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Courses



This academic year, the University saw the approval of the Strategic Plan for Teaching, the promotion of teaching innovation networks for interdisciplinarity and artificial intelligence and, in partnership with the Superior School of Music of Catalonia (ESMUC), the development of a pathway to allow students to simultaneously pursue a Bachelor's Degree in Primary Education at the URV and an Arts Higher Education Degree in Music.

One of the most important milestones was the approval of the Strategic Plan for Teaching by the University Senate on 23 May 2024, which redefines the URV's teaching model to respond to changes in recent years in the make-up of the student body, in teaching methods and tools, and in the teaching itself undertaken at the University. The Plan responds to three main questions: what the URV's teaching model should look like, what the course offering should consist of, and how student employability can be assessed. It sets out objectives, actions and performance indicators for each of these three priorities. The main objective of the new teaching model is to promote the active participation of students in order to provide comprehensive training and motivating learning experiences. One initiative aims to develop a strategy to further develop the University's course offering by involving the socio-economic community and integrating lifelong learning into the URV degree map. Another particularly ambitious initiative, aimed at employability, aims to offer students unique opportunities to make contact with potential employers at an early stage in their training through a one-stop portal for employers and an increase in non-compulsory internships.

It should be noted that more than 150 people, including teaching and research staff, technical, management and administrative and service staff, and students from all the schools and faculties took part in drafting the plan.

The tenth anniversary of the School of Chemical Engineering (ETSEQ) Work Experience programme marks another important milestone. Over the last decade, it has established itself as a model for collaboration between the University and local businesses while providing students with access to a unique training experience in which they have the opportunity to apply their knowledge, enabling businesses to select and recruit talent, and allowing the School of Chemical Engineering to enrich its teaching methods and provide students with a better education. Looking forward to the next academic year, the Faculty of Education Sciences and Psychology will be housed in a fully renovated building in February 2026. The extensive renovation will modernise the facilities and improve energy efficiency, accessibility and comfort. The work will involve both the interior and exterior of the main building, giving it a completely new look.

Working together for change

The URV promotes innovation in teaching through two cooperation networks that have already made ground-breaking proposals in the areas of interdisciplinarity and artificial intelligence



It seems apparent that teaching staff should take the lead in driving classroom innovation processes, but universities are complex organisations, making it challenging to establish criteria that everyone agrees on. The URV seeks to remedy this scenario by involving the entire community in participatory processes to propose solutions for the changes demanded by society. And this is the context of the strategic networks for teaching innovation launched during the 2023–24 academic year, which consist of two bodies for general cross-disciplinary discussions and proposals in which teaching staff from over 20 different subjects participate.

The URV's new Strategic Plan for Teaching recognises that the University must become more dynamic in the face of change and that a key approach to achieving this goal is through the creation of community-wide collaborative experiences. To this end, the 2023–24 academic year marked the beginning of two new working groups for innovation in teaching. By the end of the academic year, two innovative networks sponsored by the Institute of Educational Sciences had already achieved their first results: The Network for Interdisciplinarity in Teaching and the Network for Methodological Innovation through the Application of Artificial Intelligence. These networks serve as forums for discussion and proposal generation.

More than 150 participants presented projects and exchanged best practices at the 2024 URV Teaching Innovation Seminar held on the Catalunya Campus. The event, attended by teachers and staff, showcased 32 innovative teaching projects developed over the academic year in areas as diverse as simulations and learning environments, professional development, digital resources, communication strategies and multilingual competence.

Of the projects, a total of 25 were funded by the Institute of Education Sciences (ICE) Teaching Innovation Programme, as were the two strategic networks, while a further seven projects received bridging grants from the ICE and the URV Board of Trustees. University teaching staff as well as other education professionals took part in the projects.

The aims of the Network for Interdisciplinarity in Teaching are to promote the use of interdisciplinary teaching methods at different levels and in different contexts, for example, in bachelor's and master's degree final projects; to support the exchange of experiences and projects; to facilitate training in teaching methods; to provide tools and resources to improve teaching practices; and to develop materials and teaching aids that can be used collectively in different areas of University teaching and learning.



The Bachelor's Degree in Chemistry with Dual Training Specialisation and Janaina Minelli, winners of the Teaching Quality Awards

La URV ha otorgado los Premios a la Calidad Docente 2024 a la profesora Janaina Minelli de Oliveira y al profesorado impulsor de la mención dual del grado en Química. Janaina Minelli, del Departamento de Pedagogía, ha sido reconocida por la forma de introducir la competencia digital a estudiantes de la Facultad de Ciencias de la Educación y Psicología. El grado en Química con mención dual ha sido reconocido por integrar de forma efectiva la formación práctica con la teórica y proporcionar a los estudiantes experiencias reales en el entorno laboral.

The URV's new Strategic Plan for Teaching promotes cooperative initiatives in the community to foster a more dynamic educational climate and to adapt to the changes faced by the University

One of the Network's first initiatives was to conduct a survey designed to determine who makes use of interdisciplinary approaches and how they are being applied in the University classroom. 'Surely there are teachers who are working together and applying interdisciplinary methods, but we need to know who's doing it and how they're doing it,' said María Dolores Jiménez, head of the Department of Romance Languages and co-coordinator of the Network with Judith Balanyà, a specialist from the Education Resources Service. 'The results will allow us to draw a roadmap. We want more collaborative contact between teaching staff from different areas, but this collaboration also has to be done well and meet quality standards,' Judith Balanyà concluded.

The network is preparing a guide with practical tips for teaching staff and planning a pilot for the 2024-25 academic year in which a group made up of teaching staff and students will work together on interdisciplinary bachelor's degree final projects. An interdisciplinary approach allows students from different disciplines to work together to solve real problems, 'as is often the case outside the academic world', Jiménez stressed.

The aims of the Network for Methodological Innovation through

the Application of Artificial Intelligence, led by Daniel Schorn-García and Jokin Ezenarro, lecturers in the Department of Analytical and Organic Chemistry, include developing automatic support systems for students and algorithms to assess assignments and exams, using AI to adapt materials and activities to the individual needs of students, and researching how AI can improve teaching and learning through the use of text, audio, images and video.

'Vilifying the use of AI makes no sense and will not lead to positive change. What we need to do as teachers is understand it and its ethical implications, and realise its full potential. When used properly, it's a very useful teaching tool. For example, we can program AI to act as an assistant that explains concepts in a way that is tailored to students' needs,' explained Daniel Schorn-García.

In the first year, the Network was structured into four working groups: ethics, tool analysis, identification of good practices and analysis of other networks and groups. One of the resulting initiatives the Network wants to implement is the creation of a learning community. 'We want there to be ongoing activity involving students and teachers. There should be scheduled activities in which both

groups can raise questions, and it should be a forum for the exchange of resources, experiences and good practices,' said Schorn-García.

For Antoni Pérez-Portabella, Director of the Institute of Educational Sciences and lecturer at the Department of Communication Studies, the quality of the proposals that the two networks have put on the table is proof that 'joint efforts focused on solving educational problems creates community and yields positive results.'

The URV's teaching innovation networks are not only a response to current challenges, but also a commitment to the future of education. The experience of the first year of operation of the URV's teaching innovation networks has been very positive and has shown that the engagement and active participation of the teaching staff are key to promoting teaching innovation. By proceeding with these initiatives, the URV can ensure that it continues to move towards more innovative, more inclusive higher education adapted to meet the challenges of the 21st century.



'We're creating a learning community based on good practices and artificial intelligence.'

DANIEL SCHORN
Department of Analytical and Organic Chemistry



'We're preparing a guide to promote and incorporate interdisciplinarity into URV studies.'

JUDITH BALANYÀ
Education Resources Service



'We need to expand the experience of the networks and reach out to the entire university community.'

M. DOLORES JIMÉNEZ LÓPEZ
Department of Romance Languages



'The work of the networks brings diverse points of view together. We're living at a very disruptive time.'

ANTONI PÉREZ-PORTABELLA
Institute of Education Sciences

Knowledge Infrastructure

New School for Lifelong Learning in Tourism

The Faculty of Tourism and Geography now has a School for Lifelong Learning in Tourism, a centre for lifelong learning among professionals in the sector. The aim of lifelong learning is to improve the skills of professionals through courses and seminars in a variety of formats in order to help them adapt to the constant changes and emerging trends in the tourism sector.

More space for nursing studies in Vilafranca

An agreement between Vilafranca del Penedès City Council and the URV will allow the Bachelor's Degree in Nursing to expand its teaching space in the Cal Gallina building starting in the 2024–25 academic year. The building is adjacent to the oenology centre, where the first two years of the degree programme were offered after its launch in 2022–23, and will house new classrooms and offices for the third- and fourth-year studies.

Refurbishment of the Faculty of Education Sciences and Psychology

The project to refurbish the Faculty of Education Sciences and Psychology will begin at the start of the academic year with a budget of 7.2 million euros. Over the expected year and a half duration of the project, teaching and research activities will be conducted in alternate spaces on the Sescelades Campus and in the old Tarragona seminary building. With 1,880 students, the Faculty of Education Sciences and Psychology has the highest enrolment at the URV.

Ready, steady...

Fem Carrera! is a set of career guidance resources that includes personal counselling, workshops, contact with companies and access to job opportunities



A springboard for professional growth

The School of Chemical Engineering's Work Experience Awards, a paragon of university-business cooperation, has launched the careers of some 80 students in the last 10 years

When the School of Chemical Engineering launched the Work Experience Awards ten years ago, it set a clear goal: to build an effective bridge between academic and professional talent. A pioneer in its field, this collaborative programme has become a benchmark for success and has enabled almost 80 students to lay the first stones on their professional career paths.

Chemical engineering students who opt to take part in the professional placement programme receive much more than just a scholarship for the first year of a Master's Degree in Chemical Engineering or Environmental Engineering and Energy Sustainability; the most valuable benefit of the award is that they are given the opportunity to undertake a paid professional placement at a company in the chemistry cluster and to focus their master's degree final project on a real need. In total, they spend almost a year immersing themselves professionally and developing essential skills that prepare them to face the challenges of the working world.

Albert Escoda, one of the 2016 award winners, completed his professional placement at Dow Chemical and now works at BASF. He considers this initial intensive experience to be a key component of his professional career. 'I look back on it as an extremely positive experience. Everything was new. It was an opportunity to see the real, everyday problems that companies face and to be part

of the solution, knowing that you have people above you to help you and guide you,' explained Escoda.

Anna Navarro completed her professional placement in 2017 at the Essity paper plant and today works at LyondellBasell. Looking back, she is grateful that she was treated as a team member and allowed to learn alongside real professionals from the outset. The experience was so positive for both her and the company alike that she worked there for two years after completing her master's degree. 'I noticed they gave me responsibilities from the beginning. It's a company where you get to do

a lot of things. You get insights into a lot of aspects of the operation. I made the most of that. My advice to students in the programme is to go in with a good attitude. It's just as important as knowledge and companies value it highly,' she says.

BASF, Technip Energies, Dow, Clariant, Essity and BASF SONATRACH PropanChem were the first companies to participate in the Work Experience Awards. Over the years, Clariant, Covestro, LyondellBasell, Messer Ibérica and BCG also joined the initial group, and Repsol, Fluor and Deasyl are expected to join soon. All of these companies



A winning combination

The URV promotes concurrent studies at the URV and other institutions to enrich students' academic experience



Joan Santacana has started making his own wines.

'You have to work hard, but it's a very complete experience and I recommend it.'

JOAN SANTACANA

Joan Santacana isn't wasting any time. The son of a long line of farmers from Penedès, he studied agronomic science engineering at the Polytechnic University of Catalonia. At the end of his third year, he enrolled at the URV to also study oenology, with all his first-year subjects recognised as well as some of his second-year subjects. Joan has taken advantage of a concurrent study plan agreement between the UPC and URV that allows him to follow a specialised degree track and 'progress faster to obtain both bachelor's degrees in six years instead of eight,' he explains.

The concurrent studies initiative offers a new pathway that enriches the academic experience of students. It enables students to pursue two university degrees, either both at the URV or at the URV and another academic institution. This provides students with a more comprehensive and multidisciplinary education and expands their career prospects. 'Agronomy gave me general knowledge, but we have vineyards at home and oenology gives me more specialised knowledge about vineyards and winemaking,' explains Santacana, who has rented a winery and is starting to make his own wines with grapes harvested from his family's vineyards.


Concurrent studies allow students to pursue more than one bachelor's degree at a time. They can enrol in two different programmes provided they meet certain requirements. To be eligible, students must first have passed 60 ECTS credits from the first year of one of the two bachelor's degrees. Once admitted to both programmes, students can apply to have credits recognised for subjects that have similar content.


This formula is common at some URV schools and faculties, such as the Faculty of Arts, where communication studies can be combined simultaneously with other bachelor's degree programmes in the same faculty. The concurrent studies follow a special pathway. Other faculties, such as the Faculty of Business and Economics, the Faculty of Legal Sciences and the School of Chemical Engineering also offer this option for some of their master's degrees.

However, concurrent studies also extend beyond the URV, for example, through the agreement between the URV and the Polytechnic University of Catalonia that has allowed Santacana to simultaneously pursue a Bachelor's Degree in Agronomic Sciences Engineering and a Bachelor's Degree in Oenology,

Record number of enrolments

The URV broke all enrolment records in the 2023–24 academic year. Specifically, by mid-October there were a total of 12,664 bachelor's degree students (an increase of 2.6% over 2022–23) and 2,136 master's degree students (a 1.8% increase). A total of 3,437 of those enrolled in bachelor's degrees were starting their first year (2% more than in the previous academic year) and the average age of these students was 20.5. Eight out of every ten students entered the university via the university entrance exam (65%) or advanced technical training courses (15%).


+2,9%
bachelor's
degree students


+1,5%
master's degree
students

Concurrent studies reduces the time needed to earn two bachelor's degrees

following a special pathway in which credits can be recognised between the two degrees. 'It's a very interesting and comprehensive experience. If everything goes well, I'll finish my studies next year. Combining subjects

from different courses means you don't waste time. You've got to work hard. But once you get going, it works out. I highly recommend it,' says Santacana. In fact, he says, his experience has convinced a fellow agronomics student to pursue the same oenology pathway at the URV in the 2024–25 academic year.

In addition to the agreement with the UPC, the URV has entered into a new agreement with the Escola Superior de Música de Catalunya (ESMUC) to be rolled out in the 2024–25

academic year. The agreement will allow students in the Bachelor's Degree in Primary Education at the Terres de l'Ebre Campus to combine their studies with an Arts Higher Education Degree in Music from the ESMUC in Tortosa. This means students can present a joint final project and that the URV will recognise 21 credits taken at ESMUC corresponding to subjects in the Music and Dance Education certification of the Bachelor's Degree in Primary Education.

The URV and ESMUC will launch a new academic pathway in the 2024–25 academic year that allows students to pursue a Bachelor's Degree in Primary Education and an Arts Higher Education Degree in Music at the same time

Pursuing two degrees simultaneously requires enormous effort and can represent a significant challenge for students. With this in mind, the URV has set up support mechanisms and academic counselling services to help students get organised and overcome any difficulties that may arise during the process.

their knowledge, improve their competitiveness in the labour market and better adapt to the needs of a constantly changing society that demands professionals with wide-ranging skills.

For students interested in different disciplines, parallel study programmes offer many advantages, including the opportunity to broaden

Dropout prevention

Introduced by the URV in the 2018–2019 academic year, the protocol to prevent students from dropping out of bachelor's degree studies has proven effective. The dropout rate fell by 5.6 percent in the first year after the protocol was introduced, while the number of tutoring sessions to prevent dropout rose by 26.3 percent. Thanks to the protocol, students who earn fewer than 12 credits in the first semester attend a one-to-one tutoring session to explore the causes for their performance and offer them guidance to help them improve the situation.



The URV offers special counselling for students simultaneously pursuing two bachelor's degrees.

A plan for Catalan

The university promotes measures to encourage the use of Catalan in teaching and research

The commitment to increase the use of Catalan has a long way to go, especially in master's degrees and research

The URV is implementing a number of measures to promote the use of Catalan in teaching and research in a context in which Catalan is clearly at a disadvantage. The university has set the goal of 80% of teaching in Catalan in bachelor's degrees and qualifying master's degrees, a milestone that it is close to achieving in its bachelor's programmes. However, there has been a worrying setback in master's degrees and in research, where the presence of Catalan has decreased considerably.

The plan to increase instruction in Catalan approved by the URV includes specific measures to reverse the downward trend and increase the use of Catalan in master's degrees and research. These measures include a pilot project to use the app iLengua to collect more accurate data on the language of instruction. This comes in response to a significant number of language complaints in the last three academic years (55), resulting in classes regularly given in Catalan being conducted in Spanish.

In the majority of master's degrees, instruction is predominantly in Spanish and English, with Catalan dropping from 37.6% to 18.8% over the last five years. Despite efforts to promote Catalan in research, English continues to be the dominant

Awards for the best theses in Catalan

In the third edition of the Josep Maria Pujol Awards for the best doctoral theses written in Catalan, Fina Anglès was honoured in the category of social sciences and humanities and Carles Perpiñan in the category of experimental sciences and health. The award aims to raise the profile of Catalan as a language in science and research and to promote its use. Anglès presented a thesis titled 'Rutas literarias y patrimonialización' (Literary Routes and Heritagisation), a study of the Mir/Manent pictorial-literary route, while Perpiñan focused on predictive biomarkers for COVID-19 severity in patients with obesity and/or metabolic syndrome infected with SARS-CoV-2.

URV Publications wins two Vives Network Awards

The Joan Lluís Vives Awards hosted at the University by the Vives Network of Universities recognised URV Publications for its 2024 publication *Influència de les alertes de seguretat de medicaments sobre la prescripció en l'àmbit de l'atenció primària de salut* (Influence of Drug Safety Alerts on Prescribing in Primary Health Care) by Isabel Rosich Martí, and *El món d'avui: de la guerra freda als reptes de la interdependència global* (The World Today: From the Cold War to The Challenges of Global Interdependence), by Antoni Mas.

language for doctoral theses (60%), scientific publications (87.5%) and conferences (50.3%), while Catalan has a much lower presence. This reality reflects the difficulties in positioning Catalan in a highly international context that uses English as its common language.

To address these challenges, the URV has adopted a special plan to increase the use of Catalan in research, which includes measures such as increasing the number of scientific publications in Catalan and promoting the language in dissemination activities. The URV is also seeking to improve understanding and awareness of

language use among teaching staff and to offer better induction in Catalan for new students from outside the language area.

Despite the difficulties of the situation, the URV is committed not only to guaranteeing and promoting the use of Catalan, but also to ensuring that linguistic and cultural diversity continues to be an added value for the entire university community.



