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0. Introduction

0.1. Brief history of the Establishment and of its previous ESEVT Visitations

The Faculty of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria was initially founded in 1986 as a Faculty dependant on the neighbouring University of La Laguna ([ULL](#)) in Tenerife. The Faculty was later re-assigned to the recently inaugurated University of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria ([ULPGC](#)) in September 1989. Initially, the Faculty was located in the city of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria and was later moved to its current location on the Arucas Campus in 1995.

The University of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria as such was created in the academic year 1989-1990 in response to an enormous social movement in Gran Canaria, which came to fruition when the Canary Islands Parliament approved the University Reorganisation Law on April 26th, 1989. This law unified the previous Canary Islands Polytechnic (first inaugurated in 1979 as the Polytechnic of Las Palmas) with other university faculties already located in Gran Canaria, some of which date back to the 19th century, thus establishing the ULPGC. The ULPGC is, thus, a modern institution with a long academic track record, committed to quality, efficiency and modernity.

The study plan for the Degree in Veterinary Medicine (*curriculum*) has been revised several times since 1989. The first degree *curriculum* ([‘Licenciatura’](#) in Spanish) was revised in 1999 and completely reformed in order to fulfil the standards required by the European Higher Education Area ([EHEA](#)) in 2009. The present degree *curriculum* ([‘Grado’](#) in Spanish) was first offered in the academic year 2010-2011 (year 1) and was fully implemented (year 5) by the academic year 2014-2015.

0.2. Main features of the Establishment.

The Canary Islands form a Spanish Autonomous Community characterized by their fragmented territory (8 inhabited islands in all covering 7,447 km²) with a total population of 2,164,344 inhabitants (according to the INE *census* – conducted by the *‘Instituto Nacional de Estadística’* in July 1st 2017). The island of Gran Canaria, where the ULPGC and the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine are located, is the second most populated island (with 857,806 inhabitants o 39.6% of the total population). The capital of the island, Las Palmas de Gran Canaria holds the 9th position among the most populated cities of Spain (377,950 inhabitants).

Although the economy of the Canary Islands is mainly concentrated in the tertiary sector, the island of Gran Canaria harbours the highest livestock *census* compared with the rest of the islands of the Archipelago. Our condition as islands, makes our relation with oceanography, marine science, or aquaculture activities, one of our strengths in research and teaching.

The **University of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria (ULPGC)** is fully adapted to the requirements of the [EHEA](#). This has meant a change in teaching methodology and contents, in line with social demands, in order to respond to the training needs required by the society and the labour market. The ULPGC which housed approximately 2,000,000 m² of constructed buildings, offers [40 Undergraduate Degrees](#): 5 in Arts and Humanities; 4 in Health Sciences; 17 in Social and Legal Sciences; 13 in Engineering and Architecture and 1 in Basic Sciences.

The undergraduate degrees at the ULPGC are offered by 14 [Establishments](#): 4 Schools and 10 Faculties. The ULPGC also has 1 [e-learning centre](#) which offers 5 Undergraduate Degrees and 1 Master Degree. A total of [33 postgraduate](#) courses (at master's level) are offered by the different Establishments and Research Institutes. Moreover, the [Doctoral \(PhD\) School](#) offers 13 [Doctoral Programs](#).

The research activities carried out at the ULPGC reflect the multi-disciplinary nature of our 36 [Departments](#): there are 12 ongoing research projects in Engineering and Architecture, 11 in Science and Health Sciences, 6 in Social and Legal Sciences and 7 in Art and Humanities; and 11 [Research Institutes](#). In addition to the research activities related to Veterinary Science and linked to the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, research conducted at the ULPGC includes cutting-edge projects in such a wide range of subjects such as oceanography, marine science, aquaculture, computer robotics, nutrition, cancer, information technology, renewable energies, transport economy, business organization, town planning, translation and the history of the Canary Islands, among others.

The Faculty of Veterinary Medicine at the ULPGC is the only Veterinary Faculty in the Canary Islands. The Faculty is located at a distance of 7 km from the capital city of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria.

