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INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITIES

A university education is a valuable commodity. It's one that enables individuals to realise their academic potential by helping them develop their abilities and gain vital qualifications for their future careers. Opening up a huge range of opportunities, the institutions featured here help provide society with its future leaders and innovators in every field.

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UNIVERSAL VISION

THE UNIVERSITY OF THE BASQUE COUNTRY STRIVES TO PRESERVE THE REGION'S CULTURE, WHILE MOVING WITH THE TIMES BY OFFERING MULTILINGUAL COURSES

When the University of the Basque Country was established in 1980 it brought Basque, a minority language, to the highest level of education. Launched by local institutions as a reflection of their commitment to innovation, the university has a close relationship with industry and is a committed partner of the region's technology and research centres.

MULTILINGUAL APPROACH

Professor Enrique Zuazua, one of Spain's most prominent researchers, was instructed at the institution as a mathematician and was a member of the first class to be (partially) lectured to in the Basque language. The university, he maintains, reflects the Basque Country and its people. 'There was a great deal of generosity at the university,' he recalls. 'We received a solid education that proved equal to that of other international institutions. And the determination, great effort and cooperation among Basque people have made it possible for us to leapfrog decades in just a few years.'

The university, which has 45,000 students and 5,000 teaching staff, is involved in 70 per cent of all research projects carried out in the Basque Country. It has three campuses and is the only public university in the region, with a large network of technology and research centres and a strong production industry. Currently, most of the 70 undergraduate and 150 highly specialised graduate programmes at the University of the Basque Country are available in both Spanish and the Basque language, while tuition in other languages, mainly English, progresses.

According to Professor Zuazua, the multilingual nature of the university is one of its key strengths. 'Bilingual or multilingual education trains the brain for plasticity, which is extremely beneficial for other types of study and science,' explains the professor. He returned to the Basque Country three years ago to launch the Basque Center for Applied Mathematics, a world-class interdisciplinary research centre located in Bilbao. 'Furthermore, it develops a multidimensional conception of the world.'

INTERNATIONAL EXCELLENCE

Everything the University of the Basque Country is, and aims to be, is encapsulated by its Euskampus project. With help from the Donostia International Physics Center and Tecnalia Technological Corporation, the university leads Euskampus – a new, interactive campus combining education, research, knowledge transfer and innovation. In 2010, the project was commended by the Spanish Ministry of Education, and the university was awarded the title of Campus of International Excellence 2010. Euskampus is due to become the cornerstone of the social and economic transformation of the Basque Country, as well as a reference point on both sides of the Atlantic.

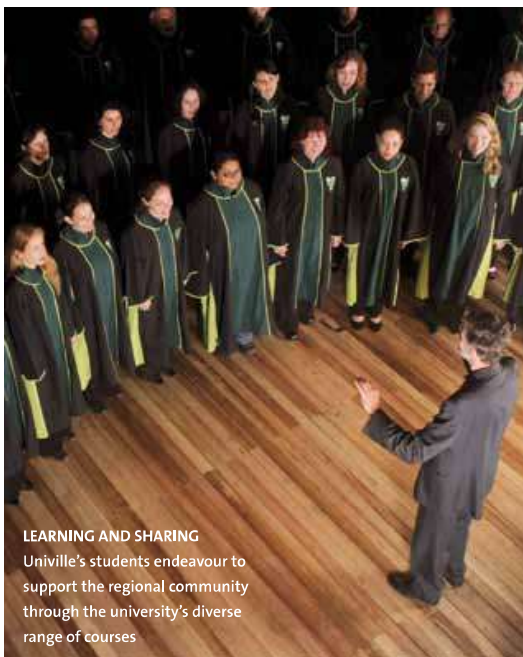
All of the university's efforts are now focused on becoming one of Europe's best universities and boosting international academic and research activities. As Professor Zuazua puts it: 'We aim to preserve our unique cultural essence, while at the same time forging our future.'



**“MULTILINGUAL EDUCATION TRAINS THE
BRAIN FOR PLASTICITY, WHICH IS EXTREMELY
BENEFICIAL FOR OTHER TYPES OF STUDY”**

RESEARCH AND LEARNING HUB
Determination, great effort and
cooperation among Basques
has made it possible to leapfrog
decades in just a few years

**“UNIVILLE WAS DESIGNED
TO PROVIDE THE COMMUNITY
WITH SERVICES AND INNOVATIONS
RESULTING FROM TEACHING
AND RESEARCH ACTIVITIES”**



LEARNING AND SHARING
Univille's students endeavour to support the regional community through the university's diverse range of courses