New horizons in education

The Master's Degree in Data Science adds more partners and content

The interuniversity Master's Degree in Biometric Data Science, which includes seven Catalan universities and is coordinated by the URV, is now the Master's Degree in Health Data Science after receiving approval from the Spanish government and 1.2 million euros in funding from EIT Health through to 2027. The Université Grenoble Alpes in France joined the consortium, course content was expanded, and the topics of entrepreneurship and innovation were given new impetus.

Interuniversity Master's Degree in Semiconductors and Microelectronics Design

The Master's Degree in Semiconductor and Microelectronics Design, the first of its kind in Catalonia, will be launched in the 2024–25 academic year, offering 30 places and 60 ECTS credits. The new degree programme will be coordinated by the UPC and taught in English. It will include the URV, the UB and the UAB.

International quality seals for three School of Engineering bachelor's degrees

The School of Engineering has succeeded in renewing international quality seals for the Bachelor's Degree in Electrical Engineering (GEE), the Bachelor's Degree in Industrial Electronics and Automation (GEEiA) and the Bachelor's Degree in Computer Science. The first two have the EUR-ACE accreditation, while the last has received the EURO-INF quality label.

New phase in the Erasmus Mundus Master's Degree in Innovation and Wine Tourism

The European Union's Education and Culture Executive Agency has renewed the International Master's Degree in Innovation in Wine Tourism for another four years and renamed it the International Master's Degree in Wine Tourism Transitions and Innovations. The programme, coordinated by the URV, will have more content related to the sustainable and digital transformation of the sector starting in the 2024–25 academic year.

Research

The URV is in the process of defining the focus of its primary research activities for the coming years. Under the maxim 'collaborative and interdisciplinary research in response to society's challenges', the strategic plan for research and innovation was built around three key pillars: interdisciplinarity as the foundation for knowledge generation and to meet the challenges of the future; people, infrastructures and resources; and social impact alongside international vision.

With three objectives per pillar and 55 measures in total, the plan's aim is to improve the URV's ability to address social challenges. Four areas of research were also identified (sustainability, welfare, social cohesion and technological innovation) within which URV researchers can undertake specialised research initiatives with significant international impact.

The past year saw the consolidation of the University Institute for Research on Sustainability, Climate Change, and Energy Transition, Catalonia's scientific-technical hub for hydrogen and decarbonisation. Its initiatives are undertaken in conjunction with institutions and companies to accelerate industrial decarbonisation and move towards climate neutrality. As a leader in the search for zero-kilometre quality in the region, the URV has signed a collaboration agreement with Eurecat and is working to renew the framework agreement with the Pere Virgili Institute for Health Research (IISPV) and the programme agreement with the Catalan Institute of Classical Archaeology (ICAC).

The URV has also signed several agreements with the Catalan Institute of Human Paleocology and Social Evolution (IPHES) in order to strengthen joint research.

The renewal of the Aurora 2030 University Alliance, in which the URV is involved along with 13 other international universities, is for the first time focusing on intensifying research through the university network. This past year, the first phase of Aurora was promoted, consisting of the Call for Incentive Research Projects, Thematic Summer Schools and Early-Stage Researcher Mobilities, which is part of Aurora 2030 Work Package 5: Enhancing Quality of Research through an Aurora Research and Innovation (R&I) Community. The initiative aims to cultivate a fertile environment for excellent quality in research and collaboration through shared values and practices within the Aurora Alliance.

The scientific output of the URV's research staff increased again in the 23–24 academic year, as did the acquisition of funds through competitive grants. The University implemented the new Human Resources Strategy for Researchers (HRS4R) in line with the URV's commitment to fair recruitment practices and attractive career opportunities in research.

For yet another year, reports show that the URV is the most productive Catalan university of those outside Barcelona. It held the highest proportion of publications in the most prestigious journals among all Catalan universities, a position accomplished due to the determination of the research community to focus its efforts on achieving research results of the highest quality. The URV's position allows its researchers to shape and lead the course of international research.



A paper treasure trove

The various collections donated to the URV contain thousands of historical documents of incalculable value for research

‘Look, a dedication to Felip Calvet and Teresa, daughter of Antoni Rovira i Virgili, made by Domènec Guansé while in exile.’ The privileged hands of Gema Duarte have touched some of the most meaningful pages in Catalan history. As a librarian at the Learning and Research Resources Centre (CRAI) on the Catalunya Campus, she is able to browse

The CRAI’s strategic plan prioritises the digitisation of documents, which will make around ten collections accessible online

through thousands of documents belonging to the collections of people who played a fundamental role in understanding Catalan culture in the 20th century. The collections of key figures such as Domènec Guansé, Jaume Vidal i Alcover, Maria Aurèlia Capmany and Antoni Rovira i Virgili are a

priceless treasure for researchers that is now open to the whole world thanks to digitisation.

In the basement of the Catalunya CRAI, hundreds of thousands of perfectly indexed pages are kept at a constant temperature and humidity. A separate room, the special collections room, houses documents, books, journals and manuscripts of all kinds that transcend the paper they are printed on. They allow us to explore the human and professional dimension of a generation of Catalan intellectuals who were at the forefront of the social, political and cultural upheavals of the 20th century. ‘As well as opening the CRAI every

day, helping the students and offering bibliographic services, we have the privilege of preserving and documenting these unique collections and contributing to their use and dissemination. It’s a very technical and precise job that requires a lot of dedication, but it’s without doubt the most rewarding,’ says Duarte.



The Catalunya CRAI houses documents of great historical and scientific interest.

From the Salamanca Archive to the Internet

Fifty volumes from Antoni Rovira i Virgili’s personal library, including a copy of the first edition of *Els darrers dies*, the book in which he recounts his devastating experience on the road to exile, have been digitised by the URV and can now be viewed on the website Digital Memory of Catalonia. The books are part of the collection donated to the URV by the author’s daughter, librarian Teresa Rovira, which includes more than 200 documents, including magazines and books on history, politics, grammar, dictionaries, textbooks, poetry, theatre and anthologies published from the early 20th century to the late 1940s. Antoni Rovira i Virgili, a man with firm democratic and republican convictions, went to France after the victory of the fascists in the Civil War. When he died in Perpignan in 1949, he was president of the Catalan parliament in exile.

Part of the documentation that is now housed at the CRAI on the Catalunya Campus was held for decades in the General Archive of the Spanish Civil War in Salamanca. This archive, now called the Documentation Centre of Historical Memory, was set up by the Franco regime after the end of the war. It houses documents that the regime systematically confiscated from public and private organisations and individuals in order to track down political dissidents and intensify repression. After lengthy legal proceedings, the documents were returned to Teresa Rovira in 2012. The collection also includes books and articles that mention the author and biographies, correspondence, bibliographies and studies on the political and ideological thoughts of Rovira i Virgili.

Many of the document collections included in the URV's bibliographic catalogue can be traced back to contacts within the university community, to professors who knew about the collections, donated them themselves, or arranged the donations, as in the case of the estate of Ramon Amigó, a scholar of onomastics. Others have also donated their collections, such as former URV rector and renowned linguist Joan Martí i Castell. There are hundreds of contributions, many with personal annotations, including a large collection of dictionaries.

The URV, partner in the inauguration of the Tarradellas Archive

Rovira i Virgili University, the Tarragona Provincial Council and the Poblet Monastery are working together to preserve the archive of Montserrat Tarradellas i Macià in digital form. The archive contains documents that play a key role in shaping our understanding of the context of Catalan institutions during the Republic and documents that recount the exile and restoration of the Catalan government in the years following the death of dictator Francisco Franco, as well as many others. The archive, which has been digitised in several phases since 2010, has joined the URV as a technology and research partner with the aim of promoting its use and dissemination.

The Tarragona Provincial Council has pledged to provide 5,000 euros per year to establish a communication network between the Poblet Monastery and the URV, technological infrastructure that is crucial for consolidating the security

and availability of the digitised archives. The Provincial Council is also providing up to 6,000 euros per year for a number of technology projects being implemented by the URV. The URV is responsible for the hosting service, access to the servers, defining a solution for digitising and managing the collections, safeguarding the computer systems, providing technical advice, and more. It will also provide a solution to manage the Poblet Monastery's library catalogue so the collection can be included in the joint catalogue of Catalan universities.

The institutional agreement also promotes scientific cooperation between the archive and the URV. The university will encourage research using Poblet's resources, while the library will commit to hosting students for professional placements and providing access, advice and lending services to researchers.



Maria Aurèlia Capmany and Jaume Vidal i Alcover included the URV in their will, donating their huge archive and personal library with 16,355 books, doctoral theses and articles, as well as other documents. Their value for researchers is enormous. Translator and playwright Vidal i Alcover makes reference to classic authors and theatrical productions from the 60s and 70s. Capmany, who was not only a champion of theatre

The URV houses archives that bear witness to the intellectual influence of figures such as Maria Aurèlia Capmany and Jaume Vidal i Alcover

but also a supporter of many other forms of literary expression, discusses women and defends feminism in a historical climate that was far more hostile than that of today.

Other collections donated to the university and managed at the Catalunya CRAI within its special collections include the library of the writer, journalist, translator and literary critic Domènec Guansé donated to the URV by Òmnium Cultural, which includes more than 800 documents from publications from between 1897 and 1978; Ramon Comas i Maduell's collection of unpublished typewritten documents, originals and offprints, as well as letters received and sent – for example those of poet J. V. Foix – which allow us to reconstruct the career of this versatile author from Tarragona (on loan from the writer and journalist Ignasi Riera); the Pau Xuriguera collection, which comprises 342 documents, including books and magazines from his time as a teacher in France; the collection of 178 works of the Feminist Bloc of Tarragona, which was active between 1979 and 2001; and the special collection of Dr Herbert S. Klein, which includes almost 3,000 documents on history, politics and economics, mainly on Latin America.



The CRAI aims to make the URV's rich bibliographic heritage more accessible.

'When we are offered new documents, we don't turn down anything, but we have to choose very carefully and judiciously because we can't keep everything. Space is limited,' explains Carme Montcusí, coordinator of the Catalunya CRAI. The work of collecting, analysing and documenting each piece is meticulous

and culminates in a descriptive file for each one. Precisely cataloguing each document is essential for it to be findable, accessible and useful.

The collections' utility is directly related to knowing where the documents are and being able to access them. And this is precisely

one of the key points of the CRAI's 2024-27 strategic plan: guaranteeing access to the URV's bibliographic heritage to all. To achieve this, documents are being digitised and made available online to all users.

According to Josepa Rius, head of the URV's CRAI, 'we've set a goal of digitising ten collections, which means we have to process a large number of documents. We're doing this with URV resources, but we're also seeking funding from public bodies such as the Government of Catalonia and the Tarragona Provincial Council.' Works from the Antoni Rovira i Virgili collection, the Daniel Vilaró Rius collection, which includes 300 letters written from prison, opera librettos from the 19th century on loan from Guillem-Jordi Graells, a playwright and URV lecturer, and a graphic and documentary collection that portrays the struggle of the women workers at the Seidensticker-Valmeline factory in Tarragona between 1961 and 1980 have already been digitised and added to the online archive Digital Memory of Catalonia.

Leading facility for biomedical research

The URV has opened a pioneering animal facility for experimental and clinical research in Catalonia

The URV has opened an animal facility destined to become a benchmark for research support in the fields of medicine, nutrition, biochemistry and biotechnology in Catalonia. The state-of-the-art centre, designed to streamline everything from the initial research phases to developing final applications for human use, features innovative technology that is unique in the region and allows students to pursue their studies in a cutting-edge environment.

An animal facility a specialised research support centre in which laboratory animals are kept and bred for scientific research. It offers a controlled environment that ensures the well-being of the animals and guarantees that the experiments are carried out under optimal safety and hygiene conditions. Animal facilities are crucial for biomedical and biotechnological research. They are used to study diseases, develop new treatments and evaluate the safety and efficacy of new drugs and therapies.

With a surface area of 452.3 square metres, the URV's new animal facility has a special pathogen-free area equipped with individually ventilated micro-isolator cages to house mice with reduced immunity. This feature ensures a high degree of safety and permits advanced studies in immunology, pharmacology and diseases such as diabetes, arteriosclerosis and various types of cancer.

In the pathogen-free area, studies can be conducted in the fields of immunology and pharmacology as well as on diseases such as diabetes, arteriosclerosis and various types of cancer

Transgenic mouse strains can also be produced at the facility, which are essential for research into the function of certain genes, the development of embryos and the regulation of brain function. Gene therapies and other cell-targeted treatments can also be tested as can the effectiveness and toxicity of new therapeutic molecules.

Funding for the facility in the amount of 1.79 million euros was provided by the Government of Catalonia, the Tarragona Provincial Council, the Reus City Council and the URV itself.





Vitrimers: the change to come

The URV's Board of Trustees recognised the work of the FUNCMAT-POLTEPO group for the development of thermostable, recyclable polymers with high impact potential – this was one of the five award-winning projects of the academic year

Managing plastic waste is one of the great environmental challenges of our time. Conventional plastics, especially those used in the manufacture of wind turbine blades, electronic control boards, optical lenses and certain adhesive products, have thermostable properties that make them more robust but also pose a range of challenges in recycling processes involving heat. However, this drawback can be overcome with a new generation of thermostable, recyclable materials developed by the FUNCMAT-POLTEPO research group. The team, led by Silvia de la Flor, was recognised by the URV Board of Trustees for its research, which has a high potential for social impact and has already attracted the interest of several companies.

'The materials we're developing are thermostable, but can be encoded so that we can recover and recycle them under certain temperature and pressure conditions or with the help of a catalyst,' explains Silvia de la Flor. Her team has been researching and developing thermosetting materials for three years using associative adaptive covalent networks, known as vitrimers, polymers that combine the mechanical and thermal properties of thermostable materials that can be recovered and recycled for reuse in other applications, as is the case with thermoplastics.

The use of adaptive covalent networks opens up new areas of application for thermoset materials and enables the fabrication of products that are competitive in terms of their end-use performance. The main advantage of vitrimers is that they can be recycled with thermomechanical processes

to obtain materials of comparable quality and that damaged components can be repaired, extending their useful life.

These benefits help to reduce waste generation and environmental impact. In fact, this work has already attracted the interest of several industrial companies. The team has entered into collaboration with the manufacturer Carl Zeiss and Eurecat to make vitrimer polyurethane lenses. This will allow waste produced from polishing the lenses (which accounts for up to 20 to 30 percent of the total material) to be recycled, as well as for repair and recycling at the end of the product life. 'The dust produced when polishing the lenses is

New thermosetting polymers are designed to be recycled, a process that is currently highly complicated

discarded, but could be used to make other products, such as electronic control boards,' says De la Flor.

The group will also make reversible adhesives that are mechanically similar to commercially available adhesives, but that can be recycled. They are also working with the company Unecol to test dual-curing vitrimers as sustainable adhesives for repairing PVC pipes and with the Footwear Technology Centre (INESCOP) FUNCMAT-



Vitrimers can be recycled using thermomechanical means.



FUNCMAT-POTELPO is working with several companies to develop new technological applications with vitrimers.

The URV Board of Trustees Awards, a model to emulate

The 2023 Report on the State of Science in Catalonia by the Catalan Foundation for Research and Innovation names the URV Board of Trustees Awards for Research Impact as an innovative pioneering project and a good practice for retrospective evaluation within a university.

POTELPO to use vitrimers in the manufacture of recyclable adhesives.

The potential social and environmental impact of this research has been recognised by the URV's Board of Trustees, which awarded the group a Joan Pedrerol Gallego Award in the ex-post category for research social impact. The award recognises not only the scientific quality of the project, but also its capacity to transfer technology and its contribution to a circular and sustainable economy.

The research conducted by the FUNCMAT-POLTEPO group represents a step towards a more sustainable and environmentally friendly materials industry.

Their advances in the field of vitrimers show that innovation, sustainability and economic viability can be combined to drive the circular economy forward.

2024 Joan Pedrerol Gallego Research Impact Awards

Ex ante category

Healthy habits in dementia contexts

The BeHFoD project, led by the URV's Nu-MeH group, aims to develop a nutritional and lifestyle support programme for people with dementia and their caregivers. The initiative includes assessing nutritional status, identifying areas for improvement and developing programmes tailored to the patients' cognitive status. The goal of the project is to improve the health and well-being of patients as well as their caregivers, who are often neglected in this process. Expected outcomes include improved nutrition, better overall health and a reduction in the negative psychosocial impact associated with dementia care.

Avoiding re-victimisation in circumstances of femicide

The project 'Necessitats i drets de les filles i fills del feminici: una aproximació transdisciplinària a les conseqüències de la violència de gènere en el context de la pandèmia per Covid-19' (Needs and Rights of the Children of Femicide: A Transdisciplinary Approach to the Consequences of Gender Violence in the Context of the Covid-19 Pandemic), led by a group of lecturers in the fields of anthropology, philosophy and social work, public and private law, and procedural and financial law, analyses the impact of femicide in relation to the needs and rights of children and family members with the aim of making situations of injustice and inequality more visible, opening up the issue for discussion, and developing comprehensive strategies for intervention that take into account the voices of the victims and prevent re-victimisation.

Ex post category

Lifestyles for healthy ageing

The Territorial Specialisation and Competitiveness project 'Pobles Vius i Actius' (Villages Alive and Active), led by the NFOC-Salut group at the URV, has engaged people aged between 60 and 75 from 14 villages in the Tarragona region in a participatory research process that has led to the implementation of programmes for nutrition, physical activity and other healthy habits. The aim of the project is to improve lifestyles and prevent sarcopenia, a condition characterised by a loss of muscle strength that is highly prevalent among the elderly.

More education, less inequality

The URV research group Social Impact and Education is working to implement effective educational measures to reduce inequalities and improve school performance. These measures, which are based on the INCLUD-ED project, include extracurricular learning activities and programmes for at-risk young people. The aim is to create an inclusive educational environment that promotes social cohesion and reduces the school dropout rate. This formula has proven successful in cases such as the Escola Mediterrani in Tarragona's Campclar neighbourhood. In the 2009–10 academic year, before these measures were implemented, the secondary school dropout rate was 98%. By 2022–23, the rate had dropped to 10%, while the dropout rate for baccalaureate studies was 26.1%.

Leaders in research

ICREA
ACADEMY

Researchers Josep Domingo-Ferrer and Eduard Llobet Valero have been recognised by ICREA Acadèmia, a prestigious distinction they had already received in previous years and which they share with other URV researchers, including Jordi Salas-Salvadó, David Sánchez Ruenes, Àngel Martínez Hernáez, Jordi Miró Martínez, Marta Sales-Pardo, Lluís Marsal Garví, Mabel Gracia Arnaiz, Carlos Lorenzo Merino, Àlex Arenas Moreno and Mònica Bulló Bonet



Josep Domingo-Ferrer

A prominent scholar and researcher in cybersecurity, the founder and director of the Center for Cybersecurity Research of Catalonia (CYBERCAT), Domingo-Ferrer has received the ICREA Acadèmia award on four occasions (2008, 2013, 2018 and 2023) as well as the Narcís Monturiol Medal for scientific merit in 2012. He has been recognised as a fellow by the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers (IEEE) and is also a member of the Institute for Catalan Studies, as well as being the most cited scientist in the world in data protection and the leader in cybersecurity in Spain. The URV designated him as a distinguished professor in 2013, and in 2016 he was recognised by the Association for Computing Machinery as a distinguished scientist. He leads the CRISES research group, which is a state-level benchmark in cybersecurity.



