

Can Jaumandreu handover

UOC Campus

Minister, deputy mayor, director of the Institute of Photonic Sciences, minister Mas Colell, directors,

Less than three months ago, the room below us hosted a training session on European projects. The speaker had travelled from Brussels, but she was born in Catalonia, and shared her emotion with us about being in the same place where her grandmother had worked as a spinner decades ago. From the technology and society of the 19th century to the technology and society of the 21st. From a spinning mill to the world's first online university.

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The creation of the UOC Campus in the Poblenou district is a reflection of our roots in Barcelona, our commitment to opening up to the world from this corner of the Mediterranean, and to doing so from the knowledge district par excellence, in an ecosystem which is enriched by universities, companies, start-ups, art labs and experimental workshops, working together side by side.

This campus has enabled us to bring together the majority of our staff in the same place. Apart from the more mundane but important consequences, such as savings on travel, and streamlining our structure, Can Jaumandreu is here, and embodies the founding philosophy of the UOC. Concepts that are too often abstract, such as interdisciplinarity and transfer, take shape and crystallize while connecting training, research and administration.

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Everything makes sense and looks better when you are able to create the environment and conditions required for this mutual hybridization to take place

and multiply. We had a taster last autumn, when the Interdisciplinary R&I Hub became operational. But the Can Jaumandreu operation is also an indication and an example of how we can serve our country.

Because let's not forget that, as public servants, our role is to be useful to our fellow citizens, and that means having a social impact and relevance. In that respect, the four parties involved in the project have performed a choreographed manoeuvre which has been as complex as it has been faultless.

First, with the help of the Government of Catalonia, the UOC has left Castelldefels, enabling our neighbour, the Institute of Photonic Sciences, to move into what had previously been the home of the IN3. This was a swift and sustainable solution which has allowed it to carry out its strategic projects linked to quantum technologies and photonic chips without the need to build a new facility.

At the same time, Barcelona City Council – and the people at Barcelona Activa in particular – have allowed us to add this third building to the campus, and by doing so have made the UOC's ambition to have a unified campus a reality.

This four-way manoeuvre has been satisfactorily completed by all the parties involved, thanks above all to the sensitivity shown by all the government bodies involved when addressing the needs of these two mutually beneficial institutions.

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And I will conclude by saying that this campus is the crowning achievement in the celebrations marking the UOC's first quarter of a century, and it places us in an unbeatable position to focus on the next 25 years, and the years after that.

The UOC Poblenou campus is the perfect climax for the mandate of the team I have had the honour and privilege to lead, and it is simultaneously the emblem of the UOC of the future.

Thank you very much, minister, and thank you very much, deputy mayor, for making it possible!