

12TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF EDUCATION, RESEARCH AND INNOVATION



SEVILLE (SPAIN) 11-13 NOVEMBER 2019



12TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF EDUCATION, RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

# CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

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#### THE "STUDY AND RESEARCH" PROGRAM OF THE JAUME I UNIVERSITY: DESCRIPTION OF THE PROGRAM AND EXPERIENCES IN STUDENT MENTORING

#### O. Coltell, I. Usó

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#### Abstract

The "Study and research at the UJI" program, is an initiative of the Jaume I University (UJI) which offers to students the possibility of obtaining research and academic training out of regular studies, and allows them to develop their capacity for reflection and analysis through the achievement of academic and personal competences. The training is based on a motivating topic that is relevant to the degree they are enrolled. The initiative kicked-off the 2008/2009 academic year and it is still active and growing.

The Program is coordinated and managed by the UJI Educational Support Unit (UJI-ESU) through Imma Usó (author of this work). The Program is aimed primarily at first-year students with excellent performance in high school and in the university access exam (in the Spanish scale, 9.5 out of 14.0 points of average grade). Also to the finalists of the Spanish high school academic Olympics. And finally, to students in second, third or fourth years who have not been beneficiaries of this Program, who have a good academic record and who are personally interested. In the first two cases, the UJI-ESU contacts the students and offers them the initiative and a list of research groups to choose from. In the third case, it is the student himself who searches for the research group that interests him/her, contacts his/her principal investigator (PI) and requests his assignment, which is valued by the UJI-ESU staff. The first two groups have the opportunity to start basic research address more specialized and complex tasks such as the design and development of a mini-project inside a research project. All this under the supervision of the mentor and with his/her support and that of the whole research group.

One of the principles of the Program is that participation is flexible and the academic obligations of the student must be respected, who is also obliged to maintain his level of excellence in his/her academic record. On the other hand, there are also academic benefits and in the use of UJI educational resources and facilities, both for mentors and students.

The objective of this work is to describe the Program details and generals results and the personal experience as principal investigator-mentor of one of authors (O. Coltell), who participated in the first, 2008/2009, and in the last 2018/2019 academic years, mentoring students of first and third groups, with very different results.

Keywords: Student mentoring, Research mentoring, student research orientation.

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Keywords: Student mentoring, Research mentoring, student research orientation.

## **1** INTRODUCTION

The "Study and research at the UJI" program, is an initiative of the Jaume I University (UJI) (Castellon, Spain) which offers to students the possibility of obtaining research and academic training out of regular studies, and allows them to develop their capacity for reflection and analysis through the achievement of academic and personal competences. The training is based on a motivating topic that is relevant to the degree they are enrolled. The initiative kicked-off the 2008/2009 academic year and it is still active and growing [1].

The Program is coordinated and managed by the UJI Educational Support Unit (UJI-ESU) directed by Imma Usó (author of this work). The Program is offered primarily at first-year students with excellent performance in high school and in the university access exam (in the Spanish scale, 9.5 out of 14.0 points of average grade). Also to the finalists of the Spanish high school academic Olympics. Finally, to students in second, third or fourth years who have not been beneficiaries of this Program, who have a good academic record and who are personally interested. In the first two cases, the UJI-ESU contacts the students and offers them the initiative and a list of research groups to choose from. In the third case, it is the student himself who searches for the research group that interests him/her, contacts his/her principal investigator (PI) and requests his assignment, which is reviewed by the UJI-ESU staff. The first two groups have the opportunity to start basic research tasks, such as starting in the scientific method and participating in a research project. The third group can address more specialized and complex tasks such as the design and development of a mini-project inside a research project. All this under the supervision of the mentor and with his/her support and that of the whole research group.

One of the principles of the Program is that participation is flexible and the academic obligations of the student must be respected, who is also obliged to maintain his level of excellence in his/her academic record. On the other hand, there are also academic benefits and in the use of UJI educational resources and facilities, both for mentors and students.

The objective of this work is to describe the Program details and generals results.