Eduard Llobet Valero

Founder of the spin-offs NanoChronia and Green Smart Data and president of the Spanish Network of Microsystems and Nanotechnologies (IBERNAM), Llobet Valero has received the ICREA Acadèmia distinction three times, in 2013, 2018 and 2023. From 2010 to 2014 he was director of the Research Centre into Materials Engineering and Micro/Nanosystems, and in 2019 the URV recognised him as a distinguished professor. Since 2006 he has been head of the MINOS research group, recognised by the Government of Catalonia, which focuses on developing gas detection technologies. MINOS has an excellent reputation in Europe and is accredited by the Quality Research Group of the Catalan Research Agency. Llobet Valero has co-authored more than 250 scientific articles, given approximately 40 presentations at international conferences, and led more than 40 regional, national and international projects.



Drivers of progress

The teaching staff awarded the ICREA distinction make up a vibrant scientific community representing all fields of knowledge, whose studies, interpretations and questions contribute to the progress of humanity. At the URV, Ramón Álvarez Puebla, Coen de Graaf, Roger Guimerá Manrique, Bahareh Kherzi, Ciara O'Sullivan, Francisco Ortega Guerrero, Joan Rosell Llompарт and Fernando Vidal have also been awarded the ICREA distinction

The ICREA research professor award is granted by the Catalan Institution for Research and Advanced Studies. It distinguishes researchers who adhere to the highest ethical standards and conduct socially responsible research. There are currently eight professionals at the URV with this honour.

PROFESORES DE
INVESTIGACIÓN
ICREA



Bahareh Kherzi

Researcher at the URV's Department of Physical and Inorganic Chemistry, Kherzi was born in Isfahan, Iran, and has conducted research at some of the world's most prestigious institutions, including Nanyang Technological University in Singapore and the University of Cambridge. In 2021 she moved to Catalonia to work at the Institute of Chemical Research of Catalonia. When she discovered the URV, she decided to make it her home and, in January 2024, she was recognised as an ICREA research professor.

What were you interested in as a child? Why did you choose to study chemistry?

I've always been quite curious about how things work, so I've always been fascinated by the things you can learn from science. I liked all the branches of science, but I remember falling in love with chemistry in high school thanks to an exceptional teacher. I still remember how he explained atoms, electrons, orbitals and the basics of chemistry. He was an amazing teacher.

You already knew back then that you wanted to go into chemistry?

«Actually, my original plan was to study mathematics and then philosophy. But my father was a chemist, and he and his friends managed to get me to change my mind. And I don't regret it. I think you can answer a lot of questions about the world with chemistry. If you look around you, it's all chemistry.

You're currently focusing your career on electrochemistry and synthetic nanorobots.

At first, they would seem to be very different fields, but they have things in common. In electrochemistry, we use electricity to trigger or control chemical reactions. We think electrochemistry can play an important role in a lot of the challenges we face, everything from energy storage to environmental sustainability. And nanorobots are tiny machines we design to do a specific task. We call them synthetic robots because we make them using chemical reactions. We synthesise them. They can be used in environmental technology, biomedicine and many other areas.

You've done research at institutions all over the world. Why did you choose the URV?

I chose the URV because it is a young university with a lot of potential. I have the support of the administration,

which is important when you work at a university. It means you can do good research work and be recognised so that the university builds up a good reputation. I'm happy here and I've decided to stay. Of all the places I've been, I've felt most at home here. I like the people, the food, the weather, and I feel welcome. I've never felt like I was treated as a foreigner.

You've been an ICREA research professor since last January. What does the recognition mean to you?

It is an honour and a milestone in my career. Being recognised by ICREA not only helps to advance my research, it also provides me with a platform to attract talented researchers to the areas of study I'm focusing on. I think it is the best thing that's happened to me in my career. Until now I had a ladder; now they've given me a lift. I'm very grateful.

On your LinkedIn profile you say, 'To me, chemistry is power and art.' Why is chemistry an art?

In my bachelor's studies, I had a teacher who told us in the first lesson, 'Welcome to the energy and art class. You can also call it inorganic chemistry.' Chemistry takes place at the atomic level and art on a minuscule scale. The interactions and reactions take place with great precision and beauty. Now, if I were to say it, I would take it yet further, 'Welcome to the class of power, art, love and bonds.' Chemistry is about creating and innovating, and it forces you to think like an artist.

A test bed for decarbonisation

The URV, the Institute of Chemical Research of Catalonia (ICIQ) and Eurecat have joined forces to support the construction of pilot plants to evaluate innovative technologies to capture and use CO₂

The 2023–24 academic year saw continued work on strategic projects for the region, such as linking the URV with the Hydrogen Valley, and a clear commitment to strategic alliances to promote decarbonisation. The Tarragona Industrial Decarbonisation Group (ARDIT, SL), a project led by ICIQ, the URV and Eurecat, was founded as part of these efforts. The same group is also the driving force behind the future Catalan Centre for the Decarbonisation of Industry.

Five million euros have been received so far, and a further five million are earmarked for 2024, to build pilot plants to test new clean technologies, which have already been tendered. One will be stationary, and the other three will be mobile so that the different technologies can be tested by the industrial sector. The aim is to evaluate innovative technologies for capturing and using CO₂ that can be harnessed by industry and

the research community to promote decarbonisation. Companies from the petrochemical cluster and the iron and steel, cement and waste-to-energy sectors are taking part in the initiative.

The URV played an important role in the H₂-CAT network for the exploitation of hydrogen technologies, and the University's participation in the Spanish CO₂ technology network was approved

Almost 100 researchers from the URV, the Institute of Chemical Research of Catalonia and the Eurecat Technology Centre met this year to share their research and innovation work related to the entire renewable hydrogen value chain (production, transport, storage and use) and carbon capture and utilisation technologies. This is the second forum of this kind to be held at the URV, one of the key stakeholders

involved in making Tarragona a leading hub for research, innovation and dissemination in the field of decarbonisation. The aim of the forum is to share information on the latest advances and promote

cooperation between research groups from other institutions and companies in the sector. All the research teams and experts from various disciplines bring together a

broad spectrum of knowledge and experience in the field of decarbonisation. The forum also offered an opportunity to showcase the URV-Repsol Foundation Energy Transition Chair (*further information on page 29*).

Hydrogen from wastewater

The HACDOS project, which involves several researchers from the Department of Chemical Engineering, Eurecat and the companies Facsa and Enagás, has made it possible to develop a technology that uses solar radiation to produce renewable hydrogen from wastewater. A pilot plant has been set up in one of the buildings on the Sescelades Campus.

Cutting-edge equipment

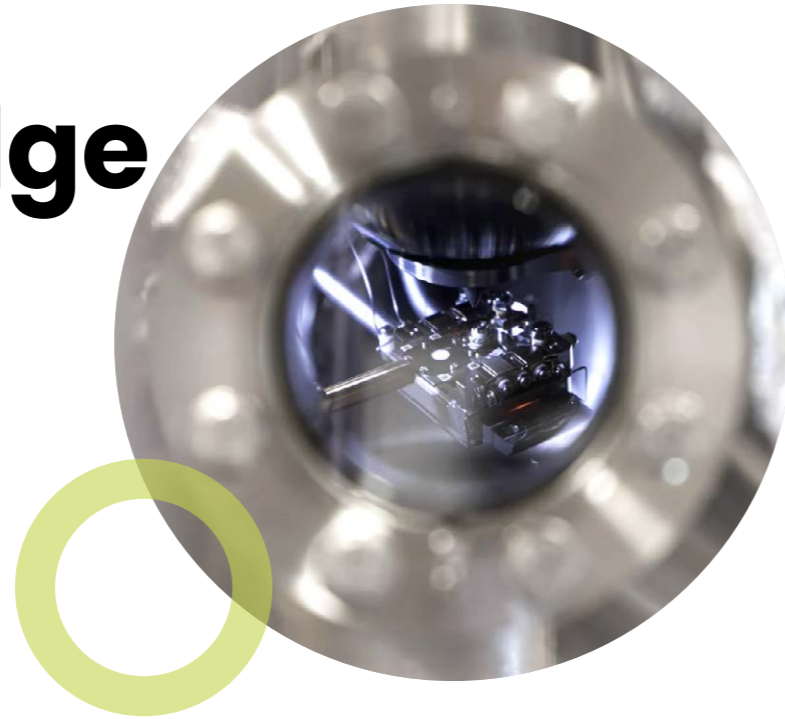
The URV has a new X-ray photoelectron spectrometer, the only one of its kind in Catalonia, which is available to research teams and institutions

This academic year, the Science and Technical Resources Service acquired a ProvenX-NAP X-ray photoelectron spectrometer. This cutting-edge technology performs surface analyses of materials such as catalysts, fibres, single crystals, polymers, gas sensors and electronic devices. It is the only one of its kind in Catalonia and is open for use by URV researchers, although not exclusively, as it may also be made available to researchers

from other institutions, public entities and private companies interested in obtaining qualitative and quantitative information on the chemical, physical and electronic properties of any solid surface. Surface analyses are a crucial component in the research and development of new materials and devices.

Compared to other techniques such as microscopy, X-ray photoelectron

spectrometry (XPS-ESCA) offers a lower depth of analysis and is more selective for phenomena that occur in the outermost surface layers of materials. The XPS technique provides information on the qualitative and quantitative composition of materials as well as on their oxidation, reduction and coordination states and their chemical environment. The system enables ultraviolet photoelectron spectroscopy (UPS) measurements to analyse valence bands and secondary electrons, which is particularly useful for investigating electronic devices and semiconductor materials. One of the special features of the new instrument is that it can work with inert gases or reagents in the analysis chamber at pressures close to atmospheric pressure, which is not possible with conventional instruments.



54%

More than half of scientific publications are international collaborations



43%

4 out of 10 members of research staff come from other countries (27% in 2019)



47%

Almost half of the doctoral students are from outside of Spain



52%

More than half of the recognised research groups are led by women



54

Members of teaching and research staff in the database of the most influential researchers in the world



+52

New Martí i Franquès pre-doctoral contracts
Martí-Franquès

Industrial doctorate impact and innovation

The Safe Beaches project by URV doctoral student Pablo Martín has been recognised as one of the most innovative initiatives with the greatest social impact as part of the Ministry of Research and Higher Education's Industrial Doctorates Plan. To improve the efficiency of emergency services, Martín developed advanced tools that make it possible to identify critical points in real time in order to optimise the allocation of resources and improve the response to accidents. The applications are already in use and have obtained good results.

International recognition

Luis Martínez Salamero, lecturer of systems engineering and automation at the URV, has received an honorary doctorate from the Université Toulouse III (Paul Sabatier University). His research focusses on the control of power converters in the aerospace and renewable energy sectors. Recently, he has been investigating problems with energy distribution in hybrid and electric vehicles and the processing of energy from renewable sources.

Knowledge and technology transfer



For the first time, the strategic plan of the Technology Transfer and Innovation Centre was jointly advanced with the active participation of the knowledge and technology transfer community.

The plan provides a roadmap to coordinate research and education in order to better meet the technological, economic and social needs and challenges of companies, institutions and citizens in this area. The aim is to improve the application of knowledge, technology transfer and innovation over the next two years, focusing on raising awareness of the wide range of knowledge-based services and resources available to society to improve competitiveness, which will facilitate agreements that ensure successful knowledge and technology transfer with companies in any given region.

Once again, it is clear that the quality of the knowledge generated at the URV and its innovation potential are of international importance. Moreover, efforts to involve a diverse range of groups were broadened by providing greater support to researchers from non-STEM fields in their pursuit of innovation and by promoting initiatives to tackle not only technological challenges, but also social issues. This inclusive approach underscores the recognition of the importance of all fields of knowledge and the value of interdisciplinarity in identifying new challenges with societal impact. The promotion of entrepreneurship continues to be a relevant vector at the URV and in its collaboration with other institutions.

In addition to a steady number of new start-ups each year, the maturity of the URV is reflected in the growth and international commercial development of spin-offs such as NTsensors. The measures set out in this report demonstrate the URV's commitment to the region and serve as catalysts for the ecosystem of innovation that generates wealth, prosperity and transformative impact through knowledge and innovation.

AMIC stands out for having developed catalysts that can transform industrial waste and give it added value

and grants totalling more than €3 million were awarded in 2023, of which almost €700,000 were contracts with companies, across all the groups that make up Tecnatox.

Mònica Bulló is taking the reins following the retirement of the entity's founders, Josep Lluís Domingo and Marta Schumacher, who, over almost 20 years, combined their vision and expertise in the field of toxicology to make

Tecnatox a benchmark in its field. 'Both were pioneers in many ways. Their work allows us to study the presence of toxins in everything around us, from what we eat to what we breathe. These are key health issues that impact society and generate interest in industry and government,' explains Bulló. Tecnatox is a dynamic consortium that works with a variety of experts, selected depending on specific requirements and trends.

'We want to be able to adapt in a way that allows us to find solutions to any global health challenge that may arise, wherever its origin,' says Bulló. As such, some of its latest research areas are data science and artificial intelligence, which complement its other areas of expertise.

The group has been preparing to apply for recognition as a María de Maeztu Unit of Excellence from the Ministry of Science, Innovation and Universities. This process has made Tecnatox analyse its operations and consider the challenges ahead. 'We have to work on delivering excellence and setting ourselves apart. We have an increasingly multidisciplinary team and can open up new markets

and offer a broader portfolio of services. We're conducting highly impactful research and would like to work with more companies in the region, but we have no structural funding and need to provide stability for our researchers,' explains Bulló.

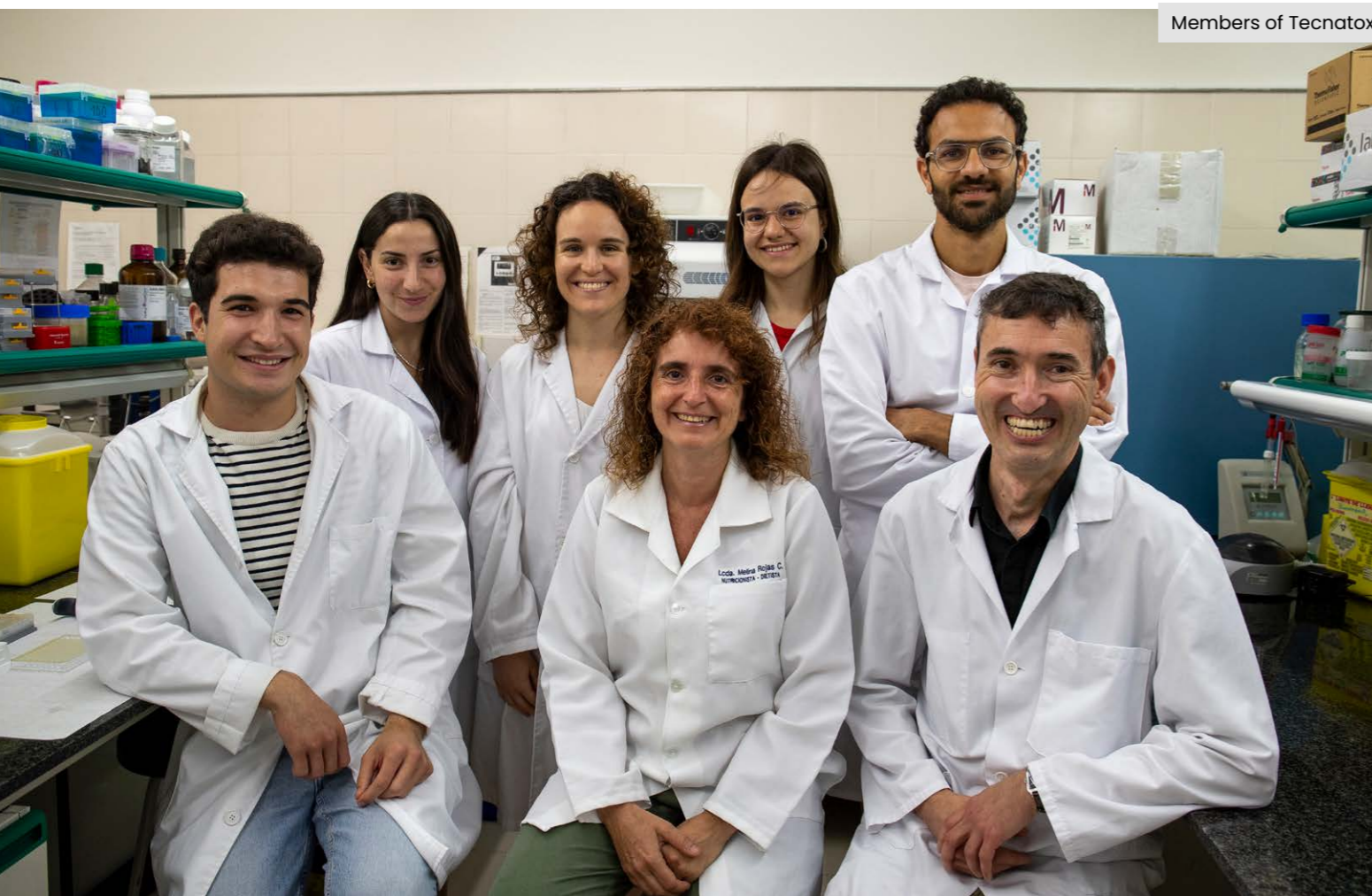
Although Tecnatox has established an excellent network of contacts over the years, it has set itself the goal of forging new links with industry and institutions in the region. One of the measures planned is the creation of a dedicated alumni network, which will allow them to maintain contact with researchers who have worked in research groups as well as those who have gone on to pursue careers outside academia. 'In the last five years, 50 doctorates have left Tecnatox. They know us, we understand each other and they hold positions in industry,' says Bulló.

Another strand Tecnatox is pursuing is participation in forums and interest groups, which can serve as meeting points to build connections with other research centres, institutions and companies. This is the case of the FoodTech & Nutrition Hub, an initiative supported by the Reus City Council.

Open-door days at companies



Members of Tecnatox.



