

## Santander Universities, committed to higher education as a driver for progress

Banco Santander's unique international initiative sets it apart from other financial institutions.

Its staunch commitment to higher education, through Santander Universities and Universia, has been helping people and communities prosper for 20 years and has earned it the distinction of being the world's largest private investor in education (Varkey Report/UNESCO/Fortune 500).



The Bank has invested **more than €1,600 million** in academic initiatives since 2002. Through Santander Universities, it **has over 1,200 collaboration agreements** in place with academic institutions and universities in 21 countries and, through the Universia network, **it has 1,300 academic partners in Latin America.**

The cornerstones of the Bank's commitment to universities:

### Scholarships

Santander runs the largest scholarship programme financed by a private company in the world. This programme, which encourages national and international mobility, helps students attend university, promotes research and specialist training and encourages contact with the labour market. In 2007, the Bank granted over 40,000 scholarships of which:

- \* **17,577 were university mobility scholarships** for students, lecturers and researchers from 17 countries.
- \* **13,510 were study scholarships** for students to start or continue their training.
- \* **5,821 were Santander grants for internships** in Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Germany, Poland, Portugal, Puerto Rico, Spain and the United Kingdom.
- \* **2,161 were awards** for excellence, research, innovation and entrepreneurship.

*Over 290,000 scholarships awarded since 2005*

### Entrepreneurship

After many years supporting entrepreneurship through various initiatives in the countries where it is present, in 2017 Santander Universities launched the **Santander X project** which aspires to become a global international ecosystem for entrepreneurship in universities.

The project, which already has over 60 international associated universities, aims to create a collaboration network where universities and entrepreneurs can share ideas, knowledge, best practices and even attract investments and clients in the future.

Within the Santander X framework there are already programmes such as the Explorer "Young People with Ideas" in Spain, Argentina and Portugal. This programme offers free information, support and mentoring to young people aged 18-31 wishing to develop their own business ideas.

There are also the Brain Chile entrepreneurship awards which are open to university entrepreneurs from around the world wishing to develop scientific-technological business ideas.

Other entrepreneurship and innovation awards in Brazil, Argentina, Chile, Mexico, Portugal, Spain and the



United Kingdom are also helping promote the entrepreneurial spirit and are having a decisive impact on helping people prosper and building this extensive entrepreneurship ecosystem.

*Over 19,000 entrepreneurs supported in 2017 with more than €13,500 earmarked*

### **Employability**

Training, perseverance and excellence must form the basis of personal and professional advancement, and be the driver which helps make these young people more employable and competitive in the workplace which is constantly changing and becoming more digital and dynamic.

This is why Santander Universities and Universia are developing initiatives and programmes like the Santander Grants for internships in Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Germany, Poland, Portugal, Puerto Rico, Spain and the United Kingdom to help graduates enter the job market, improve their skills, know where to look for new job opportunities and develop their aptitudes.

And we mustn't forget **equality and inclusion**.

### **Digitalisation**

Santander Universities' digital strategy is aimed at the modernisation and digital transformation of universities and the promotion of its programmes and initia-

tives on social media.

This strategy includes, inter alia, the development of applications and services to improve the experience of the university community and meet its new digital demands.

One such example is the Crue app in Spain which recorded **51,426 downloads** at 11 universities in 2017 and allows students to check their grades timetables, access to installations, library catalogues, etc.

*1 million jobs brokered through the Universia employment community in 2017\**

*\* Estimated at 40% of total vacancies*

