

Graduation Ceremony

course 2016 - 2017

Sala Pau Casals, L'Auditori de Barcelona

President,
Vice President,
Alumni President,
tutors,
faculty and administrative staff,
graduates...

Today, the UOC is a consolidated reality, one of the cornerstones of our university system. And, yet, in spite of these 22 years of existence, when, as Chairman of the Board of Trustees, I represent the UOC before people who are not familiar with it, I often have to answer questions like: «But just what is the UOC?» or, «Does the UOC really work?».

The second question is easy to answer...I only need to update it each new year. Because nothing proves the UOC's success more than your success. Nothing shows better that our University works than seeing your expressions of fulfilment here today.

However, for the first question, a more reasoned explanation is needed. To start with, I like to say that there are classic universities, distance universities... and there's the UOC.



«Because the UOC is, above all, a distanceless university; without physical, time or generational distances, or border or gender distances, or any other type of distance.»

Technology provides us with the channels that truly allow us to be a close, inclusive university, able to adapt to students' individual needs, and ready to respond to social demands.

«With our educational model, this technological potential is realizable, because – let's make no mistake about it – the Internet is the channel, but our educational model is the true lever of change.»

Let me use last year's data to give an example of the qualities I have just listed. Just one year ago, 4,622 students like you graduated from the UOC. Of these students, 60% were women, and 93% were studying while also holding down a job...

Let me put it this way: neither education is limited to when we are young nor is talent confined to certain stereotypes. At the UOC, we know this and that is why our programmes are committed to not leave anyone behind, to adapt to all demands, to leverage all abilities.

Obviously, the effort, the achievement, the dedication – that is all yours. But it is an effort and a dedication that bears fruit. Thus, 76% of you acknowledge that you have improved your professional and personal skills, and 89%, I repeat, 89%, would choose us to study another course. If anyone thinks that these are self-serving answers, captive wills, as they say, let's look at what the market and the statistics say.

According to the data available, the UOC is the university with most career openings. Online students are the most competitive in new technologies, computer science and critical thinking, skills that are particularly appreciated by the Human Resources departments. And we could go on...

The UOC, I insist, is a distanceless university because, above all else, our students – you – don't have limits either.

Your example is proof of this.

Congratulations!
Thank you very much.
Pere Vallès