Contracts and projects in 2023

📄 **€7,2 M**
in contracts

✍️ **364**
projects

👤 **230** clients

📄 **28** grants
obtained

📄 **253** people hired
for projects

Ideas and patents in 2023

📄 **32** inventions
identified

📄 **5** priority patent
applications in the
name of the URV

☰ **5** intellectual property
registrations in the
name of the URV

📄 **13** patent extension
applications in the
name of the URV



URV-T-Systems Cloud Computing Chair

The T-Systems Chair is focusing on developing cloud-native applications, a key technology for digitalising and streamlining processes

Services for companies and public administration, aims to ‘contribute to the development of the use of cloud computing in an interdisciplinary way,’ explains Carlos Molina, who is leading the initiative together with Pedro García, both lecturers in the URV’s Department of Computer Engineering and Mathematics.

Tarragona, Collblanc and Vidal i Barraquer secondary schools.

The Chair will make use of the research conducted and experience accrued in this area by the Cloud

Cloud-native applications are crucial for the digital transformation of companies and administrations as they offer greater flexibility to develop and provide digital solutions. They are also better able to integrate new technologies such as the Internet of Things and artificial intelligence, which makes it easier to create more efficient and connected working environments.

The main focus of their efforts is researching the impact of cloud computing in different environments, such as the workplace, with the aim of educating students and professionals on the key aspects of cloud-native application architecture and how to use services and scale them effectively. They also prioritise publicising and sharing knowledge about this technology with society through seminars and workshops, such as those that held in the 2023–24 academic year at

The Chair, created in collaboration with Deutsche Telekom’s Department for Digitisation

The latest chairs created by the URV in collaboration with T-Systems and the Repsol Foundation will promote the transfer of knowledge in the field of cloud computing and the capture of CO₂ in the atmosphere. These are two of the areas in which URV is conducting transformative, cutting-edge research.

The joint effort of the URV and T-Systems has led to the creation of a chair in cloud computing: the URV-T-Systems Cloud Computing Chair.



Working together for progress

The chairs of the University of Rovira i Virgili (URV) are academic bodies set up in collaboration with companies, institutions and organisations to conduct research, provide training and transfer knowledge in specific areas. Their strategic function is to promote applied research, foster innovation, provide specialised training and establish links between the university and the business world. The chairs bring URV to the forefront in areas such as technology, energy, health and other key sectors, and contribute to economic and social advancement.

Chairs on the cutting edge

Rovira i Virgili University is working with T-Systems to promote the use of cloud computing and with the Repsol Foundation to promote carbon capture technologies

The Repsol Foundation Chair promotes the capture and use of CO₂ in the atmosphere to contribute to the fight against climate change

Computing and Distributed Systems Lab (Cloudlab) research group, led by Pedro García. Cloudlab is in a phase of intensive growth, with many contacts and funding opportunities for projects, against the backdrop of the full emergence of this technology in conjunction with artificial intelligence.

This joint project allows the URV to position itself as a benchmark in the area of cloud technology and strengthens its relationship with T-Systems, which offers internships for students in their final year of the Bachelor's Degree in Computer Engineering.

However, the Chair's main focus is providing specialised training for future professionals in this field. In the 2023–4 academic year, a total of 54 students selected from various bachelor's and master's degree programmes of the School of Engineering took part in a free training programme to promote careers in cloud computing, divided into three blocks and totalling 170 hours. At the same time, 20 students in the final years of the Dual Bachelor's Degree in Biotechnology and Computer Science took a 15-hour introductory course in bioinformatics and genomics.

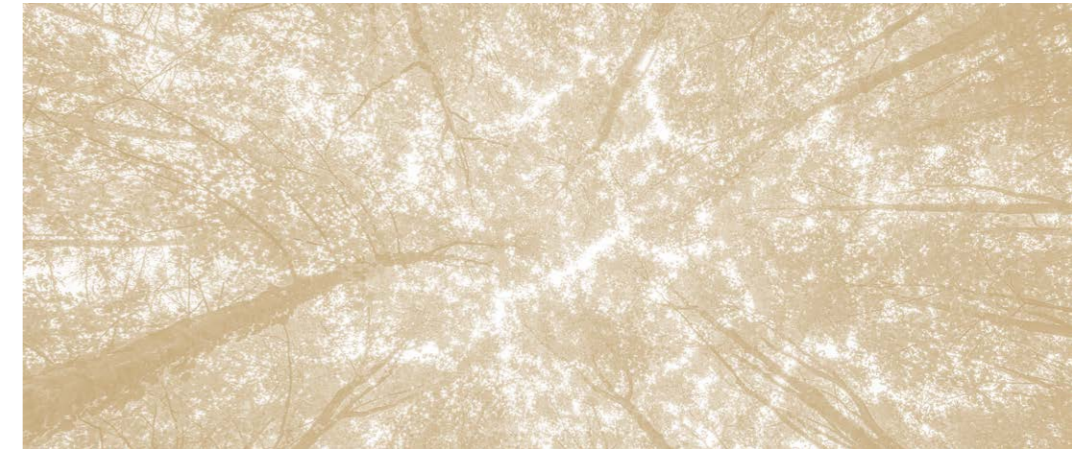
In the area of research, the Chair took part in a number of international events, such as the European Big Data Value Forum and the Mobile World Congress, where it presented its projects and made contact with experts. It also organised its own events, such as the Ninth International Workshop on Serverless Computing, which brought together academics and professionals to discuss the latest advances in cloud computing.

Meanwhile, the Chair on Energy Transition through CO₂ Capture and Exploitation has set itself the goal of improving society's knowledge of negative emission technologies. These are technologies currently under development that capture the carbon dioxide already present in the atmosphere and are poised to play a crucial role in the fight against climate change.

Fèlix Llovell, director of the Chair and coordinator of the Inter-University Master's Degree in Hydrogen Technologies, points to the need in the not-too-distant future to use decarbonisation technologies to complement those that recover new CO₂ emissions. 'The European Union has committed to achieving net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050, and the only way to achieve this is to reverse the CO₂ pollution already in the atmosphere from past emissions. Tarragona, which has a significant concentration of heavy industry and highly specialised knowledge, has a great opportunity on the horizon,' he explains.

Several technologies are already available, but they are very expensive. The Chair focuses its efforts on collecting and evaluating these technologies and preparing reports to be made available to the general public and updated regularly. The reports assess the pros and cons of each option as well as solutions for converting the captured CO₂ into other products in order to prevent it from having an environmental impact. The Chair is also studying the evolution of the legal framework to which companies must adapt and which will enable the use of these technologies in Catalonia, Spain and Europe.

Along with Fèlix Llovell, URV lecturers Anna Masdeu and Estela Rivas from the Department of Physical and Inorganic Chemistry and the Department of Private, Procedural and Financial Law, respectively, are leading this initiative with the support of three master's



degree students. The Chair also has the support of specialised researchers from the Repsol Tech Lab, the energy company's technological innovation centre in the city of Móstoles in the Community of Madrid.

In its first months of operation, the Chair on Energy Transition through CO₂ Capture and Exploitation has already carried out various awareness-raising measures, like several themed webinars with experts from science and industry, one of which had more than a thousand registered participants. It has also offered talks at secondary schools and is promoting other actions for young people, such as a workshop for Research Night.

Improving the competitiveness of the tourism sector

The URV has promoted the creation of the Salou–Costa Daurada Chair on Innovation and Research in Tourism in collaboration with the Salou Municipal Tourism Board, with the support of Tarragona Provincial Council. The main objective of this initiative is to improve the competitiveness of the Costa Daurada through research and innovation and to promote cooperation between the public and private sectors. It also seeks to position the region as a benchmark in smart and sustainable tourism and to include society in the process.

Chair on Energy Transition through CO₂ Capture and Exploitation



Architectural CAT scan

URV researchers launch Scandraw, a spin-off specialising in digitising architectural heritage

In the world of architecture, especially when it comes to renovating or working on structures that are considered architectural heritage, the first step in a project is to thoroughly investigate the structure. This includes learning its history, inspecting it visually and depicting the structure in graphic form. Traditionally, this depiction has been done manually using conventional tools, which led to incomplete and inaccurate results and demanded a lot of time and resources.

Scandraw offers customised architectural digitisation solutions that improve the efficiency of these processes and provide fast, detailed results. The company offers services including the creation of digital and physical models, architectural rendering and consulting on projects of different scales.

The Scandraw team uses two methods to perform architectural digitalisations. The first involves emitting laser light pulses onto

the object to be scanned. The pulses bounce off the various surfaces and are detected by a sensor that precisely records the spatial position and colour of each point. 'The more positioning that is done, the more complete the point cloud is and the more accurate the representation of the building,' explains Albert Samper, a researcher at the URV's School of Architecture and one of the driving forces behind the spin-off.

The second method uses a technique called photogrammetry, which makes it possible to construct three-dimensional models from a series of photographs using algorithms that search for matches between the images and correlate them with one another. As with the previous method, the more photographs used in the analysis, the more accurate the result. 'The photographs can be taken from the air with a drone. So, we can reach areas of the building hidden from the ground and also see the state of the rooves, for example,' says Samper.

The results obtained with these methods allow architects to graphically represent structures and analyse them from perspectives that were previously inaccessible, thus obtaining accurate representations that are indispensable for conserving and restoring architectural heritage. Three-dimensional building models open up a multitude of possibilities. For example, they can be used to visualise a cross-section of the building in the same way that a CAT scan shows a doctor the inside of the human body,' he says.

With the information collected and integrated into the virtual three-dimensional model, the URV researchers can also create detailed prototypes of the structures with the help of 3D printing. These scale reproductions are an

essential tool in the design stage of architectural renovation projects.

Albert Samper, Cèlia Mallafrè and David Moreno Samper are researchers from the School of Architecture who spearheaded the foundation of the spin-off. They have more than ten years' experience using the technology to digitise and graphically represent structures of architectural interest. Some of their most notable projects include the cathedrals of Girona, Mallorca and Narbonne, which they scanned and mapped in 2020, 2021 and 2022, respectively. 'Since historical buildings are geometrically complex, using these techniques for architectural heritage projects is really the most sensible approach,' say Mallafrè and Moreno. However, the method can



The team from the URV spin-off Scandraw.

The information collected and integrated into the 3D system is used to create scale reproductions of structures

be used for all types of structures and/or architectural scales.

Scandraw's founders have the support of the URV Foundation's technical team and the Chair of Entrepreneurship, who have lent them their expertise and inspired the confidence needed to drive the spin-off forward. Previous technology transfer projects and the 2023 Research to Business (R2B) grant, awarded by the FURV's Research Valorisation Unit to the project 'Gaudí a les teves mans' (Gaudí at Your Fingertips), which consisted of three-dimensional scanning of the chimneys designed by the architect who put Catalan modernisme on the map, have also provided the team with the experience and confidence they needed to undertake the project. The FURV's R2B grants aim to capitalise on research results and help bring them to market.

NT Sensors, 15 years old and firmly established

NT Sensors, a URV spin-off company, is now 15 years old and firmly established in the global water analysis market. It exports most of its products to other parts of Europe, as well as some to North America and countries such as Australia and Indonesia. Their latest innovation is developing automatic instruments that measure the nitrate concentration in the soil in various agricultural settings in real time.

The path to market

Research to Business (R2B) grants are an initiative of the URV Foundation in cooperation with the Board of Trustees and the Office of the Vice-Rector for Knowledge Valorisation, Transfer and Employability and come with an endowment of 10,000 euros. Below are the four 2024 award winners



Detecting microplastics

Joan Josep Carvajal Martí from the Department of Physical and Inorganic Chemistry has created a device called μ -PlàstIC. The device identifies and analyses microplastics in drinking water, food and the environment in real time. This technology can help to change industrial processes to reduce or eliminate the production of microplastics.



Speeding up SF5 synthesis

Omar Boutureira Martín from the Department of Analytical Chemistry and Organic Chemistry is leading a project to develop a technology to speed up the process of synthesising SF5 compounds, a type of compound used as an alternative to PFAS, or polyfluoroalkyl substances, which are widely used synthetic chemical products that pose serious risks to health and the environment.



Screening with nematodes

Enrique Calvo Manso from the Department of Biochemistry and Biotechnology has created a sustainable screening platform that uses the nematode *Caenorhabditis elegans* (a microscopic worm) to identify new bioactive compounds that can combat obesity and associated diseases. The method circumvents the ethical and procedural limitations of conventional animal models.



Real-time air quality

Joaquín Escribano Subías from the Department of Medicine and Surgery has developed ATMOS, a portable device for monitoring and analysing volatile pollutants in the air. The device measures air quality in real time and helps in tracking environmental exposure and health status.

Research Night comes to Terres de l'Ebre and is extended to two days in Tarragona

The scientific workshops fair held every year as part of European Research Night was held in Tortosa for the first time this academic year. The fair, which takes place in Plaça Corsini in Tarragona, has been extended from one to two consecutive days for the first time due to the success of previous fairs.




+4.500
participants
in Tarragona
and Tortosa

2 days
of activities in
Tarragona

60
scientific
workshops



Seeds and products

The Government of Catalonia is supporting research with 183,000 euros in grants for innovative projects at the URV



The Government of Catalonia's Ministry of Research and Universities has awarded a total of 183,250 euros to four URV research projects. The grants, which are part of the Ajuts Llabor i Ajuts Producte initiative (seed grants and product grants), are aimed at funding innovative projects with high disruption potential as

well as the developing prototypes and exploiting research results.

Three URV projects have been awarded seed grants. The first, called 'Hablavideo-metodologia per a l'aprenentatge de la pragmàtica lingüística i sociocultural' (Hablavideo: A Method for Learning

Linguistic and Sociocultural Pragmatics), led by Isabel Gibert Escofet from the Department of Romance Languages, proposes an innovative methodology to improve pragmatic competence in learning Spanish and help students understand linguistic and sociocultural nuances.

The second project, 'Transformació catalítica de la lignina derivada de la biomassa en combustibles renovables' (Catalytic Transformation of Biomass-Derived Lignin into Renewable Fuels) from lecturer Yolanda Cesteros of the Department of Physical and Inorganic Chemistry, seeks to transform lignin from Tarragona almond shells into liquid biofuel components with the aim of offering a sustainable alternative to fossil fuels.

The third project funded in this round is 'Millora de l'anàlisi de sentiments en big data: un enfocament amb lògica difusa i

lingüística matemàtica' (Improving Sentiment Analysis in Big Data: An Approach with Fuzzy Logic and Mathematical Linguistics), led by María Dolores Jiménez from the Department of Romance Languages. This research project focuses on improving sentiment analysis in natural language processing, with applications in sectors such as business, tourism and health, to facilitate decision-making and improve services.

In the product grants category, the project 'Obtenció de bioplàstics i nou biocomposit a partir del marro del cafè com a alternativa als plàstics

d'origen fòssil' (Producing Bioplastics and a New Biocomposite from Coffee Grounds as an Alternative to Fossil-Based Plastics) was awarded a grant. The project is led by Magdalena Constantí Garriga from the Department of Chemical Engineering, and aims to scale up and demonstrate the utility of a technology developed in a previous project to convert used coffee grounds into bioplastics and biocomposites to make coffee machine replacement parts and disposable materials.



Internationalisation

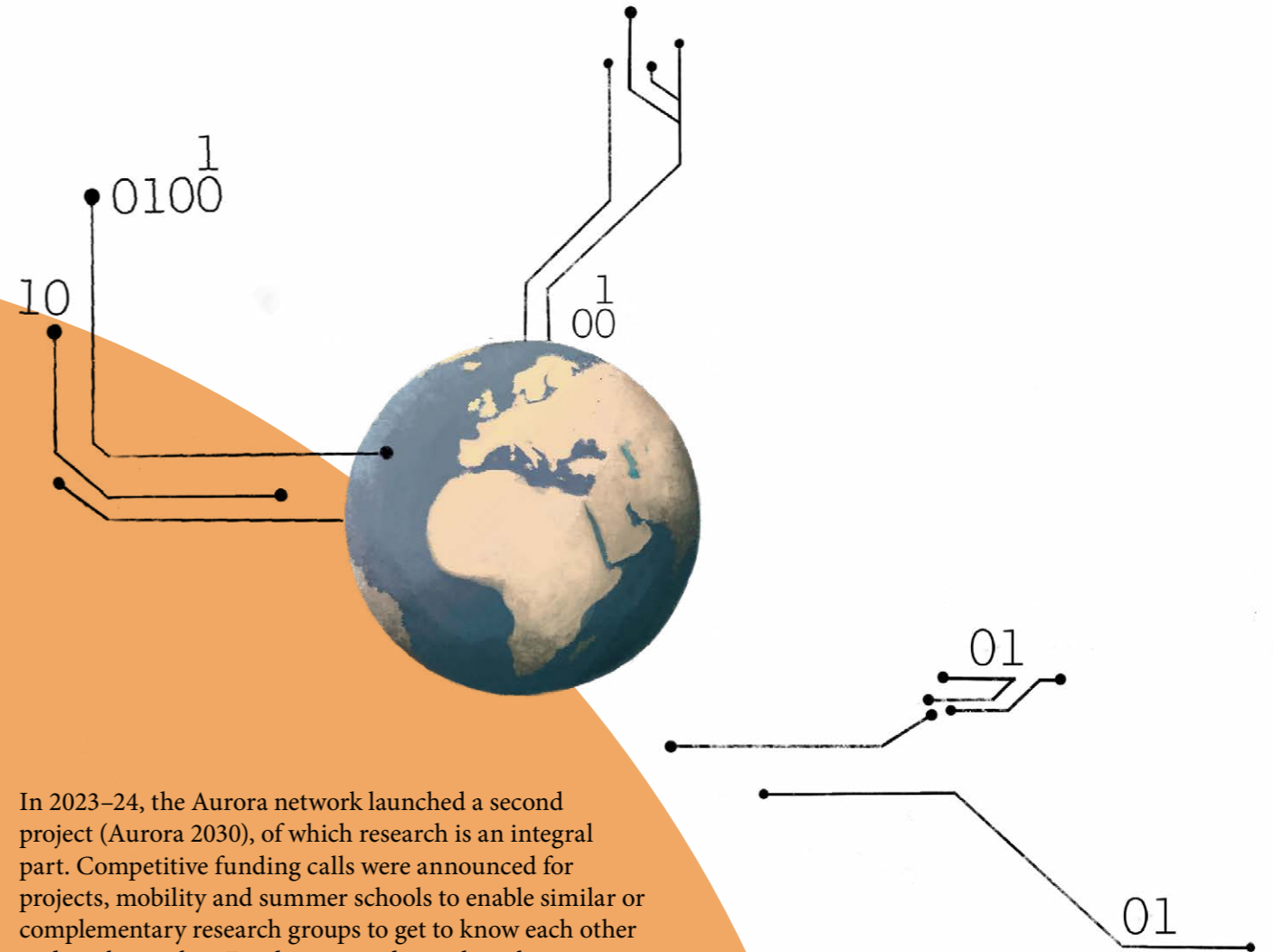
The URV was intensively engaged in a range of international activities in the 2023–24 academic year. The Latin American University Postgraduate Association helped implement good practices in the supervision of theses in various courses in Latin America, a good practice itself that also enabled the URV to participate in the Erasmus Capacity Building in High Education programme with other European and African universities. The initiative was promoted via a blended intensive programme (BIP) called BIP Staff, offered to teaching and research staff as well as technical, management and administrative and service staff, and through service learning and internationalisation programmes in Spain. The URV's considerable expertise in this area was reflected in an award for innovative excellence in internationalisation from the Association of International Education Administrators.

