

More than half the university community considers that more resources should be allocated to research

- Over 9,000 members of the university community from 19 countries gave their views on the university of tomorrow in three areas: digitalisation, research and contribution to society.
- The survey, conducted by IPSOS, is part of the preparations leading up to the 4th International Universia Rector's Meeting, which will make Salamanca the global capital of higher education on 21 and 22 May.

Madrid, 8 May 2018. **SANTANDER NEWS.**

IPSOS, an agency specialising in market research, conducted a survey to obtain the opinion of the university community on digitisation, research and contribution to society, as part of the preparations leading up to the 4th International Universia Rectors Meeting, which will take place in Salamanca on 21 and 22 May.

Over 9,000 members of the university community from 19 countries took part. The results of the survey show that over half of the university community (56%) considers that not only the installations and facilities should be upgraded, but also that more resources should be allocated to research in Universities, while 35% consider that the lack of funding is the main barrier to promoting research work.

Moreover, a third of the university community members participating in the survey considers that research should be the main priority to all universities, even ahead of other issues, such as the digitalisation of education.

Those polled also noted that one of the main objectives of the University of the 21st Century should to promote research, development and innovation, an objective that is not covered satisfactorily, according to 46% of the survey participants.

According to their view of this new reality, 61% of survey participants consider that their university focuses on teaching, 25% consider that research has a very low priority and 21% mentioned that their University is not laying the proper foundations to become a good researcher. Also noteworthy is that 15% of undergraduate students are thinking of becoming university researchers.

Three discussion topics for the 4th International Universia Rectors Meeting

Coinciding with the 800th anniversary of the founding of the University of Salamanca, and under the slogan "University, Society and Future", the 4th International Universia Rectors Meeting, chaired by Ana Botín, chair of Universia and Group executive chairman of Banco Santander, will provide a forum to discuss the three cornerstones for the university of tomorrow: "Training and learning in a digital world"; "Research at universities: a paradigm under scrutiny?" and "The university's contribution to social and territorial development".

In Salamanca, more than 600 rectors and academic representatives from 26 countries will participate in debates centred on these three key topics. The discussion will also use the results of the IPSOS survey, which includes the opinions of another 9,343 members of the university community.

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This global debate can help build the university of tomorrow.

The 4th International Universia Rectors Meeting continues on from the events in Río de Janeiro (Brazil, 2014), Guadalajara (Mexico, 2010) and Seville (Spain, 2005). The debate can be streamed or followed on the Meeting's social media and on its official website – www.universiasalamanca2018.com. At the end, the "Letter from Salamanca" will be published and will include the main conclusions and proposals for helping to build the university of tomorrow and to make headway towards its mission as an engine for progress and social development.

The event has the backing of Banco Santander, the world's largest investor in educational support (Varkey/UNESCO-Fortune 500 report) through Santander Universities (www.santander.com/universidades), with partnership agreements with over 1,200 Ibero-American academic institutions through Universia (www.universia.net).

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