

# Postgraduate Training in Gerontology

Doctoral and Master's  
Degrees at the  
*University of Salamanca*

*José Luis Vega Vega*

*2003-2004 Course*  
*15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary*



# Need for human resources

- The forecasts made indicate that in the year 2050 **Europe** will continue to be the most aged region, with the elderly accounting for **35% of its population**. It is estimated that **43%** of Spain's population in **2050** will be over the age of 60.\*
- *The incorporation of **new generations** of the elderly involves further professional demands and needs. This whole scenario will condition the local, regional and, ultimately, entire global economy.*

. \* Second World Assembly on Ageing, (2002)



# Certain recommendations of the Second World Assembly

- **To promote:**
  - Active ageing
  - Productive ageing
  - ... ..
- **To lobby Governments to**
  - Recognise the importance of the *psychological and social dimensions of Ageing*
  - *Develop the necessary Human and Social Resources*
  - *Include in their policies on ageing* the human and professional resources of Social and Behavioural Sciences



# Response by the University of Salamanca

- Aware of this situation, on **26 June 1989**, the Governing Board of the University of Salamanca approved the implementation of the Qualification "University Master's Degree in Gerontology", open to all those professionals interested in the field of ageing.



# Skills and Competencies

- The Master's Degree develops **competencies and skills** in Gerontology by means of lectures and masterclasses, debates, group work, practicals, professional work and other activities,
- All backed by the latest audiovisual, IT and communications media available.



# Theoretical modules

## FIRST YEAR

- Methodology of Intervention
- Biology of Ageing
- Psychology of Ageing
- Sociology of Old Age
- Ecology and the Environment
- Socio-health Services I

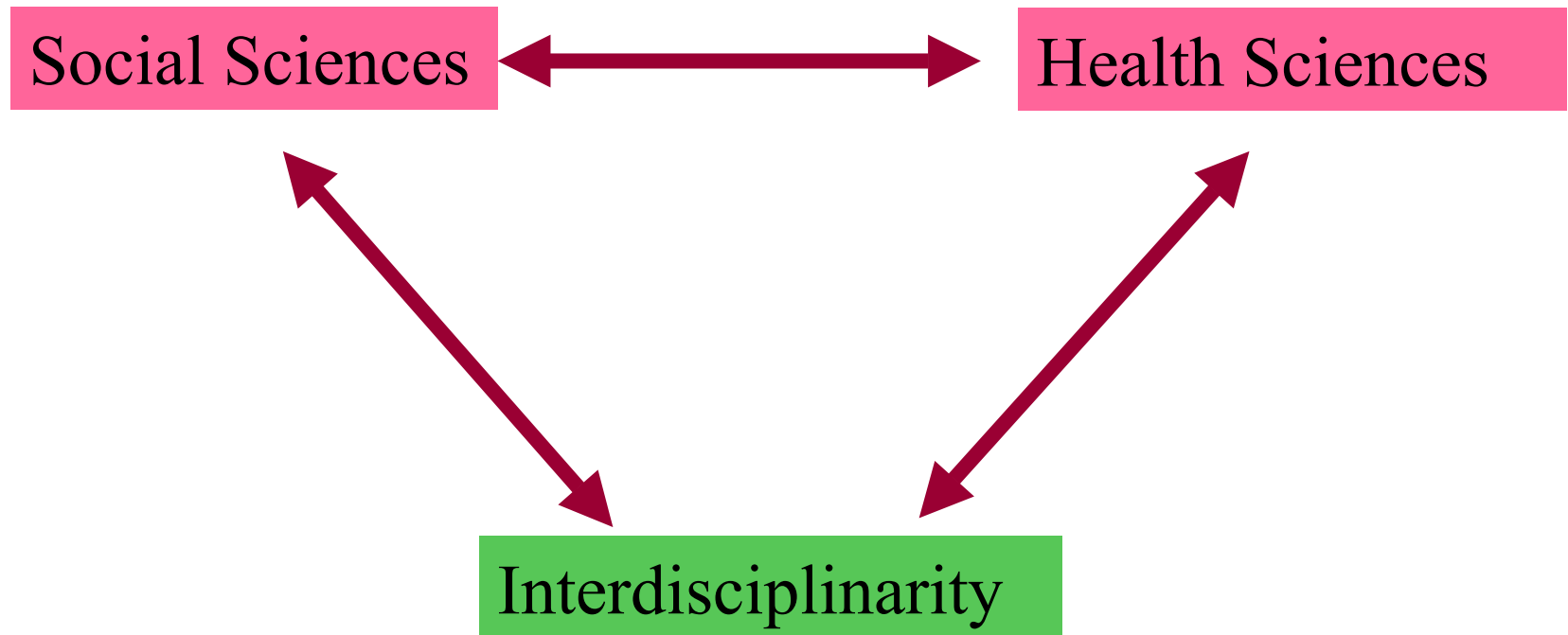
## SECOND YEAR

- Geriatrics
- Intervention in Old Age
- Gerontological Education
- Management and Administration
- Socio-health Services II
- Professional work in Training  
(Placement in centres)