The number of students travelling abroad recovered last year, a trend that continued in the 2023–24 academic year, with approximately 500 students travelling abroad and a similar number visiting the URV. Short-stay mobility was boosted by the introduction of two BIP programmes and the continuation of Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL) virtual mobility programmes. Mobility numbers also rose during the academic year in terms of the members of teaching and research staff and technical, management and administrative and service staff travelling abroad and, especially, those coming here. The year saw a substantial increase in the proportion of international postdoctoral researchers, which has risen from 28% to 43% over the last two years, undoubtedly because of the URV's research groups' ability to attract talent.

Master's degree courses are still the main source of international students, with at least a third of the subjects taught in English in 20 of the 58 programmes available. Of these programmes, 12 have 50% or more international students, with the highest numbers for Wine Tourism and Nanoscience.

In 2023–24, the Aurora network launched a second project (Aurora 2030), of which research is an integral part. Competitive funding calls were announced for projects, mobility and summer schools to enable similar or complementary research groups to get to know each other and work together. Funding is conditional on the teams including three members from different universities in the Aurora network. The aim is to develop joint training programmes. The URV also participated in the 2nd European University Alliances Forum in Barcelona, where members of the 54 networks met to discuss the challenges involved in making themselves useful and visible in society.

Lastly, a report was submitted to the Governing Council on internationalisation at the URV, which differed from the reports of previous years in that it contained details of other significant facets of internationalisation, in addition to mobility.



Tools for leadership

The URV Group of Trainers for the Professionalisation of Doctoral Studies (GFPD) is at the forefront in training doctoral studies supervisors in Europe and South America

Earning a doctorate is vital for anyone who wishes to engage in academic research or work in highly specialised fields. It is an intense, extremely demanding journey lasting at least three to four years. Doctoral thesis supervisors must also be highly

originality of research, and foster the development of transversal competencies that go beyond specialised technical knowledge.

To promote good practices in thesis supervision, the group has designed

Staff from thirty universities in different countries have taken part in blended intensive programmes (BIP) at the URV, including courses on the supervision of doctoral studies

skilled in order to ensure the quality of candidates' work. The GFPD offers training in this regard and has built up an international reputation for excellence over the last decade.

Doctoral thesis supervisors face a wide range of challenges which ultimately directly affect the doctoral studies experience, including the need to provide constant personalised support to doctoral students, ensure the quality and

a basic sixteen-hour course that has been taken by professionals at over fifty universities and research centres in Catalonia, other parts of Spain, Europe and Latin America.

The basic course deals with the common challenges facing thesis supervisors, analyses the international context and provides tools for effectively organising and carrying out supervision at all stages. Training also includes other key

aspects of the supervision process, such as selecting candidates and helping them overcome weaknesses, styles of supervision and the relationship between supervisors and the doctoral students they guide, as well as how to detect and analyse problems that arise during supervision so that they can be resolved promptly.

'We don't have a magic recipe for dealing with every case, but we can

provide tools that thesis supervisors can adapt to their needs and to those of their students,' says Lecturer Mar Reguero of the Department of Physical and Inorganic Chemistry, a member of the group of trainers, together with Joan Carvajal (Dean of the Faculty of Chemistry), Ercilia García and Mireia Valverde (lecturers in the Department of Business Management) and María Dolores Jiménez (lecturer in the Department of Romance Studies). They took a

course with German experts in 2003 and, with the support of the Doctoral School, they decided to share their knowledge, first with the rest of the URV community and later with professionals at other universities. The course is an example of ongoing improvement, and each iteration is enhanced by the opinions and experiences of the participants.

In addition to this basic course, the group offers modules focusing

on themes such as ethics and open science. They also offer a course for doctoral students covering what a thesis is and how it should be written as well as how to build a career in research. 'There is more to a doctoral degree than just writing a thesis. Its purpose goes far beyond that; the aim is to train a research professional,' Reguero comments.

Training is not compulsory for thesis supervisors, but it is strongly





‘We don’t have a magic recipe for dealing with every case, but we can provide tools to meet different needs’

MAR REGUERO

Doctoral Studies Professionalisation Group

recommended. In fact, in some countries, such as Australia, supervisor training is compulsory. ‘The Bologna Plan made doctoral studies much more demanding: it limited their duration, and it introduced new quality criteria that made supervisors’ work more complex. Moreover, the profile of students has changed a lot: there are students of all ages, from everywhere, part-time and full-time, some want to stay at the university, others do not. And they all need personalised attention to meet widely differing needs,’ Mar Reguero points out.

One of the most significant challenges is the diversity of doctoral students’ experiences and needs. Each student is unique, with a different academic, cultural and personal background, calling for adaptable supervision that is sensitive to these differences. Supervisors need to learn to recognise and value this diversity and adapt their methods to ensure an inclusive and favourable environment for all doctoral students.

Doctoral supervision also implies a delicate balance between providing guidance and fostering independence. Supervisors need to guide students as they carry out their research, but they also have to encourage them to be independent and make informed decisions regarding their work. This

duality can give rise to another challenge, especially when students reach critical points in their project. ‘Doctoral students go through different emotional stages. After an initial thrust, for example, the work may feel more routine in the second year. Time is passing, they’re closer to finishing and there is a risk that they can’t see progress being made and lose their motivation. The role of the thesis supervisor is key in these situations, helping students to recover their

The basic course for supervisors develops skills related to support, organisation and detecting and solving problems, all of which are essential for effective doctoral supervision

enthusiasm, finding smaller tasks that will highlight their progress, going over progress reports together to see how the project has advanced, or involving them in group activities. If doctoral students know and support each other, it helps a lot,’ says Reguero.

The work of these trainers is being complemented by two doctoral research projects that will enhance the knowledge of the group and become part of course content: one explores the impact of courses on this subject at the URV and other universities, and the other is on training in transversal competencies to improve the employment prospects of future doctors

outside academia, in companies and institutions that have markedly different requirements. The two lines of research will lead to the publication of these next year.



Blended Intensive Programmes (BIP)

The work of the GFPD has positioned URV at the forefront in the professionalism of doctoral education. Last February, teaching and research staff and technical, management and administrative and service staff from thirty European universities came to Tarragona to take the course as part of an Aurora University Alliance initiative. It was offered as a blended intensive programme, with the professionalisation of doctoral studies being one of the areas led by the University.

The URV is a leading institution in a wide range of fields, allowing it to improve the learning experience

of bachelor’s and master’s degree students and their engagement with society, strengthen the impact of its international activity, and improve the relationship between thesis supervisors and doctoral students so they can successfully launch their research careers. In total 68 professionals from 30 universities in 21 countries participated in the course at the URV during the 2023–24 academic year, sharing good practices in these three areas. To achieve this, the University, through the International Centre, organised three intensive courses for each professional profile, combining online and face-to-face learning, teaching and training in an innovative format based on cooperation (blended intensive programmes) and funded by the European Erasmus+ programme.

The teaching and research staff and technical, management and administrative and service staff on the course came from universities in international networks of which the URV is a member, such as the Aurora Alliance, with participants from nearly all its affiliated institutions, the Xarxa Sgroup and INU.

Opening borders

Periods spent abroad by URV researchers and other personnel enrich the University's international vision



The URV is an open institution that has welcomed hundreds of people

Periods spent abroad offer unique opportunities for training and cross-border cooperation

from all parts of the world and is greatly enriched by their experience. But the University's doors are not only open for people to enter; they also allow members of the university community to go out and gain fresh knowledge in other countries. The URV's mobility programmes enable its professionals to cross borders and

discover other ways of working far from home. The growing demand from teaching and research staff and from technical, management and administrative and service staff to spend periods abroad allows the university community to incorporate

new knowledge and the URV to enhance its international vision.

The number of URV staff who take part in one of the mobility programmes offered by the University has stabilised at forty to fifty each year. During the 2021-22 academic year, 41 professionals took part

in mobility programmes, while 49 took part during 2022-23. In 2021-22, teaching and research staff accounted for 30 of the total, while 11 were technical, management and administrative and service staff, numbers which increased to 37 and 12, respectively, in 2022-23. According to provisional data in July 2024, 46 people participated in mobility programmes in the 2023-24 academic year (33 teaching and research staff and 13 technical, management and administrative and service staff).

The URV offers a wide range of mobility programmes, including opportunities for Erasmus+ KA131 and KA171, Aurora grants and

DRAC grants from the Vives University Network. These programmes are open to all URV personnel who wish to spend short periods abroad for teaching, research or training.

These stays are intended to give rise to both personal and institutional benefits, as the URV gains positive input from the international experiences of its staff. For the 2023-24 Erasmus+ mobility programme, priority was therefore given to applications for BIP courses (short, intensive programmes that apply innovative learning methods, including the use of online cooperation systems) and those for the SUCTI Internationalisation for All course.

Mobility programmes not only benefit the professional development of participants, they also contribute to the internationalisation of the URV. Teaching and research staff and technical, management and administrative and service staff can apply the knowledge and experience they have acquired to their day-to-day work, thus improving the quality of education and research at the University. Moreover, these stays favour the

creation of international cooperation networks, which are essential for scientific and academic progress.

More coming in than going out

In the 2023-24 academic year the URV welcomed more staff from other universities than the number of URV personnel who spent time abroad. According to provisional figures for the end of the academic year, 45 members of international teaching and research staff and 38 members of technical, management and administrative and service staff spent time at the University, while 46 members of the URV community took part in mobility programmes abroad (33 teaching and research staff and 13 technical, management and administrative and service staff).



'I make contacts and observe how other universities work'

Raquel Mesas

Teaching quality support staff – Faculty of Arts

Raquel Mesas looks forward to the mobility calls each year. During the last academic year, she spent five days at Queen Mary University in London and has spent periods at many other prestigious universities, including Ravensburg, Heidelberg, Oxford and the Sorbonne. These experiences give Raquel a break from her routine, and she approaches them with an open mind. 'Administrative staff have a lot of work, and I understand that going somewhere else, speaking another language and being self-sufficient for a few days isn't easy. But I think it's necessary. We all need to move out of our comfort zone from time to time to get a critical view of the work we do,' she explains. Mobility schemes have enabled her to 'make contacts and observe how other universities work, for example in logistical aspects. Getting to know the situation in other places also allows me to view the way we do things at the URV with fresh eyes.'



'When you travel, you leave uncertainty behind and become much more solid'

Xavier Llauradó

Dean's Office Support Staff – Faculty of Tourism and Geography

This year Xavier Llauradó completed a short stay in Cork, his third period of training in Ireland, after two stays in Galway. 'During these days you share a lot of things with colleagues who are on the same course. When you travel, you very quickly leave uncertainty behind and become much more confident, especially with the language,' he comments. During his stays, Llauradó has attended courses on communication skills and teamwork that have enabled him to meet professionals who work at other universities and exchange 'very enriching' practical experiences with them, in a very different cultural context. 'It's hard to find someone who does exactly the same job as you because universities are organised very differently, but you do find people you have points in common with and who share similar problems, and you immediately form a positive bond with them,' he explains.



'Some of the practices I have seen are now applied at the URV'

Anna Masdeu

Department of Physical and Inorganic Chemistry

Toulouse, Trieste, Nápoles, Ankara... Anna Masdeu, a professor of Inorganic Chemistry, has travelled widely throughout the Mediterranean. She is a veteran of international mobility, gaining valuable learning experience through meeting other European teachers, experience that is enriching both personally and professionally. 'I take advantage of research stays to strengthen contacts for potential partnerships and also to see other ways of working, for example in laboratory practices. We now apply some of these practices at the URV,' says Masdeu. Her most recent trip to the University of Silesia in Katowice (Poland) was possible thanks to an I-Networks Staff grant, enabling her to share good practices with teachers from all over Europe. 'If we don't think, it's very difficult for us to improve in our work. And we can't think if we don't slow down. Research trips allow us to pause, learn and grow,' she says.



'Coming into contact with such different cultures and education systems is extremely valuable'

Joaquín Romero

Department of English and German Studies at the URV

Joaquín Romero spent time this summer at the University of Savannakhet in Laos as part of the Erasmus+ KA171 project between the two institutions, which he is directing. This was his second visit to Laos, where he taught a course on research methods and techniques to master's degree students and took part in selecting the teaching and research staff who will travel to the URV. 'For me it is very important to establish relationships and provide opportunities to students and staff who would have few options for accessing an academic stay in Europe,' explains Romero. This Erasmus+ KA171 project provides 16 mobility opportunities for students and teaching and research staff from both institutions. During the first semester of the 2024–25 academic year, the URV will host three bachelor's degree students and two lecturers from the University of Savannakhet. For Romero, these experiences are fundamental both professionally and personally. 'Coming into contact with such different cultures and educational systems is extremely valuable for my work as a teacher and for my individual growth.'

The mobility programmes include Erasmus+, Aurora and DRAC, aimed at teaching and technical, management and administrative and service staff





96%

The vast majority of students enrolled in WINTOUR are from abroad



38%

Almost four out of ten theses at the URV have been awarded an international mention



46%

Almost half of doctoral students are from abroad



34%

More than a third of the master's degrees offered by the URV in the 2023–24 academic year are taught in English

Exchange of projects on inclusion and diversity

In February, the URV hosted a meeting of the Aurora Student Conference at its Catalunya Campus. The event brought together 27 students from Aurora member universities and partner institutions, who shared initiatives and good practices in the field of inclusion and diversity. The event made use of a World Café approach which encouraged students to share experiences and ideas in a collaborative and dynamic environment. Interactive workshops were also organised to strengthen the participants' intercultural skills and promote mutual understanding and respect.

Global talent

The URV continues to build alliances, with 54% of its indexed publications produced through international collaborations

The URV's international presence in the areas of research and training continues to grow. Over the last five years, the University's scientific output has grown remarkably and on a global scale, with articles indexed in databases such as the Web of Science and Scopus. The number of publications produced in partnership with institutions from all over the world is also increasing. According to the 2023 Internationalisation Report, 54% of the URV's 1,954 publications were produced in collaboration with institutions in 99 other countries.

These were mainly institutions in the European Union (especially France, Italy, Germany, the Netherlands and Portugal), Asia (notably China, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia) and North America (the United States and Canada). The University also engaged in major

collaborations with the United Kingdom, Brazil and Australia.

The report highlights the increase in the proportion of research staff from other countries hired by the URV, which has grown from 27% in 2019 to 43% currently. Almost half of researchers engaged in predoctoral studies were also of international origin, a proportion that has remained fairly stable in recent years.

The URV's master's and doctoral degrees continue to attract high numbers of international students, with 30% of master's degree students and 47% of doctoral students coming from outside Spain. Of the 58 university master's degrees offered in 2023, twenty were taught mainly in English, and three are recognised as European Union Erasmus Mundus programmes.

The URV's international outlook is also boosted internally through programmes such as COIL (Collaborative Online International Learning), which allows students to gain international and teamwork experience from home, helping them to develop global skills. During 2023, 344 URV students and 235 from partner universities took part in this programme, involving eleven courses and ten members of URV teaching staff.

The URV takes part in the 2nd European University Alliances Forum


Representatives of 430 European universities in 35 countries met in Barcelona in September 2023 to discuss the challenges and opportunities facing university alliances at a conference organised by the European Commission's Aurora network.


The 2nd European University Alliances Forum addressed issues such as financial sustainability,

ensuring quality, and collaboration with higher education institutions in third countries. Particular attention was paid to the need to create and maintain spaces for continuous dialogue between alliances, representatives of the authorities, and students in order to strengthen the global impact of such initiatives.

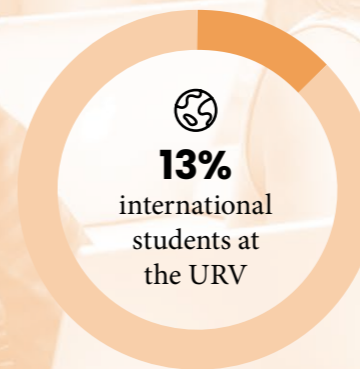

2023-24
academic year
2.135 international students


868
bachelor's
degree students



630
master's
degree students



637
doctoral students


102
different countries
of origin



Students on international mobility programmes


511
incoming students


538
outgoing students

Engagement

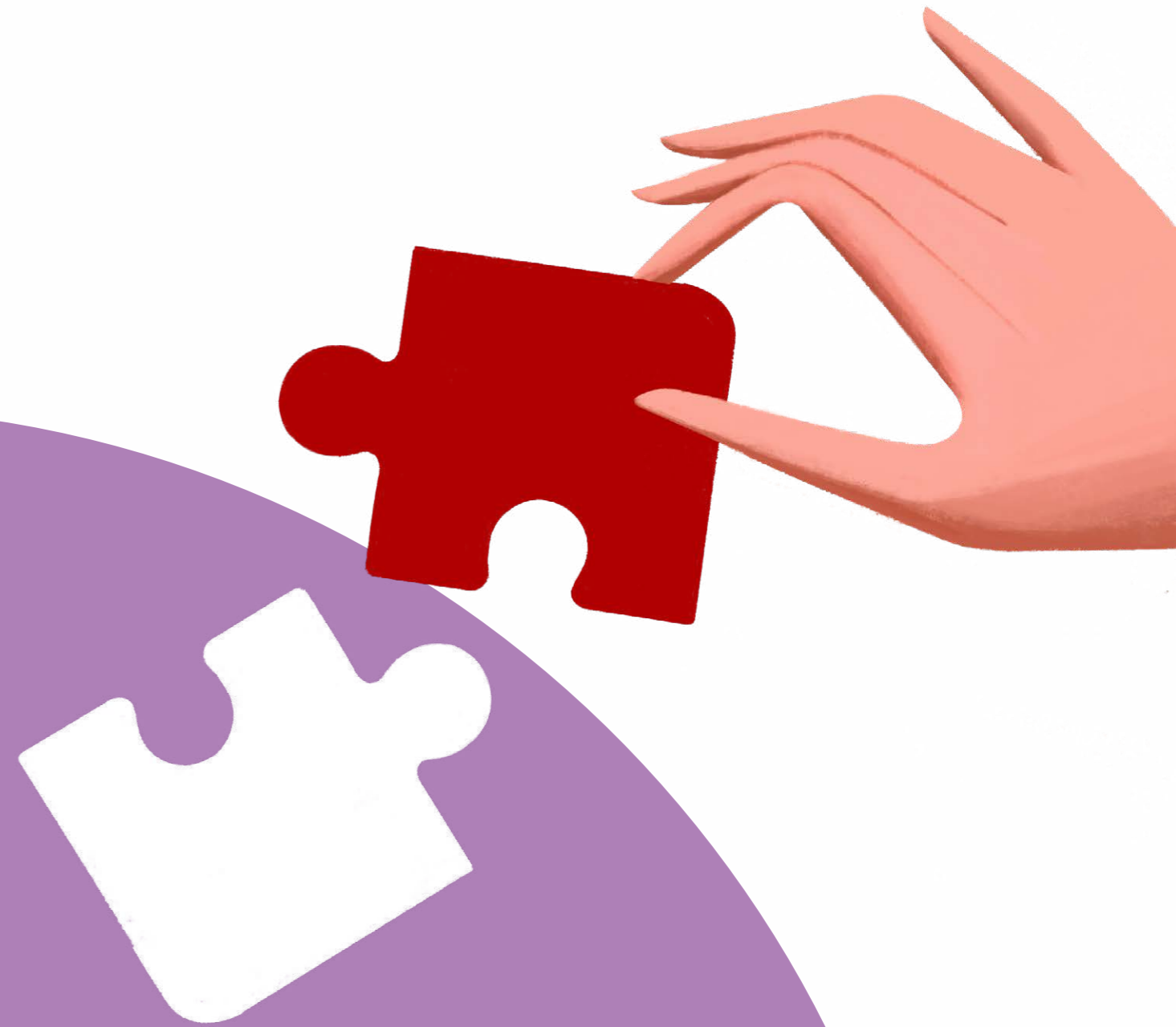
During the 2023–24 academic year, the university reaffirmed its commitment to society in the area of culture, expanding a project that has become a hallmark of the area, the Campus Extens university extension initiative, resuming activities in Falset and establishing the Terra Alta site. The Classes for Senior Citizens programme was strengthened, and the Cultural Groups also made a major impact: the Music Group offered a music-wine pairing organised by the URV Symphony Orchestra and the Faculty of Oenology as well as a soloist competition; the Theatre Group took part in the Vives Network Biennial and oversaw the closing of the Tarraco Viva festival; the Art Group put on a series of exhibitions, including 'cobertes&fons d'art' and took part in the Any Tàpies initiative; and the Film Group organised various activities.