According to our commitment to higher quality assurance standards, the Veterinary Faculty has limited the number of students admitted each academic year to 72. This is in relation to the current availability of staff and material resources which needs to guarantee adequate training for our students, as well as answering to our official commitment to the ANECA verification procedure for the Degree in Veterinary Medicine, which is supervised by the Quality Assurance System at the ULPGC.

The number of student applications might be considered high with 661 applicants in 2016-2017, 674 in 2015-2016, and 825 in 2014-2015. In consequence, only the most qualified applicants are admitted (about 5% of the total).

The ULPGC in figures

Funded in 1989.
6 Campus: 3 campus in Las Palmas de Gran Canaria; 1 campus in Arucas, 1 campus in Lanzarote, 1 campus in Fuerteventura.
3 University Residences - 464 vacancies.
Budget (2018) 141,500,000,00 €

Studies:

15 Faculties and Schools + 1 adscribed
40 undergraduate degrees
33 official postgraduate programmes
13 doctorate programmes
5 on-line qualifications
25 ULPGC masters and university expert programmes
5 special training programmes

On-line Activity:

5 first- and second-cycle degrees
1.478 students enrolled for on-line qualifications
2.117 lecturers working with the e-learning platform to support on-site education
19.555 students enrolled
518 virtual working groups

Staff

1.585 Academic Staff
45 Research-exclusive Staff
40 doctors honoris causa
761 Administration and Support Staff

Students:

22.987
6.530 granted by the Ministry of Education
2.750 granted by the Canary Islands Government
437 granted by the ULPGC

Work placements

5.656 agreements with businesses and institutions
2.171 students on work placements each year
39 grants for work placements

Research

112 Research Groups
11 Research Institutes
312 current research projects
15,5 millions of euros raised in projects
109 PhD defended
12 patents
445 positive sexennial external evaluation of the Academic Staff
413 publications at Scopus
631 publications at WOS

International Relations

656 outgoing students and 665 incoming in Socrates/Erasmus
38 outgoing students and 141 incoming in Latin America/USA
104 outgoing students y 197 incoming in Sicue-Séneca (SPAIN)
55 Academic Staff Mobility to Europe

Library

11 access points
838.011 volumes
7.846 printed periodicals
47.533 non-book materials
275.778 loans per year
606 PCs and terminals for public use
16.811 loans of laptops
749.850 visits
1.658 users formed on-site
5.458 users formed on-line
1.869.860,50 € invested in subscriptions and publications.

Culture & Sports

13 Cultural Centres
16 cultural courses and workshops
8.123 users of sports' facilities
32 individual medals in university championships
15 team medals in university championships
3.400 participants in the Rector Trophy

With reference to the Academic Staff, there are fully committed to achieving high standards of quality in teaching and research activities. The 12 research groups officially recognised by the ULPGC belonging to the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine have been awarded the highest level (A+ or A) in the classification method used to monitor the research activity in the ULPGC (more details in Chapter 10). All the research conducted at the ULPGC is published on the ULPGC website ([link](#)).

Therefore, we might conclude that the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine at the ULPGC is characterized by the provision of high-quality teaching offered by our Academic Staff who are able to effectively manage small-sized groups of enthusiastic and motivated students in a research-based university environment.

0.3. Main developments since the last Visitation

The last visitation (12-16 January 2009) resulted in a positive evaluation by the ECOVE corresponding to the standard of Full Approval; yet, since this visitation, several improvements have been adopted:

1.- The **Veterinary Medicine curriculum** was reviewed in 2009 and externally evaluated by [ANECA \(VERIFICA\)](#) which it subsequently being implemented in the academic year 2010-2011. The new curriculum has been designed in accordance with the European directives and Bologna principles, leading to the adoption of the competence-based learning. It is a 10-semester curriculum (300 ECTS) and includes the completion of a mandatory Final Degree Project. In the academic year 2015-2016 the previous curriculum was completely phased out.