## 2 METHODOLOGY

This work is descriptive and retrospective, so the data generated throughout the entire trajectory of the program have been reviewed and adjusted to the general information questions posed below:

- 1 Number of students who participated in the program for each course.
- 2 Number of groups that have hosted participants.
- 3 Degrees and courses of those who have participated in the program.
- 4 Number of groups per areas / centers of the UJI.
- 5 Number of students who have completed the program per year.
- 6 Number of groups that have hosted more than one participant in the history of the program.

After answering the general questions, we have tried to answer certain specific questions detailed below:

- 1 Causes of termination of the program without completing it and / or giving up.
- 2 Period in which the program leaves were ordered categorized: Beginning (Set-Dec), Middle (January-April) and Final (May-July) of the year.
- 3 Number of participants that have (successfully) completed the degree and number, among them, that have been devoted to research or number of participants that have been integrated into the UJI groups.

## 3 **RESULTS**

The "Study and research at the UJI" program began as a pilot project in the academic year of 2007/2008, but it was inCentres, departments and institutes the academic year of 2008/2009 when it was launched as an ordinary initiative. First, we show the results corresponding to the answers to the general questions. Then, the results corresponding to the answers of the specific questions.

## 3.1 General questions

Regarding questions 1 and 2, Table 1 shows the distribution of students who participated in the program for each course and research teams. Fig. 1 shows the trend of the rate Number of students hosted by every research team. From the beginning, Fig 1 shows that the trend is positive, with a singular peak in 2013/2014, and that the Program consolidation was achieved when the rate curve crossed the rate mean line, in 2015/2016.

Academic year	Number Students	Number Research teams	Student/ Research team rate
2008/2009	5	5	1.00
2009/2010	10	10	1.00
2010/2011	13	11	1.18
2011/2012	25	25	1.00
2012/2013	38	37	1.03
2013/2014	58	27	2.15
2014/2015	86	65	1.32
2015/2016	99	61	1.62
2016/2017	117	67	1.75
2017/2018	132	73	1.81
2018/2019	148	72	2.06
Total	731	453	1.61

Table 1. Distribution of students who participated in the program for each course.

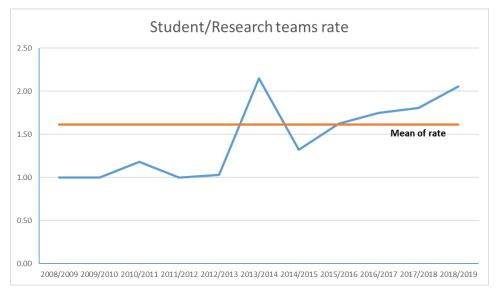


Figure 1. Trend of number of students hosted by research team.

The UJI is divided into four great Knowledge Areas and the corresponding centres (acronyms are from the Spanish name) [2]: Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences (FCHS), Faculty of Law and Economic Sciences (FCJE), Faculty of Health Sciences (FCS), and School of Technology and Experimental Sciences (ESTCE). All together offer 32 bachelor degrees, 45 master's degrees, and 21 doctoral studies. The 32 bachelor degrees are participating in the Program, but the UJI-ESU does not have statistics of hosted students by UJI-ESU degree. Therefore, it is not possible to resolve the question 3.

Regarding questions 4 and 5, Table 2 shows, in the last academic year of 2018/2019, the number of hosted students by research teams in each centre and the number of students who completed successfully the program at the end of the year. FCJE and ESTCE centres are above the mean success rate. On the contrary, FCHS and FCS are the centres with greater resigning rate from the initially enrolled students.

Centre	Research teams	Hosted students <sup>1</sup>	Certificated students <sup>2</sup>	Success rate <sup>3</sup> (%)
FCHS	17	43	20	46.5
FCJE	16	29	16	55.2
FCS	11	27	11	40.7
ESTCE	28	49	33	67.3
Total	72	148	80	54.1

Table 2. Success rate of hosted students by centre in 2018/2019.

<sup>1</sup>: Students assigned to research teams at the beginning of the year (HS).

<sup>2</sup>: Students who completed the Program at the end of the year (CS).

<sup>3</sup>: Percentage of the rate CS/HS.