The Iubilo Program gained traction and started collaborating with the Cultural Groups, which paved the way for their participation in the Vives Network's Senior Debate League, where the URV emerged victorious with the best individual speaker.

Solidarity and volunteering activities centred on shelter and refuge projects, and the URV hosted International Volunteer Day and the Inmaculada Sastre Miró Awards. The year also saw the consolidation of the Amb-Èxit-Ed programme, which helps young people currently or previously under guardianship successfully complete their studies at the URV.

Among other measures to promote well-being, the #Trialavida conference was organised in partnership with the Ministry of Health to remind the university community of the importance of emotional well-being and the need to talk frankly about suicide in order to prevent it. These prevention measures will be part of the social agenda of the new structure of the Office of Equality and Social Engagement. The success of the blood drive campaign, 'La URV dona sang', organised in collaboration with the blood and tissue bank, also deserves special mention.

In the area of environmental sustainability, the pilot plan for charging stations for scooters and electric bicycles on the Terres de l'Ebre Campus continued to grow and was extended to include the Catalunya Campus. More green spaces were also added to the campuses and a culture of environmental care was further cultivated through workshops, courses and conferences. In addition, this year the URV received an international award from the European Commission for its many years of continued efforts to promote equality between women and men and for achieving a high degree of equality with its equality plans.



Life-changing experiences

The Amb-Èxit-Ed programme at the URV is the first initiative at a Catalan university to focus on supporting people under guardianship. Participants in the programme welcome the financial support, but, above all, the counselling and information

'I wouldn't leave now. I have support and I have someone to turn to if I have any questions. I feel very supported.' Studying at Rovira i Virgili University was not in Laura Frau's plans. She had aims to change her life after high school. However, after an illuminating informative talk shortly before graduating from high school, she changed her mind. Having been in foster care since she was eight, Laura was part of the group under guardianship to whom the informative talks (led by Carme García Yeste and Regina Gairal, researchers from the URV's Department of Pedagogy) were addressed. The talk described the Amb-Èxit-Ed programme, the first of its kind at a Catalan university. The initiative is supported by the Government of Catalonia's Ministry of Social Rights and Inclusion and was launched as a pilot project this academic year.

The programme aims to support and encourage young people under guardianship to pursue university studies. Members of this group are

generally kept at a distance – often due to prejudice – and are not well informed about the possibilities of higher education. Once enrolled at the URV, they receive financial aid, essentially for lunch on campus and to purchase what they need for professional placements, and they are

The programme aims to attract young people under guardianship to the university

provided information and support on navigating administrative procedures and taking advantage of the services offered by the University. Laura is one of the five incoming students taking part in the programme and pursuing a bachelor's degree. Officially, because she is not yet 18, she is still considered under guardianship. She is very happy to have chosen the URV in the end and to see how her first year goes, but, above all, to know that she has

support and someone to turn to if any questions or problems arise.

URV researcher Carme Garcia Yeste, a driving force behind the programme, which was inspired by a similar programme at the University of the Basque Country, is very positive about the way the pilot project is working out and stresses that, in addition to the scholarships offered, the key is information, 'The main problem is that the people we're supporting, as a group, are not aware of the benefits that are available, such as the reserved places each public university has (one per degree) or the free places at the official language schools. And then there are a lot of questions about procedures, which aren't easy... and that they can't find, for example, what happened to Olga.'

Olga Sánchez, who has lived with a foster family since a very young age, was not able to enter the programme, since she is already studying at the University (her second degree), but she played a key

The URV provides financial aid to buy materials and lunches on campus to young people under guardianship. On the left, Carme Garcia Yeste, a driving force behind the programme, and next to her, Olga Sánchez and Laura Frau, who are taking part in the first year of the programme.



role in its design. As García Yeste points out, she experienced first-hand the lack of information that the programme aims to alleviate. 'I study physiotherapy and I enrolled in the first year at EUSES, the private centre in Tortosa affiliated with the URV, because I didn't know that,

Coming of age is a crucial time for the people formerly under guardianship: They have to make very important decisions

as a student under guardianship, I had a place at the public university,' she laments, adding that she was able to undertake her second year at the URV thanks to the efforts and involvement of the staff.

Olga's experiences and those of other young people have been crucial in identifying students' needs and helping the lecturers, Carme Garcia Yeste and Regina Gairal, to design the programme. 'The idea was to get them to tell us what they would have liked to have had when they started at university. For example, everyone agreed that the canteen grant was key. So, the programme was created based primarily on their proposals, since they are the ones who best understand the day-to-day reality of the group,' added Garcia Yeste. Olga also takes part in the informative talks and helps with some administrative procedures, such as applying for scholarships, a subject she says she is an expert in. 'University isn't easy for anyone.

At the very least, people in the guardianship group shouldn't have to deal with more obstacles than everyone else. They should have the same opportunities,' says Olga.

The age of 18 is a crucial turning point for members of this group, as it is a year in which they have to make important life decisions. 'At that age, when they are still quite young, they are pushed out of the nest and told that they have to fly on their own, especially people who have been in group homes. They have to learn so many things that there's often no time to talk to them about university so as not to overwhelm them even more. We insist that the people in charge of these homes should include the university as another option for them, and that the programme will assume the task of helping them. If anything can change their lives, it is university,' says the programme's coordinator.

As far as prejudice is concerned, Olga claims that people under



guardianship should not be led to believe that they are not good enough to study, as is often the case, 'Just because we come from complicated backgrounds doesn't mean that we've got no place at university, that they can't believe in us.' For example, Laura is more than satisfied with the world that has opened up to her and says her expectations have been far exceeded. She is sure that she will later join the mentorship programme, which is also included in the plan, to help new university students.

Carme Garcia Yeste is already working on the future of the programme once the pilot project has ended, saving places she hopes to be filled and raising funds for the next four years. This will contribute to the continued growth of the programme, year after year, and help break down the barriers faced by this group so that they have the same opportunities as other young people. As Garcia Yeste says, 'there's nothing more normalising than education'.



'Without the dedication and motivation of the people who lead at the grassroots level, it would be impossible to move this project forward'

Josep Maria Pons-Altés

Curiosity is never lost

The URV's Classes for Senior Citizens programme is in a new phase of expansion, with 21 local organisations already offering scientific lectures for the elderly

The piece *La Santa Espina* is being played in the castle of the town of Vila-seca, almost in the last row, Esteve Aragonès (84 years old) and Anton Morell (83) enjoy the music and clap along with the rhythm. It is not a sardana dance. It is also not a concert nor an audition. It is a lecture on sardanes and habaneras being given by Maria Carmen Domingo, a lecturer from the Department of History and the History of Art

at the URV. The content has been tailored to the 80 older people who fill the conference room in the last session of the Classes for Senior Citizens programme.

'Between staying at home and coming here and learning about and participating in culture... there's no comparison,' says Esteve Aragonès, who enjoyed the class and gave an emotional 'Bravo!' when a recording

of *Salomé* was played in the hall. The URV's Classes for Senior Citizens are a training and socialisation project designed for older adults like Esteve, who enrol at the beginning of the academic year and attend lectures at least once a week.

The project was launched 20 years ago with the aim of making the knowledge acquired at the university more accessible to society, especially the older population, in a demographic context in which the proportion of older people is increasing. In 2024, 19.52% of the population of Catalonia will be at least 65 years old, and that number is forecasted to reach 26.6% by 2040. Therefore, the Classes for Senior Citizens offers a programme of cultural and educational sessions tailored to the needs and interests of this segment of the population, which has an ever-increasing social importance and life expectancy, so



End-of-year photo of the Classes for Senior Citizens programme.

Knowledge is the key

Josep Maria Pons-Altés, coordinator of the University Extension Classes for Senior Citizens, is optimistic about the future of the project. ‘We’ve made a comeback after the pandemic, which wasn’t easy. There’s interest in the local classes and people are enthusiastic about them, and that’s what matters most,’ he says. There are initiatives on the table to combine networks so that the networks can generate synergies and implement joint projects without losing their autonomy.

that they can continue to learn and participate in academic, social and scientific activities.

The classes are organised independently by the municipalities and offer lectures and workshops on a variety of topics, from history and literature to science and technology, which are part of the course catalogue created by the URV for the project. Classes are given mainly by lecturers from the URV, but also by other experts from other educational institutions and from the private sector. In the 2023–24 academic year, 21 classes were

offered, with some 420 lectures, throughout the Tarragona area.

‘The most valuable thing about this project is that it is the local committees who organise it, who push the trolley, and the people

enrolled in each group are who decide on the content and ask us for it. ‘Without the dedication and motivation of the people who lead at the grassroots level, it would be impossible to move this project forward,’ says Josep Maria Pons-

The classes are organised independently by the municipalities and offer lectures and workshops on a variety of topics, from history and literature to science and technology

Altés, lecturer in the Department of History and History of Art and coordinator of the University Extension Classes for Senior Citizens.

The main objective of the programme is to promote active ageing through access to knowledge, providing a platform for older people to continue to feel useful, cultivate their interests, and establish new social relationships. As a result, the project contributes to social integration and improving the quality of life of the participants. ‘Taking part makes me feel connected; we have a group and social activities outside the classroom,’ explains another student, Dolors Llaó.

Currently, there are active classes in all the counties of Tarragona, including in the municipalities of Tarragona, Reus, Amposta, Flix, la Ràpita and Tortosa. And,

according to Pons-Altés, the project is ‘in a phase of growth.’ The classrooms, in which 1,431 students took part last year, are managed independently in collaboration with local entities and town councils.

In Vila-seca, one of the most active classrooms is supported by the city council, which provides the premises in which the sessions take place

and provides logistical support. ‘The project’s been going for over 20 years here. There are people who have been involved since the beginning, but everything stopped with the pandemic. This year we resumed activities, and we are very happy with the participation,’ Antonieta Serra, president of the Vila-seca chapter, proudly explains.

In 2040, 26.6% of the population of Catalonia will be at least 65 years old

1,431 people enrolled in Classes for Senior Citizens in the 2023–24 academic year



A leader in equality

Times Higher Education (THE) ranks the URV as the leading university in Spain in gender policies, for which it received the EU Award for Gender Equality Champions

The policies promoted by the URV have made the University safer and more inclusive and have positioned it as a leading institution in this gender equality. The URV's success has been recognised by *Times Higher Education*, which ranked URV as the leader in Spain in equality policies in its latest university impact rankings, and by the European Union, which awarded the URV the Award for Gender Equality Champions for its outstanding performance in implementing equality plans.

The URV became a pioneering university in Catalonia and Spain with the approval of the first Equality Plan in 2007. That first plan was the result of the findings of a report presented months earlier titled 'La desigualtat d'oportunitats per raó de gènere

Since the approval of first Equality Plan in 2007, the URV has been a leader in Catalonia and Spain

a la URV' (Gender Inequality in Opportunities at the URV), which highlighted situations of inequality and discrimination against women that needed to be changed.

The first Plan (2007–2010) was followed by two more (2011–2019

and 2020, currently in force) which enacted measures that aim to eliminate discrimination and resolve imbalances at the URV. After the measures are implemented, their progress is evaluated and publicised. And it has been precisely the strict adherence to the roadmap set out in the measures that has led to the URV being recognised by the European Union and its ranking of 47th out of 1,361 universities



from all over the world evaluated by *Times Higher Education* magazine in the area of gender equality.

The European Union award specifically recognised the high degree of implementation and the results of the second equality plan (from 2011 to 2019) as well as the commitments of the third equality plan, which is currently in force and includes a total of 35 measures. The Equality Unit is the technical body in charge of promoting these plans and also periodically carries out diagnoses of the state of equality through the Observatory, as well as training and awareness-raising actions in the university community.

Highly visible women engineers

This year saw the inception of the Existim Association – an initiative that brings together women in the field of engineering and seeks to raise their profile

Last November, the Existim Association of Engineering Students was founded with the aim of promoting gender equality in engineering, counteracting stereotypes and giving visibility to women in the field.

The association has set itself the goal of promoting an interest in engineering among young women. It also seeks to encourage interaction among women students involved in different disciplines at the URV.

The association's board of directors is comprised of students from the School of Engineering, but the association is open to all women over the age of 14 as well as legal entities that share its objectives. The School of Engineering has offered the association a space on campus to conduct its operations. In addition to promoting gender equality, Existim aims to raise the profile of engineering in society, particularly in primary and secondary schools, in order to encourage young girls to take an interest in this traditionally male-dominated field.



Members of the Existim Association.

Campaign for life

The URV provides guidance to its staff to prevent suicides and offers free psychological support for students



Rovira i Virgili University has intensified its efforts to address a critical problem in the sphere of education: the mental health of students. With the aim of preventing suicide and improving emotional well-being, it has launched a programme that includes awareness-raising workshops and counselling for staff as well as psychological support for students.

According to the Statistical Institute of Catalonia (Idescat), suicide is the most common cause of

unnatural death among people aged between 15 and 34. The university community, which is mainly made up of young people, is no exception in this regard.

Indeed, more and more students are experiencing mental health problems and the demand for psychological support has increased in recent years, and there are two main factors to consider. Firstly, the transition that students undergo at the beginning of their studies, since students in their

first or second bachelor's degree programme have been found to have more frequent mental health related events than students in higher degree programmes and master's and PhD students. And secondly, transgender students are more likely to suffer from at least one mental disorder.

Concern about this development prompted lecturers Fina Canals and Anna Huguet, who coordinate the URV's Psychological Support Service (SAP), to conduct a survey to find out more about students' mental health.

In the academic years 2021–22 and 2022–23, a total of 2,682 students completed the survey, which offered a fairly clear picture of the prevalence of the risk of mental health disorders as well as factors related to them.

Of the respondents, 30.7% acknowledged that they had undergone an emotional or drug- or alcohol-related problem in the last twelve months. Of these, two in ten had taken medication to address it and almost four in ten sought psychological help.

In the month prior to answering the survey, more than half (69%) acknowledged feeling at risk for general anxiety disorder (49%) and major depressive disorder (47%). This proportion of people at risk, although high, is in line with other studies. The survey also showed that 15% felt at risk for panic disorder, 24% for

Suicide is the leading cause of unnatural death among young people and the URV aims to put a stop to this trend

alcohol abuse or dependence, 8% for binge eating disorder, and 3% for bulimia nervosa.

Moreover, about 20% of students who responded to the survey acknowledged that they had experienced suicidal thoughts or behaviour in the 30 days prior

to answering this question. This includes students who passively thought about it, students who actively thought about it, students who had a suicide plan (7.2%) and students who had attempted to take their own lives (0.7%).

The URV is aware of the urgent need to correct this trend and that health services alone are not enough. Prevention measures must be increased by alerting the community and providing psychological

support to those suffering from mental disorders. To meet this need, the Psychological Support Service offers up to three free counselling sessions for students who need assistance, and they provide guidance to teaching staff so that they are able to identify these risks in students.



Psychological Support Service workshops help teaching and research staff, as well as technical, management and administrative and services staff and students to identify at-risk behaviours

In line with this, the URV has dedicated a week to raising awareness and preventing suicide in the university environment as part of the #TrioLaVida conference in October, a joint initiative with the other Catalan

public universities and the Catalan Ministry of Health. One of the measures was a series of workshops for teaching staff and technical, management and administrative and service staff as well as students to

identify warning signs and provide an appropriate response in situations in which there may be a suicide risk.

A large Medical Emergency System 'cube' (SEM) was also set up in the inner courtyard of the Catalunya Campus. This cube has helped to raise awareness of the services offered by the Emergency Medical System and the extent of the public mental health problem, a problem with little visibility that especially affects young people.

The URV is working on drafting a protocol and a guide for suicide prevention with other Catalan universities. The document will be tailored for implementation at the URV to ensure a coordinated and efficient response in the event of crisis situations.

In 2022 alone, the URV's Psychological Support Service received 145 requests for help, of which it was able to address 83.2%. The most common reason for

seeking help was emotional problems, but 30% of students who used the Psychological Support Service experienced suicidal thoughts or behaviour in the previous month, 65.5% were at risk of major depression or other major disorders, and 58.8% were at risk of anxiety disorder.



Online training for schools and institutes

Last October, some 100 teachers from primary and secondary schools throughout Catalonia took part in a pair of online courses given by URV lecturers on suicide prevention among children and adolescents, and intervention in cases of bullying and cyberbullying at school. The courses are part of a Territorial Specialisation and Competitiveness Project (PECT), co-financed by the Government of Catalonia and the provincial councils in which the URV is an active participant. In addition to the courses, a survey was conducted to determine the experiences and needs of Catalan schools on this topic. In all, 282 Catalan schools responded to the survey, which showed that 45 percent of schools in the 2022–23 school year dealt with a verbal intent to commit suicide, 15 percent with a suicide attempt and 2.85 percent with a suicide.



