

The University of Lleida Alumni Association

Establishing an International Alumni Association – Stage 1

The University of Lleida was re-established by the Catalan Parliament in 1991 to group together all the university level studies in Lleida which up to then were dependent on the University of Barcelona. The University has some 10,000 students and seven faculties (Law & Economy, Arts, Agricultural Engineering, Medicine, Nursing, Polytechnics and Educational Sciences) as well as six affiliated centres (Physical Education, Civil Administration, Social Work and 3 Tourism Schools).

The Associació d' Antics Alumnes de la Universitat de Lleida (University of Lleida Alumni Association) was founded in December 2000 by 60 members. The Association is fully independent from the University, but has the support of the Rector and of the President of the University Social Council.

At the time of writing, the Association was in the process of being registered at the Catalan Department of Justice. The executive board of the Association identified the following priorities to be their first steps;

- Increase the number of members
- Organise a competition to select a logo for the Association
- Create a membership card
- Build a web page which would contain; general information about the Association, an electronic magazine, a Who's Who? of the Association, reports of general interest, webmail, information about activities for members and so on
- Offer the members a range of services which currently were only available to students, for example, full access to the University libraries and a chance to join the University sports service.

One of the Association's aims is to grow the number of affiliated members amongst foreign alumni, who would mainly be Erasmus students, however this is a daunting task. Josep-Maria Martí I Ribelles of the International Relations Office summarised the problem 'We don't

know how to do this because as the foreign alumni live abroad they don't have access to the majority of services which we are offering to our members'.

Look out for 'Stage 2' to find out how Josep-Maria and his team overcame this problem and continued the development of their service.