Regarding question 6, Table 3 shows, in the period 2008/2009 to 2018/2019, the number of research teams that hosted 1, more than 1 student, and more than the mean of hosted students by research team and centre. Table 6 also shows the capacity rates of research teams for hosting new students as a prediction for future years. Altogether, FCHS research teams have more maximum capacity of the rest. But ESTCE teams are more stable because both rates are equal.

Centre	Research teams (RT)	Mean of hosted students per centre <sup>1</sup>	RT Hosted 1 student <sup>2</sup>	RT Hosted > 1 students <sup>3</sup>	RT Hosted > centre mean students <sup>4</sup>	Max. Host capacity rate⁵ (%)	Mean Host capacity rate <sup>6</sup> (%)
FCHS	17	2.5	4	13	6	76.5	35.3
FCJE	16	1.8	9	7	7	43.8	43.8
FCS	11	2.5	5	6	3	54.5	27.3
ESTCE	28	1.8	15	13	13	46.4	46.4
Total	72	2.2	33	39	29	54.2	40.3

Table 3. Host rate of research teams by centre in the period 2008/2009 to 2018/2019.

<sup>1</sup>: Mean of students assigned to each research teams of the centre (MHSC).

<sup>2</sup>: Number of research teams that hosted one student (RTHS1).

<sup>3</sup>: Number of research teams that hosted more than one student (RTHSMX).

<sup>4</sup>: Number of research teams that hosted more than MHSC students (RTHSMN).

<sup>5</sup>: Percentage of the rate RTHSMX / RT

6: Percentage of the rate RTHSMN / RT

As an additional result, Table 4 show results of the satisfaction survey administered to students and research team principal investigators during the period 2008/2009 to 2018/2019. This survey was designed as a Likert scale of 1 (very low satisfaction) to 5 (very high satisfaction). The Student/Research team concordance rate is very high showing that both collectives, students and PIs, were very satisfied with the Program.

Table 4. Satisfaction survey from students and research teams.

Academic year	Students	Research teams	Student/Research team concordance rate (%)
2008/2009	4.0	4.0	100.0
2009/2010	4.0	4.4	90.9
2010/2011	4.5	4.7	95.7
2011/2012	4.7	4.8	97.9
2012/2013	4.1	4.7	87.2
2013/2014	4.5	4.6	97.8
2014/2015	4.3	4.8	89.6
2015/2016	4.5	4.8	93.8
2016/2017	4.4	4.6	95.7
2017/2018	4.4	4.6	95.7
2018/2019	4.4	4.7	93.6
Mean	4.3	4.6	94.3

## 3.2 Specific questions

Regarding question 1, until now, program's resigns have been made by students, and the most repeated motive is: for lack of time to dedicate to undergraduate education. Students taking part in the program, get very good grades, and usually have many other extracurricular activities: some work, convergent, languages, plus study and use of the degree. The student, at the end of each year, also has the opportunity to dismiss his/her the participation contract for the following year. In other words, there are people who try a couple of courses to collaborate on the program, and, as the degree progresses, forcing them to spend time on external Practicum or Degree Thesis, they do not renew their participation in the Program.

Regarding question 2, the most program leaves happen at the Beginning (Set-Dec) of the year, and only a few at the Final (May-July) of the year.

Regarding question 3, until the year 2017/2018, there are 18 students who have continued their masters + doctorate training, both at the UJI, as well as in other universities and research institutes.

## 4 CONCLUSIONS

We presented a descriptive-retrospective analysis of the development of the "Study and research at the UJI" program, as an initiative of the UJI offering to bachelor students the possibility of obtaining research and academic training out of regular studies. We have collected data from the beginning, 2008/2009, until the last academic year, 2018/2019. The rate of number of students hosted by every research team has been growing along every academic year, showing that students have an increasing interest for participating in it. The satisfaction survey passed every year to students and research team principal investigators confirms that because the obtained scores in a Likert scale are greater than 4 for each year, and score values for both collectives were almost similar. Moreover, taking in account some indicators we have designed, as the maximum and mean capacity for hosting students, based on the follow up of the program, we are able to predict how many students could be hosted in future years. Finally, in the period 2008/2009 to 2017/2018, there were18 students who had continued their masters + doctorate training, supporting the success of the initiative beyond the bachelor degree.

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