

International Forensic Experts and Evidence Conference

Centre d'Estudis Jurídics i Formació Especialitzada

President of the Catalan Association of Forensic Expert Witnesses,
President of the Forensic Evidence and Probative Law Association,
President of the Serra Domínguez Foundation,
Deputy General Manager of FIATC,
Dean of the UOC's Faculty of Law and Political Science,
ladies and gentlemen,

Good afternoon and welcome to the International Forensic Experts and Evidence Conference. Welcome to Barcelona.

Let me start by saying something that may not be as obvious as it seems: the university of today cannot look back, but must look forward.

It may seem self-evident, but it requires further clarification and explanation of what characteristics set today's universities apart from those of the past. There are four main aspects.

First, alongside *knowledge*, there is *know-how*. This means that universities have to strengthen their links with professionals and adapt to their situations and needs at work.

Second, we not only have to generate knowledge, but we also have to disseminate this knowledge beyond the lecture hall. Above all, we have to accept and make the most of the value arising from this exchange, collaboration and experience, wherever it may occur and whoever may be involved.

Third, education is not just something for when we're young, instead it is something that goes on throughout our lives. Education is no longer a starting point or a destination; it is something that accompanies us throughout our professional career.

And, finally,



"nowadays educational excellence and progress can only be achieved through collaboration between the different parts of society."

All these characteristics (combining knowledge and know-how, connecting knowledge, lifelong learning, and collaboration) set the university of today apart from its predecessors, and, above all, set a solid basis for the university of tomorrow.

The UOC's participation in this conference comes in response to what I've been saying.

That's why our Faculty of Law and Political Science has signed agreements with the Catalan Association of Forensic Expert Witnesses and with the Forensic Evidence and Probative Law Association.

That's why we have forged links between this international conference and our Master's Degree in Legal Practice.

That's why we're taking part as co-organizers in a conference that seeks educational excellence through high quality professional training.

Let me return to what I was saying at the start when I talked about today and looking back and forward.

Often the necessary prudence required in law has been wrongly interpreted as a fondness for the past. But, the idea behind this conference clearly goes against that. Instead it underlines what the timeless Machiavelli said: "the law shouldn't look to the past, but predict the future".

I can't think of a better way to prepare for tomorrow than to reflect on the profession itself using an approach based on knowledge, experience and sharing.

Thank you very much.

Josep A. Planell