Geophysical Research Abstracts Vol. 17, EGU2015-123, 2015 EGU General Assembly 2015 © Author(s) 2014. CC Attribution 3.0 License.



MOOCs to internationalize Masters. A case study at the University of Salamanca

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Current major objectives of Master's degrees taught at the University of Salamanca are to incorporate multidisciplinary skills and to address international issues. It is important to ensure that students and early career scientists have all of the necessary skills to deal with professional development before career planning whether in academic research, professional practices or alternative careers, whether in Spain or elsewhere. However, many students choose a Master's programme without sufficient understanding of what they might need to deal with. A multidisciplinary degree course at the University of Salamanca, linked to the Institute of Social Studies for Science and Technology, focuses on training potential experts equipped to mediate between participants in science and technology and the wider public. Students participating in this course currently come from Spanish speaking countries. Because the course is taught mainly in Spanish, subsequent outreach might also be confined to Spanish speaking communities. Even so, it is essential to properly explain, at the outset, the aims of the Master's programme and the international potential of the qualification to attract more.

Here we propose the use of MOOCs (Massive Open Online Courses) both to help students to know about the content and other details of the Master program before they join in and to internationalize the course to reach more potential interested students in the subject.

This will be the first experience implementing MOOCs in the teaching of masters at the University of Salamanca and, if successful, the experience can be applied to other masters and courses in need of students and internationalization.