Ready for the world of work

The URV's Inwork programme proves the effectiveness of practical experience



The URV's new work placement programme for people with special needs, Inwork, finished off the academic year with positive results. This first edition of the programme, intended as a pilot, showed that the approach of providing more practical experience and real contact

break down existing stereotypes about the groups and fosters more inclusive cultures in companies.

Following the success of the pilot project, which saw 15 students graduate at an event held in the Vila-seca castle, the Inwork programme

programme. They designed a company that provides care and support to older people. 'It's a very useful service for people who have relatives, for example in a care home, who need someone to look after them. They are ideally qualified to offer this type of service, to provide less complex care services,' explains Torres-Coronas, who believes that the company demonstrates that there is a place for them in the labour market.

The programme, which is intended for people with intellectual disabilities, has introduced participants to the world of work by means of real entrepreneurial projects

between students and the world of work helps programme participants to feel stronger and better prepared. The Inwork programme, part of the Inserlab project, was launched five years ago at the URV to help young people with intellectual disabilities (this year people with developmental disabilities and autism spectrum disorders were added as well) to find work and is innovative because it integrates learning into practical work experience.

'Combining education with practical work experience lets students apply their theoretical knowledge in a professional setting and develop key skills for their future jobs,' says Teresa Torres-Coronas, the project's coordinating instructor. She summarises the more 'active' method, in which students can interact with companies and other entities and test their ability to do useful work for society, as positive. According to the programme's coordinator, the initiative also helps

will be continued next year (from February to June, as last year) and will receive support from the Spanish National Organisation for the Blind, as well as the involvement of other companies and organisations, such as the Port Aventura Foundation.

The students' end-of-course project reflects the approach used in the

Another practical experience resulting from the programme was that the Castell de Valls Museum 'hired' the participants to assess how well the facilities were adapted to the needs of visitors with different physical and mental disabilities. They then issued a report with recommendations to improve certain aspects, such as the cognitive accessibility of the information (i.e., whether it is understandable for everyone), the legibility of the texts, the signposting of the spaces and access from the street.



Graduation ceremony of the URV Inwork programme at the Vila-seca castle.



A university with principles

1 The Blood and Tissue Bank receives 481 donations at the URV

The Blood and Tissue Bank collected 481 donations in the second campaign organised in the university community to encourage young people to donate. Of those who volunteered to donate blood, 65% were doing it for the first time, and the majority, 77%, were aged between 18 and 24.

2 The Theatre Group presents *L'Astrònom* at the Biennial of the Vives Network

The URV's Theatre Group presented the experimental play *L'Astrònom*, a joint creation directed by Joan Rioné, at the third Vives Network's University Theatre Biennial held at the Polytechnic University of Catalonia. The play was performed by 20 actors and actresses from the university community.

3 Isabel Baixeras Delclòs, best speaker in the Senior Debating League

A team of members from Iubilo, a group of retired URV employees, took part in the Vives University Network's Senior Debate League for the first time. The topic of debate was the opportunities and risks posed by artificial intelligence. One member of the team, Isabel Baixeras Delclòs, won the prize for best speaker.

4 Ricard Prió and Pol del Moral win the URV Orchestra's Soloist Competition

Flautist Ricard Prió and saxophonist Pol del Moral shared first place in the URV Symphony Orchestra's Second Young Soloists Competition held at the Josep Carreras Auditorium in Vila-seca. Prió and del Moral

will perform next season with the orchestra, which will be conducted by Miquel Massana. This academic year, the orchestra organised a concert paired with URV wines for the first time.

5 Cristina Jacas and Sergi Sigró win the Social Commitment Awards

This academic year, Cristina Jacas, who researched methods to facilitate learning English as part of her master's degree final project, and Sergi Sigró, who developed an application to protect loggerhead turtles on the Catalan coast as part of his bachelor's degree final project, won the third Inmaculada Sastre Miró Award for Social Commitment.

6 Inauguration of the new site of the URV's Campus Extens in Falset

More than 200 people attended the inaugural concert at the opening of the new site for the URV's Campus Extens in the Priorat region, located in the Falset castle. The new headquarters has the dual aim of making URV's knowledge more accessible in the region and meeting the specific needs of the local population. The Falset castle also houses the Priorat County Archive.



The URV experience

The University is constantly adapting. During the 2023–24 academic year, various initiatives were launched to update the campuses with the aim of creating spaces that are safe, pleasant, more sustainable and more versatile, improving the way people work and live together at the University.

The URV is developing pioneering measures to put its campuses at the forefront in sustainability, well-being and safety. New green spaces were created during the academic year to provide shared areas where members of the university community can socialise, designed in keeping with the criteria of sustainability and the promotion of biodiversity. A new green space in the School of Architecture will also act as an open-air extension of the School. Continuing with the Sustainability and Climate Action Plan, parking spaces were set up for electric scooters and a campaign will be launched to encourage the use of bicycles. The installation of solar panels on the roofs of buildings continued, so the University can itself produce more of the energy it consumes.

The University has promoted initiatives to guarantee safety, equality and inclusion. The first breastfeeding room was opened on the Catalunya Campus and a pioneering project was set up to detect unsafe spots on campus. Initiatives were also launched regarding the working environment, in particular a workplace climate survey for technical, management and administrative and service staff, which should help improve the working environment and increase job satisfaction.

The Festa Major, which took place for the second year, has become a key feature in the calendar of university activities and is eagerly anticipated, especially by the student body. Students were also able, for the second time, to decide how part of the budget to improve the University should be allocated.





Green, the colour of hope

Various sustainable transformation projects are in place to improve the well-being of the community and the efficiency of the University's activities

They range from outdoor leisure areas to campaigns to promote sustainable mobility, including a gradual increase in solar power installations for self-consumption. The URV is implementing measures that will allow all of its campuses to take a leading role in promoting sustainability and well-being, values to which the university community is firmly committed.

Happiness is subjective and difficult to measure, but emotional balance and harmony with the environment can make an important contribution. New rest areas, covering some 2,200 square metres of green space on all the campuses, were created to reduce the stress and anxiety the URV students and staff alike experience, providing areas for socialising while increasing biodiversity by attracting small birds and insects to the campuses.

'We have created new gardens or transformed small green spaces, taking new sustainable criteria into

account, with native plants and drip irrigation. These new natural spaces also help to mitigate the heat island effect of the campuses,' explains Toni de la Torre, head of the Sustainability and Environment Section of the Social Engagement Office. Key projects include a butterfly

An outdoor space was set up by the School of Architecture

garden on the Sescelades Campus, a biodiversity garden on the Bellissens Campus, work on the perimeter of the Faculty of Education Sciences and Psychology, and the planting of trees around the Bellissens site.

On the Reus Campus, the School of Architecture set up an outdoor classroom space near the entrance to the centre and planted about eighty paulownias, which grow quickly and consume little water. The trees will provide shade so that classes with a practical component, such as

Campus values

The URV promotes initiatives to guarantee safety, equality and inclusion

The URV is committed to continuously improving its campuses and views safety, equality and inclusion as core values for the university community. This vision goes beyond infrastructures; it is about creating an environment that ensures that the rights and needs of everyone are met, whether staff or students.

The first breastfeeding room on the URV's Catalunya Campus was opened in the 2023–24 academic year, representing a significant step towards guaranteeing an inclusive and supportive environment for mothers who work or study at the University. This safe space was specifically designed to cater to the needs of breastfeeding mothers

and to allow them to comfortably resume their work or studies after maternity leave.

The initiative reflects a conscious recognition of the importance of balancing family and professional life, a challenge that many women face when returning to their work or academic activities. This facility also contributes to the health and well-being of both mother and baby, and helps mothers to continue breastfeeding, which is essential for the child's development during the first months of life.

Period-friendly toilets have also been installed in various parts of the campuses to promote the use of sustainable menstruation products and offer support to female students. These toilets make it easier to

use menstrual products, especially reusable items, by providing a wash basin inside the cubicle, soap, toilet paper and a bin to dispose of waste.

Another key action is to identify potentially unsafe spots and work to make them safer. A participatory pilot project to detect and correct deficiencies

technical, management and administrative and service staff from the Reus Campus worked together, applying a gender perspective, to locate points which needed to be redesigned to correct deficiencies and improve safety.

Some of the issues are caused by poor lighting or

indoor and outdoor spaces, planting more suitable vegetation and properly defining the paths that lead to the campus.

These measures are crucial to build a culture of security and respect at the University and ensure that there are no barriers to participation in academic activities. The scheme is ongoing and will be extended to other campuses very soon.

GEN-CREA: educating for equality

One of the URV's most innovative initiatives is the GEN-CREA project, aimed at preventing gender-based violence through teacher training. This joint project, which involves various units of the URV, uses a co-creation methodology to develop a toolbox that offers training in gender mainstreaming. The aim is for all teaching staff, from the most basic levels to the most advanced, to acquire skills in the prevention of gender violence and incorporate this perspective in their teaching.

A pioneering project on the Bellissens Campus detects and remedies unsafe points with the aim of improving safety with a gender perspective

was carried out at the Bellissens Campus. On the initiative of the Equality Unit and with financing from the State Pact against Gender Violence fund, a group of architecture students, teaching and research staff and

the presence of vegetation. Once they have been identified, the University and the local authorities are responsible for remedying them. Applying a gender perspective to urban planning includes improving lighting in

The first breastfeeding room on the Catalunya Campus helps mothers who work or study at the University to maintain a good work–life balance

Taking the pulse of the workforce

New regulations for job banks

New regulations were approved in the academic year to set up and manage job banks for technical, management and administrative and service staff and regulate the systems for finding temporary cover for posts in order to streamline the process and bring together and improve all the policies previously in place in this regard. The University has developed more efficient selection processes with shorter deadlines. The core aim is to develop flexible procedures for recruiting staff faster and more effectively. This means that in some cases temporary positions will be offered to staff in the sub-unit or unit or even to staff in other units. In some cases, temporary cover will be provided by people who are registered with the job banks through selection processes organised by the URV.

During the 2023–24 academic year, technical, management and administrative and service staff participated in a workplace climate survey developed for the purpose of identifying ways to improve the working environment and increase job satisfaction

The survey was completed by 74% of technical, management and administrative and service staff members, designed to collect their views on the working environment so that an action plan could then be drawn up to address problem areas and highlight those that received good ratings.

Regarding their overall satisfaction with working at the URV, 38.7% would recommend working there and gave a score between 9 and 10 out of 10, while 42.6% gave a score between 7 and 8 out of 10.

The results for the seven dimensions evaluated were similar, with an average score above 3 out of 5. In terms of whether the scores are positive, negative or neutral, working conditions (with 59.8%) and motivation, job satisfaction and work environment (with 57.4%) received the most positive scores. However, the overall scores for training and development

and organisation were not good (26.6% and 25.7%, respectively).

The aspects that received the highest scores were knowledge of the organisation, working conditions, the attitude of direct supervisors, autonomy, and measures to improve work-life balance, in that order.

The lowest scores were for remuneration, the distribution of workloads, the availability of time to do work, and communication between URV units.

The fourth phase of the project began in the last quarter of the year: the introduction of measures to improve the working environment. Preparing an action plan involves technical, management and administrative and service staff, unit heads and stakeholders.

New training portal for technical, management and administrative and service staff

A new portal centralises all of the training available for technical, management and administrative and service staff. It keeps records of training conducted at the University, and allows participants to register for activities and administrators to process and monitor the entire process. The portal covers a wide range of functions: It speeds up access, applications and registration for training programmes, facilitates authorisation by managers and the allocation of places to applicants and allows participants to download a report accrediting the internal training activities completed, among other features. It also makes it easier for training data to be monitored and analysed to improve the satisfaction of technical, management and administrative and service staff and reinforce their commitment to learning.

The biggest party

Thousands of people took part in the second URV Festa Major, which now extends out into the Parc de la Ciutat de Tarragona

The URV's Festa Major has become a key feature in the calendar of university activities, recognised throughout the region as an open, participatory and convivial event. In March, the second time the event was held, it took over part of the Parc de la Ciutat, attracting thousands of people of all ages to enjoy exhibitions, food, competitions and live music.



The organisers are already collecting ideas and suggestions for the 2025 edition

The second Festa was eagerly awaited by all, as was clearly demonstrated by the high demand for the three-euro tickets in the days leading up to it. Access to the enclosure set up in the Parc de la Ciutat was controlled to ensure capacity was not exceeded and to guarantee safety.

The Festa got off to a lively start at noon: first, with the charanga

group Pujats de To, followed by a performance by the Pataquers (the URV's own casteller troupe) and a dragon parade by the Chinese community. At lunchtime, audiences enjoyed the music of PD Peting while they savoured typical dishes such as fideuà and paella, and those on offer from food trucks around the site.

The afternoon was dedicated to activities organised by different URV groups and services, bingo and competitions. Students Rita and Alba won the musical talent award, while PD Pelacanyes won the DJ category, with an invitation to perform again in 2025. The highlights of the event were performances by Tremenda Jauría, LesQueFaltaBand and DJ Trapella, rounding off a day designed to strengthen ties with the community with music and good vibes.

Picnic and ping-pong tables

The ping-pong tables, picnic tables and water fountains that URV students asked for in the participatory budget scheme are now installed. This initiative, launched in the 2022–23 academic year, allocates 50,000 euros to improve the University. During the 2023–24 academic year, 142 proposals were submitted, as a result of which five ping-pong tables were installed on the Bellissens and Sescelades campuses, and 22 picnic tables were installed, distributed between the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences and

the Bellissens, Sescelades and Terres de l'Ebre campuses. Fourteen water fountains were also put in place on the Vila-seca, Bellissens, Sescelades and Terres de l'Ebre campuses and in the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences. In addition, during the first semester of the 2023–24 academic year, a yoga course funded from the participatory budget was organised. In the second call for participatory budget proposals, in the 2023–24 academic year, 51 new suggestions were received. The Student Council will assess them and prioritise the proposals that will be funded after feasibility studies.



URV+ Recognitions



In the 2023–24 academic year, **Lucía Casado**, lecturer in the Department of Public Law, won the 2023 Financial Studies Award in the category of Constitutional and Administrative Law. She received the prize for her research on the regional cassation appeal, seven years after it came into force, and highlighted the problems arising from inadequate regulation.



Carme Oriol, lecturer of Catalan Studies, won the 14th Carme Romaní Award for her tremendous work on the study and dissemination of Catalan folktales. The prize is awarded by the Bib Botó Task Working Group on Children's and Young People's Libraries of the Official Catalan Professional Association of Librarians and Documentalists. The award recognises her extraordinary work on the study and dissemination of Catalan folktales, oral tradition, rondalles and other forms of folklore.



URV lecturer **Jordi Salas-Salvadó** received the 19th International Hippocrates Prize for Medical Research on Human Nutrition. The Royal Academy of Medicine and Surgery of the Principality of Asturias awarded him this recognition for his outstanding work in the science and research of nutrition.



URV lecturer **Lluís Masana** became the new president of the Lipid and Arteriosclerosis Units Network of Catalonia (XULA). This non-profit association brings together professionals working in the lipid units of Catalonia, which are responsible for diagnosing familial hypercholesterolemia and prescribing the medications regulated by CatSalut.



Leticia Bazo, lecturer in the URV's Department of Nursing, was appointed president of the Spanish Society of Neonatal Nursing (SEEN), a non-profit association whose aim is to promote the advancement of neonatal nursing in prevention, care, training, teaching and research.



Postdoctoral researcher **Indira Paz-Graniel** received an award for her promising work. With the recognition, the British Nutrition Foundation honours the cumulative achievements of the URV lecturer, who also conducts research at CIBEROBN (Biomedical Research Network Centre Physiopathology of Obesity and Nutrition unit) and the IISPV (Pere Virgili Institute of Health Research). The 2023 Early Career Scientist Award was presented at the foundation's annual conference, which was held at the Royal College of Physicians in London.



The Government of Catalonia awarded **Aïda Valls Mateu**, researcher in the URV's Department of Computer Engineering and Mathematics and director of the ITAKA research group, the DonaTIC 2023 Award in the academic and research category. Valls is one of the seven women honoured in the different categories from among the 86 nominations presented for the awards.



Mònica Pons, a pre-doctoral researcher at the URV, received two awards from the American Society of Criminology for her research on elver trafficking. She received two awards in Philadelphia and was the first non-anglophone to be honoured by the Division of Critical Criminology & Social Justice at the 78th Annual Meeting of the American Society of Criminology.



Teresa Auguet, a researcher in the URV's Department of Medicine and Surgery, received the Sant Cosme i Sant Damià award from the College of Physicians of Tarragona. The recognition was part of the first Antonius Musa Awards, which also honoured Rosa Solà, lecturer in the URV's Department of Medicine and Surgery.



María Jiménez, lecturer in the Department of Nursing, received the Career Achievement Award from the College of Nurses of Tarragona. The award honours professionals who contribute to the advancement of the profession and the discipline of nursing, as well as their recognition and social projection. She is a specialist in ethics and bioethics and has expanded on her research on the critically ill in emergency situations.



Francesca Fort, researcher and lecturer in the URV's Faculty of Oenology, was awarded the Rec Major prize from the Farmers' Guild (Gremi de Pagesos). The Farmers' Guild has given various awards to people, entities and institutions that have excelled in their work of promotion and innovation in agriculture and in the agri-food sector.



Anna Boqué, postdoctoral researcher in the Department of Geography, received an award for environmental leadership from the international youth chambers of Reus and Catalonia in the Ten Outstanding Young Persons (TOYP) awards, which recognises young people who contribute to improving society in their field. Boqué was honoured for her career and her contribution to international science.



Maria Rius, Arnau Tifena and Ferran Tifena received the Europe 40under40 Architecture and Design Award, which recognises the generation of architects who will influence the living and working environments of the future. The prize is awarded by the European Centre for Architecture, Art, Design and Urban Studies and the Chicago Athenaeum Museum of Architecture, Art and Design.



Doctoral student **Fatemeh Behfa** received the first prize from Iran_Lab, Shared Research and Teaching at the University of Rome La Sapienza for a project to revitalise the rooftops of a city in Iran. She proposed creating social, cultural and musical spaces on the rooftops of the city of Bushehr to revive the traditions of those living there.



Sangeetha Shyam, a senior postdoctoral researcher in the Human Nutrition Unit at the URV through the María Zambrano Talent Development Programme, was chosen as a fellow by the Malaysian Society for Nutrition. The award is conferred each year on exceptional researchers who have made an outstanding contribution to this scientific society through their long-standing commitment to the nutritional sciences.



Susana Prado, lecturer in the Department of Computer Engineering and Mathematics, received the Salvà i Campillo Outstanding Person Award for her contribution to the dissemination of electronics and communication technologies during the 29th Telecommunications and Computer Science Night put on by the Catalan Association of Telecommunications Engineering and Digital Technologies.