*Over 40 monographic subjects taught by over  
60 university lecturers and professional experts*



# Postgraduate Degree Programs



# Postgraduate Training in Gerontology

	<b>MASTER</b>	<b>DOCTORATE</b>
<b>SPECIFICITY</b>	<b>Geriatric Medicine</b>	
	<b>Psychology of Ageing</b>	
	<b>Social Services</b>	
<b>INTERDISCIPLINARITY</b>	<b>Gerontology</b>	





*Specificity  
and  
Interdisciplinarity*

*at Postgraduate level in Gerontology  
are the basis for an integral care*

# New Contents reinforced in the Light of the International Plan of Action

- **Health Psychology**
  - based on “Active Ageing” document
- New **Social Services** and activities
  - “Productive ageing”
  - Immigration movements
  - ... ..
- Contents and skills **relevant to new generations** of elderly
- **Quality Assurance** of services, centers,...



# TECHNICAL DETAILS

Duration of the Course in years	2
Duration of each credit (hours)	10
Hours of theory per year	200
Professional Work per year (hours)	300
Total number of hours (2 years)	1000
Theory classes per week	10



# ***“International Students: A key issue for collaborating”***

15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary (2003-2004 Course)

Total no. of graduates trained	635
No. of prior Qualifications of the students	29
No. of Spanish provinces of origin	38
<b><i>No. countries of origin</i></b>	<b><i>14</i></b>

***With the efforts of everyone***



# Professional Training

- The practicals of the Master's Degree are framed within the context of work in "*Professional in Training*"
- These are undertaken in "*Gerontological Intervention Groups*".
  - The main objective of these groups is to favour the exchange and enriching of points of view of different professionals for the purpose of providing solutions to a common problem.
- The 600 hours of work as a professional in training culminate with the submission of the *Master's Dissertation* which formally describes the experience and the work performed.



# Towards a New Professional and Training Profiles:

- **Interdisciplinarity** versus **Specificity**
  - Focus on the Psychology of Ageing
- Analysis of Training by **Skills and Competencies**
  - as reflected in the Plan of Action on Ageing (Madrid 2002)



# The doctorate

- The highest level of specialisation and of expertise in research into Gerontology is recognised by the doctorate.
- Focus on Research
  - Recommendations of Valencia Forum Research Agenda
- The contents, researchers skills trained vary according research projects and programs of the departaments implied
- **Since 1987** the University of Salamanca has been training researchers on Gerontology through its doctorate programme *"Psychology of Ageing"*



