

While hosting the 4th International Universia Rectors Meeting, Salamanca will become the world capital of higher education

- Over 600 rectors and academic representatives from all over the world, politicians, businesspeople and representatives from Spanish and international institutions are meeting in Salamanca on 21 and 22 May.

Salamanca, 26 March 2018. SANTANDER NEWS.

When the University of Salamanca celebrates its 800th anniversary and under the slogan "University, Society and Future", the 4th International Universia Rectors Meeting will transform Salamanca into the world capital of higher education on 21 and 22 May.

The event was presented today at the University of Salamanca (the Meeting's host) by the university's rector, Ricardo Rivero, the chairman of Santander Universities, Matías Rodríguez Inciarte, and Salamanca's mayor, Alfonso Fernández Mañueco. The Meeting itself will be chaired by Ana Botín, Group executive chairman of Banco Santander and chair of Universia.

The rector explained that the University of Salamanca is hosting Universia's meeting as it celebrates its 800th anniversary, *"which commemorates the origin of the Ibero-American space for higher education and knowledge. The roots of Ibero-America's university system are in Salamanca since our bylaws and model were the starting point for the first American universities such as Mexico, Santo Domingo, Lima, Córdoba..."*, he pointed out. He also stressed that, from then until now, both sides of the Atlantic *"share the values of the School of Salamanca, such as the defence of individual dignity, human rights and democracy"*.

Rivero also undertook to work together *"towards the United Nations' development goals: environmental sustainability, gender equality and commitment to the fair development of our closest social context, commitment and university responsibility"*.

Matías Rodríguez Inciarte stated that *"the commitment of Santander Universities with the 2018 International Universia Rectors Meeting represents Banco Santander's commitment to higher education, universities and university students. To us, Salamanca means meeting, collaboration, exchange, collective intelligence and recognition of university work. A great opportunity for helping to generate common answers to the challenges faced by universities."*

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Alfonso Fernández Mañueco mentioned Universia, the University of Salamanca and Santander Universities in his speech and thanked these institutions for transforming his city into the World Capital of Higher Education for two days. According to the mayor, "*Salamanca does not make sense without its university and you can't explain the university without its city. These 800 years of history must be the platform for projecting Salamanca and its School and for creating a better future by uniting the efforts of both the university and the city*" and he emphasised that "*Salamanca is a Historical City, World Heritage Site, but it's also an innovative city, a city that does research, a modern city that has grown and advanced with the help of its university*".

Two days of university debates

For two days, more than 600 rectors and academic representatives from 26 countries will participate in debates centred on three key topics: "Training and learning in a digital world"; "Research at universities: a paradigm under scrutiny?" and "The university's contribution to social and territorial development".

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; it 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 4th International Universia Rectors Meeting, which takes over from the meetings in Rio de Janeiro (Brazil, 2014), Guadalajara (Mexico, 2010) and Seville (Spain, 2005), is supported by Banco Santander, the company with the most investment in education in the world (Varkey/UNESCO–Fortune 500 Report), with over 1200 partnerships with universities and academic institutions from 21 countries through Santander Universities (www.santander.com/universidades) and with a group of more than 1300 Ibero-American academic institutions through Universia (www.universia.net).

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