2.- Several **Master's Degree Programs** were implemented in 2010 with the participation of the academic staff of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine: Master's Degree in Veterinary Clinic and Therapeutic Research (coordinated by the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine but eliminated in 2018), Master's Degree in Animal Health and Food Safety ([IUSA](#)), Master's Degree in Marine Farming ([ECOAQUA](#)) and Master's Degree in Sustainable Management of Fisheries Resources ([ECOAQUA](#)). The acronyms correspond to ULPGC Research Institutes.

3.- Several **Doctorate Degree (PhD) programs** were implemented during this period: Doctorate in Research in Biomedicine ([IUIBS](#)), Doctorate in Animal Health and Food Safety ([IUSA](#)), Doctorate in Sustainable Aquaculture and Marine Ecosystems ([ECOAQUA](#)).

4.- The **Quality Assurance System (QAS)** was fully implemented in 2010. The external accreditation of the QAS was completed and positively evaluated by the [ANECA \(AUDIT\)](#) in 2018.

5.- In 2013 we received a FAVOURABLE Report in the Interim (Monitoring) External Revision of the Degree in Veterinary Medicine and Master's Degree ([MONITOR](#) - [ACCUEE](#) - [ANECA](#)). In 2016, we received a FAVOURABLE External Report for the Renewal of the Accreditation of the Faculty Master's Degree ([ACREDITA](#) - [ACCUEE](#) - [ANECA](#)) and, in 2017, the FAVOURABLE External Report for the Renewal of the Accreditation of the Degree in Veterinary Medicine ([ACREDITA](#) - [ACCUEE](#) - [ANECA](#)).

6.- In 2015, the management of the Veterinary Teaching Hospital (VTH) changed from the University Foundation of Las Palmas ([FULP](#)) to the Canarian Science and Technology Park Foundation of the University of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria ([FCPCT-ULPGC](#), hereinafter, The Foundation). The considerable increase of the case load at the VTH, from approximately 3,500 patients in 2009 to 9,400 patients in 2017 shows the effort made by the Faculty in order to improve the clinical services offered to the Canarian Society and the referring professionals.

7.- New diagnostic services have been implemented during the last years, such as the Toxicology Diagnostic Service ([SERTOX](#)), the Parasitological Diagnostic Service ([link](#)), Veterinary Preventive Medicine ([link](#)), and the Infectious diagnostic services ([link](#)), among others.

0.3.1. Response to the suggestions made in the Final Report as accepted by ECOVE:

With the introduction of the new *curriculum* many suggestions from the Final Report were incorporated.

Due to the length of the response to every suggestion, the complete text is included in ANNEX I.

0.3.2. Major problems encountered by the Establishment

There has been insufficient public financial funding to support the required developments in teaching and research. The recent economic crisis in Spain has produced a drastic reduction of the ULPGC's budget and, consequently, the budget of all its Faculties and Departments.

Due to the limitation of the horse population of Gran Canaria (1,345 horses according to the Official Census of 2016) there is a limited intramural case-load of this species. This is a consequence not only of the low horse *census*, but also because their owners refuse the transportation due to not wanting to interfere in their habitual behaviour and the short distances from the Faculty to the farms. Approximately, the 25% of the equine *census* is attended by the VTH Equine Service of the Veterinary Faculty (with an average of 341,3 patients/year). Notwithstanding, it is important to highlight that the day-one skills related to Equine Medicine are complemented with the extramural activity developed by the academic staff in Equine Clinical Service at the VTH with an elevated extramural caseload (1,422 clinical activities in 2015, 830 clinical activities in 2016, and 1,055 clinical activities in 2017). In the opinion of the Faculty staff, it could be considered as compensation for an indicator of I10 (equine intramural) with the indicator of I14 (equine extramural), as it is defined in the SOP (Annex 4. ESEVT Indicators).

0.3.3. Version and date of the ESEVT SOP which is valid for the Visitation

ESEVT 'Uppsala' SOP May 2016