# National and International teaching staff:

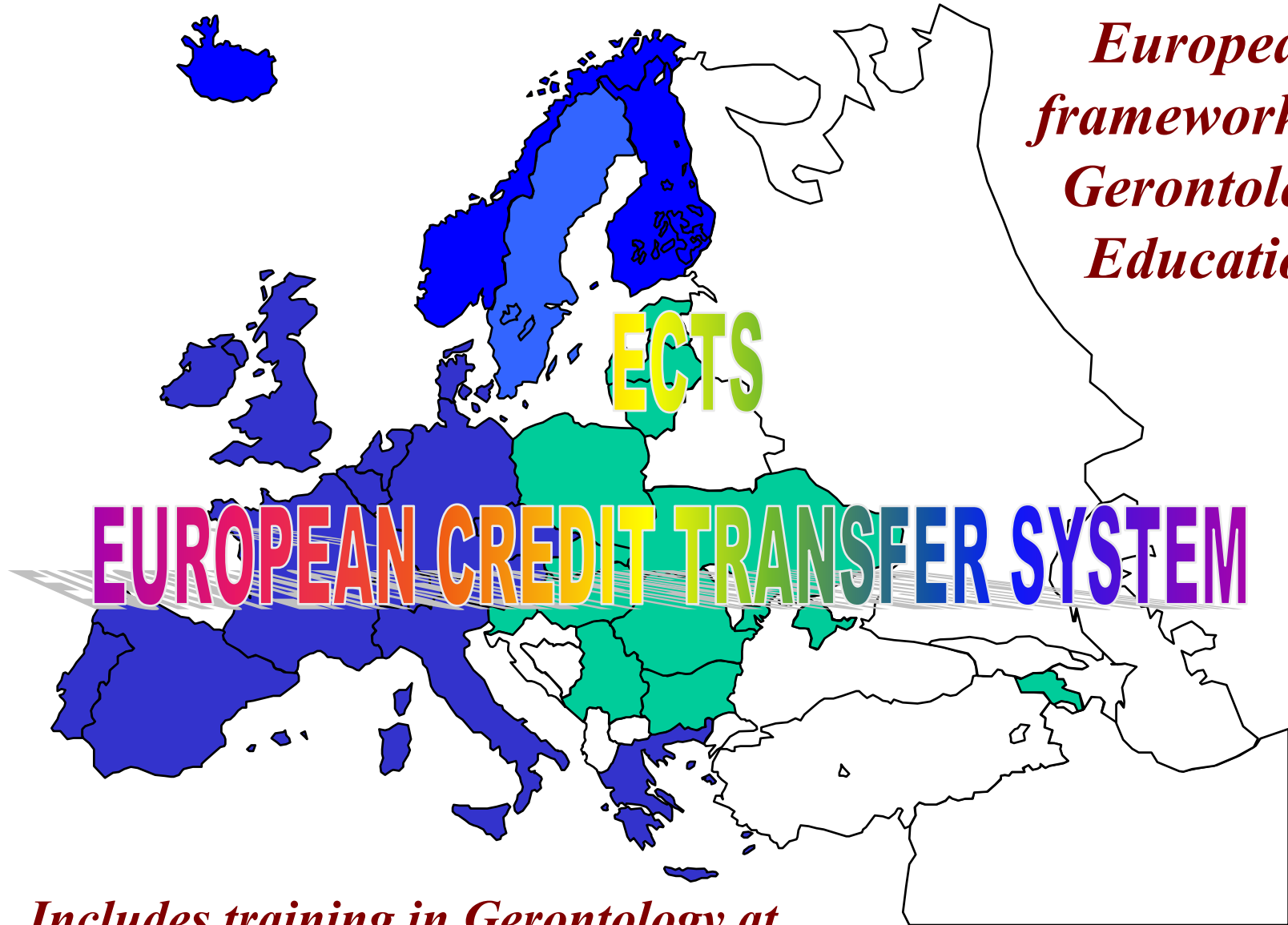
## *“A key issue for collaborating”*

- The Course is largely taught by
  - Leading University Lecturers from Salamanca and other Spanish Universities
  - Professional experts involved for their work in the field of ageing.
  - Regular invitations are made to speakers who have distinguished themselves through their professional work, research or instruction in the field of ageing.
- **Invited Lectures in the last 15 years form**
  - **England, Germany, France, Italy,...**
  - **Canada, United States,...**
  - **Brasil, Argentina, Chile,..**





*Common  
European  
framework for  
Gerontology  
Education*



- *Includes training in Gerontology at  
Pregraduate, Postgraduate, Doctorate and Life Long Learning*

# Universities and professionals must defend from Intrusive practices in training from

- **Entities without**
  - Educational experience
  - External accreditation
- **Worthless Qualifications**
  - Without teaching staff with the necessary qualifications
  - Without an accredited syllabus
  - Without presential training
  - Without exams, without assessment
  - ...



# Continuous assessment of

- Theoretical credits:
  - Each lecturer is responsible for the syllabus and the level attained by students
- Professional credits:
  - Continuous tutoring
  - Master's Dissertation
- Regular evaluation of
  - Teaching Staff
  - Management in accordance with the EFQM model



# Accreditation of Titles

- University Board of the Ministry of Education:
  - ANECA: National Quality Agency
- *International Rules of Endorsement* of the "Association for Gerontology in Higher Education".

• The model of EFQM  
(European Foundation for  
Quality Management)



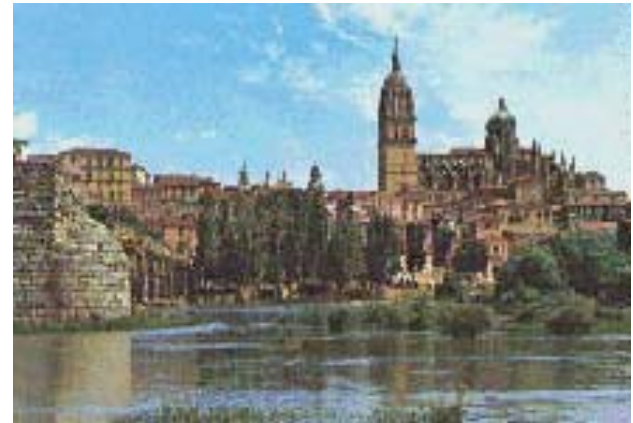
# Gerontology needs collaboration at international level

- Training of human resources
  - Working on skills and competencies
  - Students and teachers mobility
- Research interchange and support
- Convergence of Educational Models
  - Accreditation of Titles

***2004: EU-US-CANADA Cooperation Programme in Higher Education and Vocational Education and Training***

# ***MASTER IN GERONTOLOGY UNIVERSITY OF SALAMANCA***

- *We try to progress and improve every year*



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<http://gero.usal.es>*



# Occupation and employment

- Specialised training in Gerontology is the most appropriate occupational **complement** to many university degrees.
- The **needs** of the Elderly appears amongst the leading sources of employment in studies at national and international level.

