLM delegation, headed by the Rector, paid to China with the target of disseminating the presence and the image of the institution in this country. During such visit were established new contacts and also broadened previous existing contacts.

The educational mission was formalized in the signature of several collaboration agreements of great interest for our University, emphasizing the following ones:

- Beijing Foreign University (BFSU), whose collaboration already allowed to Chinese students developed a learning stay in the UCLM as well as the exchange of lecturers.
- XI'AM International Studies University, with which were realized important exchanges, both of students and professors.
- Nanchang University. After the international visit paid by representatives of the UCLM to this University back in June 2014, the Rector and other representatives of this Chinese university, paid a visit to Toledo and Ciudad Real in April 2015. As a result of this visit, a new step forward was made between both institutions with the organization of a summer course named *Study Abroad*. This summer course, which was held in June 2015 and in which 15 students participated, is the consolidation of the collaboration with this university, one of the most important inside the Chinese Superior Education system. It is also important to mention that the University of Nanchang is helping the UCLM with the implementation of the Confucius Institute within the UCLM's structure.
- Shanghai International Students University (SISU). During the current academic year 2015/2016, it will be implemented a specific collaboration

agreement that will permit to Chinese students that studied the first year of their degrees in China to continue their studies at the UCLM. In order to do so, the students must be enrolled in one of the following degrees: Business Administration and Management; Computer Engineering; Mechanical Engineering; Industrial and Automatic Electronic; Mining and Energy Engineering; Audiovisual Systems Engineering. This is a first step that will help to broaden and strengthen the offer with other Chinese partners.

- Macau University of Science and Technology. With this University several general and specific collaboration agreements were reached. Thanks to those agreements, languages and IT students could develop learning stays in the centers of our university. Also, it was signed an agreements for the organization of a course (study abroad) that has as an objective to complement the education that the students receive in this Chinese university. Thanks to this course, some Chinese students will have the opportunity to come to the UCLM to take some panels, taught in Spanish, on disciplines related to Economics, Business Administration and Management and Humanities. Also, encompassed in this study abroad course, the students will have some activities that will help them to comprehend better the Spanish culture and society.
- Univesity of Renmin. With this University was signed recently an agreement of cooperation to let four Chinese students access to the Bachelor's Degree of Business Administration and Management, throughout the Spanish Diploma for Professional Purposes (DEFP).
- Guang'an Secondary School
- Eventually, it was also signed general collaboration agreements with the Universities of Zhejiang y de Xijing.