Sandra Caponi, a María Zambrano postdoctoral researcher in the Department of Anthropology, Philosophy and Social Work, received a Mulheres na Ciencia Award from the Federal University of Santa Catarina (UFSC) in Brazil, where she is a lecturer. The prize was created to encourage, recognise and give visibility to women conducting scientific and technological research.



Mònica Bulló, lecturer in the Department of Biochemistry and Biotechnology and researcher at the Catalan Institution for Research and Advanced Studies (ICREA), was appointed director of the European Association for the Study of Obesity (EASO) Nutrition Working Group. Her appointment recognises her career in the field of nutrition and her contribution to obesity research. Bulló also directs the URV's Centre for Environmental, Food and Toxicological Technology (Tecnatox) and the Nutrition and Metabolic Health Research Group (NuMeH).



Marta Schumacher, researcher in the Department of Chemical Engineering, was awarded a President Macià Medal for her work by the Government of Catalonia. An expert in environmental and human health issues related to the presence of emerging pollutants in the environment, she has extensive experience in supervising and directing national and European research projects.

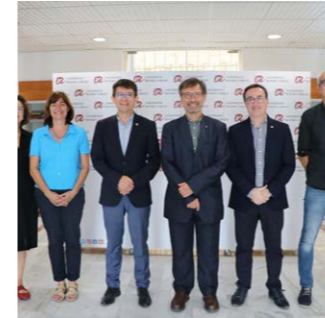


Àlex Arenas and **Sergio Gómez**, researchers in the URV's Department of Computer Engineering and Mathematics, were awarded the Test of Time Award by Web Science Trust (WST) for their outstanding contribution to analysing multilayer social networks. Their paper, 'Centrality rankings in multiplex networks', was first presented at the 2014 ACM Web Science conference in Indiana (USA).



The ninth Gresol Jove Entrepreneurial Talent Awards honoured Nutrigenomics Group researchers **Begoña Muguerra** and **Miquel Mulero** for their work on several technology transfer projects that created high value-added business opportunities.

In the news



21/09/2023

The URV joins the Language Action Plan in Camp de Tarragona and Baix Penedès

The URV has joined one of the National Pact for Language municipal initiatives to increase the use of Catalan in areas where it is in decline. The URV has been involved in a pilot project with local authorities to promote and protect the Catalan language in an area in which public proficiency and use of Catalan is diminishing.



22/09/2023

The URV hosts the event to mark the start of the academic year for the Catalan university system

Journalist Rosa Maria Calaf gave the inaugural address with a reflection on the state of journalism, the rise of fake news, and the quality of democracy. It was a master class on the need for reliable information, investing in good journalism, and a return to chronicles and news in context. The Jaume Vicens Vives awards were presented at the event.



18/10/2023

Three students from the Master's Degree in Industrial Engineering win first prize in EngiHack

Karla Andreina Vergel Rondón, Valeria Lizet Landa Arroyo and Juan Felipe Gil Ruiz received first prize in the first EngiHack, an event put on to mark the 160th anniversary of the Association of Industrial Engineers of Catalonia. In a marathon test of their ingenuity, they proposed building a buoy that generates energy using the force of the waves.



25/10/2023

The Chemistry Research Awards of the URV Faculty of Chemistry and the Chemical Business Association of Tarragona (AEQT) is now in its 25th year

The aim of the awards is to honour the scientific ethos, recognise the pursuit of research and encourage interest in science and chemical technology among 3rd and 4th year secondary and baccalaureate students. At the award ceremony, some of the testimonials from previous award winners were presented, which highlighted how this award has influenced their subsequent studies and careers.

In the news



17/11/23

URV human towers builders meet at the Macrodiada hosted by the URV's Pataquers

The URV's *casteller* group is celebrating a high point in its 15th year of existence with a 'Macrodiada' held in Sant Tolemet in the municipality of Valls. Eleven of the thirteen university *casteller* associations came together and offered a performance that featured '4 de 8' by the Arreplegats de la Zona Universitària de Barcelona and a '2 de 7 amb folre' by the Pataquers.



27/11/2023

New school trains healthcare professionals and students with innovative methodologies

The Centre for Innovation and Territorial Simulation (CISTE) has opened its doors. A lifelong learning centre run by the URV Foundation, it is designed to meet the needs of professionals and students from the public and private health sectors, as well as professionals from other disciplines. The school uses cutting-edge techniques such as simulation and immersive technology.



30/11/2023

Author Olga Xirinacs is awarded an honorary doctorate by the URV

The URV has awarded the writer Olga Xirinacs an honorary doctorate in a ceremony in which her contributions to the fields of literature and the humanities were honoured. Xirinacs wanted to pay homage to the geographical region that her work put into words, and called for a social forum for the recognition of women authors and literature from the global south.



30/11/2023

Conference brings health researchers and their projects together with the business world

The aim of the event was to raise awareness of health research conducted in the region. Six research projects led by URV and IISPV-CERCA researchers were presented based on developing biomedical advances and creating solutions to improve the quality of clinical practice.



05/12/2023

The School of Architecture creates a model of the original project of the Pere Mata Institute to commemorate Domènech i Montaner Year

A team from the URV's School of Architecture made a model of the original plan for the Pere Mata Institute in Reus, which shows visitors how the architect imagined the complex. It is based on surviving historical documents and, above all, on an aerial photograph the architect took to visualise the complex.



15/12/2023

Terres de l'Ebre Campus inclusive rugby project recognised at the Sports Gala

The inclusive rugby project has received an award for education and sporting values. The initiative involves students from the primary education programme at the Ebre Campus, who designed and developed real-life teaching and learning situations, and students with functional diversity from the Sant Jordi school.



22/12/2023

The documentary 'Rotspanier, the Spanish slaves of Nazism' wins the Lorca Documentary Award in Granada

The documentary was recognised at the Granada Film Festival in the documentary category. The work illustrates the situation of the 70,000 Spaniards who were forced to work in Nazi-occupied France during the Second World War. It is part of the European project 'Lessons for the Present: Rotspanier, Spanish forced labourers in World War II. The European (dis)memory of anti-fascism', led by the URV's Centre for Studies into Social Conflicts (CECOS).



10/01/2024

The Inspira STEAM project continues to grow in Tarragona, reaching nearly 1,800 students

The project, which is coordinated by the URV in Tarragona, promotes scientific and technical professions among students, especially girls. It is based on the volunteer efforts of 122 mentors working in the STEAM sector to highlight the work of female scientists, encourage girls' interest in these disciplines and normalise the presence of women in fields lacking women.

In the news



14/02/24

The Faculty of Education Sciences and Psychology to be fully renovated

The project to modernise the facilities and bring them in line with regulations will cost 7.2 million euros. For a year and a half, teaching and research will be conducted in alternative spaces on the Sescelades Campus and the Tarragona Seminary. The building began to be cleared in July. Students and staff will start the academic year in temporary rooms.



19/02/2024

Award for innovation in internationalisation

Rovira i Virgili University received the Award for Innovative Excellence in Internationalisation from the Association of International Education Administrators (AIEA). The award highlights the URV's successes in staff training and the institution's commitment to internationalisation.



27/02/2024

Commemoration of the 30th anniversary of physiotherapy studies at the URV

The celebration of the 30th anniversary of the URV physiotherapy degree programmes included a range of activities to commemorate the milestone in which everyone was welcome. The closing ceremony of the anniversary featured a tribute to the lecturers who first promoted physiotherapy studies at a public university. The programme has trained more than 1,800 people at the URV.



28/02/24

Tarragona awards ComCiència its Distinction for Scientific Merit

The Tarragona City Council has awarded the Science Communication Unit (ComCiència), the city's Distinction for Scientific Merit. The award was presented in a public ceremony at the Antigua Audiència building and was presided over by the mayor of the city, Rubén Viñuales.



04/03/24

Outstanding URV participation in Unirun, the Catalan university race

URV student Paula Hritiuc came in second place in the women's category, and the URV won the prize for the university with the most participants from outside Barcelona. The URV runner with the best time in the men's category was Unai Altuna, a student pursuing a Bachelor's Degree in Chemical Engineering degree, who came in eighth.



08/03/2024

The founders and pioneers of the Tarragona Feminist Bloc receive the Maria Antònia Ferrer 2024 Award

The URV received the Maria Antònia Ferrer i Bosch Award on the occasion of International Women's Day. This year's prize was awarded to the founders and pioneers of the Feminist Bloc of Tarragona in the 1970s, who dared to take previously non-existent paths to organise the fight against the lack of women's rights and create platforms for dialogue and advocacy while trying to elude the political and social powers of the Franco regime.



11/03/2024

The CAC awards highlight the importance of research in audiovisual communication

The URV hosted the Catalan Audiovisual Council (CAC) awards ceremony, which recognised research on audiovisual communication conducted by four researchers from Catalan universities. The CAC awards for research in audiovisual communication aim to recognise quality research in audiovisual communication. A total of 18 research projects were presented this year: 11 doctoral theses, 5 master's degree final projects, 1 bachelor's degree final project and 1 special research project.



12/03/2024

A URV team wins the University Challenge organised by the Repsol Foundation

Wave Energy, a team of students from the URV's School of Chemical Engineering (ETSEQ), won the Fundación Repsol University Challenge in one of the five award-winning categories: sustainable and decarbonised mobility. The students presented a project to decarbonise maritime transport by capturing energy generated by sea waves.

In the news



19/04/2024

Lletrefest focuses activities on Sant Jordi festivities

The Faculty of Arts, the Learning and Research Resources Centre (CRAI) and the Language and Publications Service offered a week of cultural activities for the whole community as part of Lletrefest, a week dedicated to the humanities that took place mainly on the Catalunya Campus. A literary escape room, an exhibition on books, wine and art, thematic guided tours, recitals and public readings were some of the highlights.



07/05/2024

New orientation channels

In order to facilitate the integration of teaching and research staff as well as technical, management and administrative and service staff, a new web page has been launched containing important information and useful links on the university's workings, management environment, teaching, services, and more. This academic year also saw the beginning of orientation sessions for the 25 people who joined the URV as lecturers.



10/05/2024

Conference reaffirms the vital role of nurses in a healthy society

For the first time, a conference was held with nursing students from all university campuses to mark International Nurses' Day. At the conference, former trainer Joan Carlos Unzué, who suffers from amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), reaffirmed the vital role of health care.



13/06/2024

The URV is taking the reins and is already preparing to organise the Catalan University Championships in 2025

The URV will host the next Catalan University Championships (CCU), after taking over from Pompeu Fabra University (UPF) in the closing ceremony of the 39th championships. The 12 participating Catalan universities will compete at Tarragona's Anella Mediterrània sport complex.



14/06/2024

URV Bureau for Communications and Marketing receives the Petxina Obert Award from the College of Journalists of Tarragona

The award honoured the work of the communications bureau for disseminating knowledge generated at the University with the media and the general public.



28/06/2024

Adrià Vilalta wins the 'Vols saber què investigo?' competition

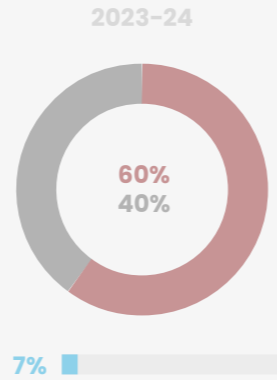
A packed Teatre Bartrina once again hosted the 'Vols saber què investigo?' (Do You Want to Know What I'm Researching?) competition, in which six URV doctoral students gave informative, accessible descriptions of their theses. Adrià Vilalta, a doctoral student in Nutrition and Metabolism won first prize, and also won the prize in the 'Explain Your Thesis in Four Minutes' competition sponsored by the Catalan Foundation for Research and Innovation. He participated in the event with eleven other monologists from Catalan universities.

Figures and evolution

Students

- men
- women
- international

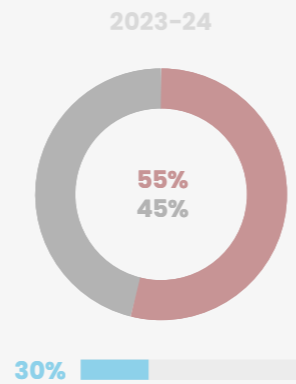
Graduate



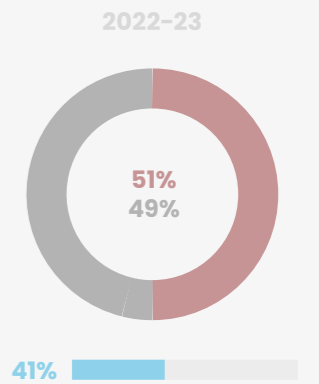
Continuing education



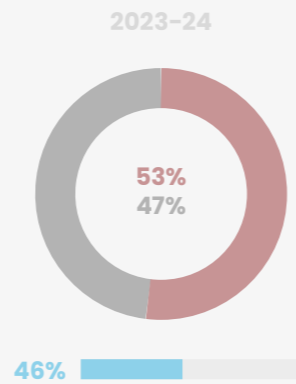
Master



Tesis doctorales defendidas



Doctorate



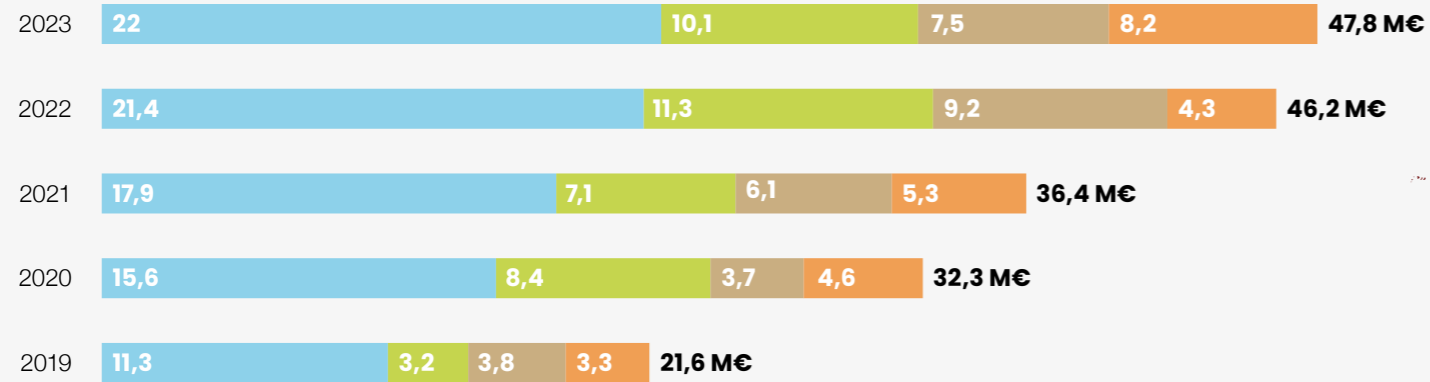
Artículos científicos indexados en Web of Science / Scopus



Figures and evolution

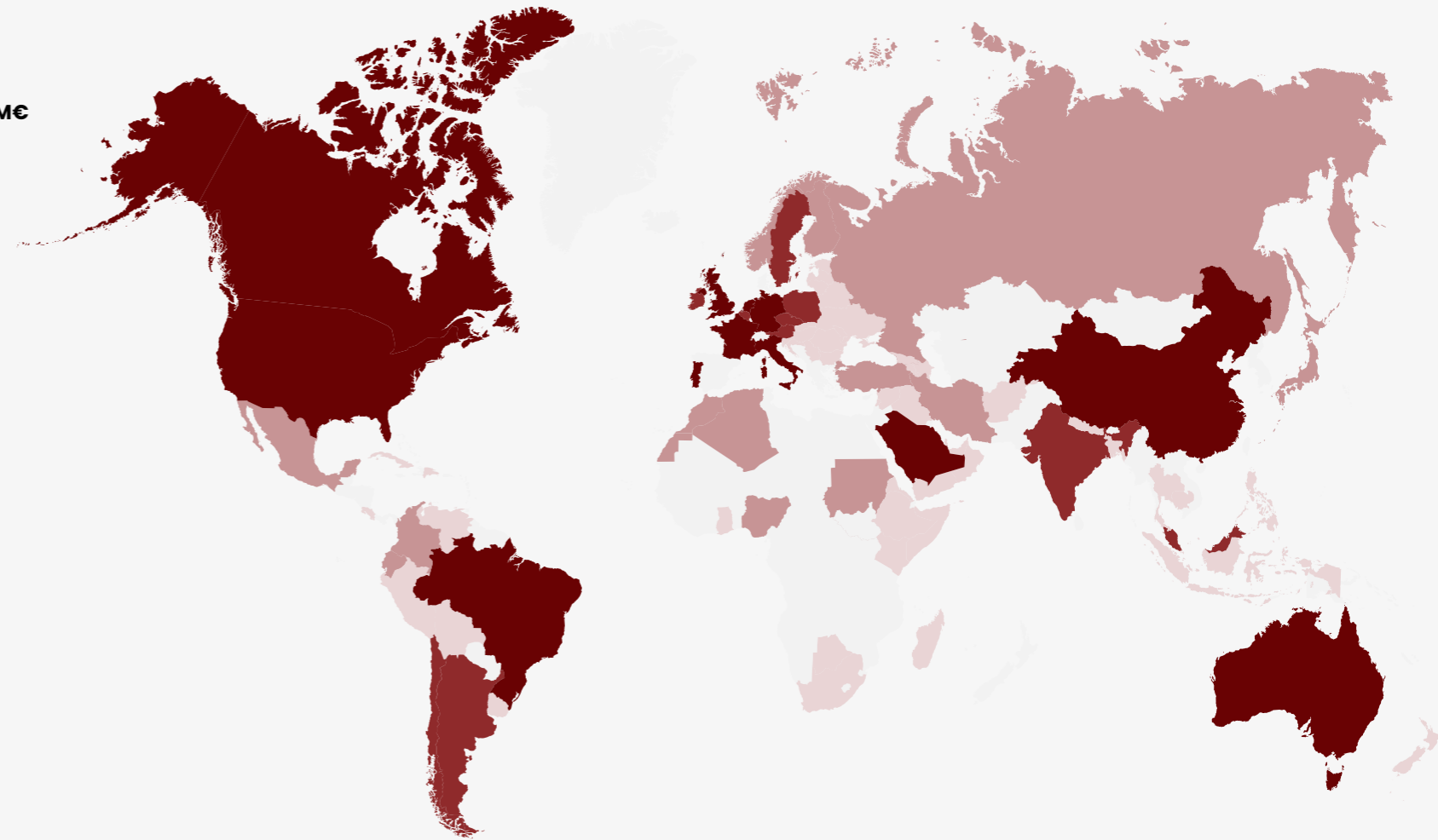
Funding raised by university staff for research and innovation

- URV competitive
- Affiliated institutions competitive
- URV non-competitive
- Affiliated institutions non-competitive



Publications with international collaboration (2023)

- 1-10 co-publications
- 11-25 co-publications
- >26-50 co-publications
- >50 co-publications



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Memory

23

24