

THE CHALLENGES OF TRAINING IN RESEARCH: A LOOK FROM UNAN-LEÓN

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Editorial

In general terms, focusing on the training and research processes at UNAN León leads to a retrospective look at the practices of those who have done research. In this sense, it is revealed that research is an element that is being strengthened especially in the Faculty of Economic and Business Administration in recent years and promoted by the Dean, with the creation of the Unit of Economic and Social Studies UEES and the Journal "Notes on Economy and Society". Based on this experience, this substantive function of education has been strengthened, although some aspects are still worth highlighting to continue with the permanent process of development:

- Young staff in the process of research training.
- Recent creation of a new institutional regulation at the University, which promotes research. The previous existing regulations were incomplete.
- Increase of the resources for research.

It is important to mention that over the years, the institution has taken the challenge of dealing mainly with these aspects; as well as, strengthening all the existing procedure in research, in which we can mention:

- Updating the regulations and developing plans related to research, which suggest precise actions for improvement to become one of the most important universities in the country. For example, the "Institutional Development Plan 2020-2024" (UNAN, 2020) includes actions such as training teachers in research methodologies, developing scientific projects, focusing the research on the society, improving the installed capacity, creating scientific journals in all faculties, publishing in indexed journals, creating research center, among others.
- In this year 2021, the "Research Policy of UNAN León" and the "Research Regulation" have been created.

In addition to the aforementioned, the University reaffirms its commitment to strengthening research, accepting firmly the following challenges:

- Make sure that more teachers are part of the research processes.
- Promote research about Poverty Reduction Strategy in Nicaragua and other regional strategies.
- Promote research about public and private entities and science issues (Double and triple helix projects).
- Strengthen existing research platforms and structures.
- Continuous training to teachers in research topics.
- Increase the scientific production with Teaching-Learning processes.

On the other hand, continuing with the research training, it can be said that UNAN León from its "Institutional Development Plan 2020-2024" states that "Research is a process for the generation and transfer of knowledge in the search for solutions to problems that limit the development of the country and the Central American region through the planning and execution of activities". For this reason, it is implemented through the following statutes:

Statutes of UNAN León:

Art. 6. Purposes of the University:

7. Promote research as a learning strategy, for the generation of useful knowledge in the institutional development and the resolution of social, national and regional problems (UNAN, 2007). With which it is intended to facilitate the relation systems that the University has with society in favor of a better living condition of the communities with which it is connected.

Art. 7. Objectives of the University:

2. Contribute to the development of the society, generating knowledge, through the promotion and strengthening of research in its various forms.

3. Develop an effective communication system that allows permanent connection with civil society, the business sector and the State.

13. Take advantage of new scenarios and opportunities to innovate and transfer knowledge and technologies at the service of the country's socio-economic development.

14. Collaborate with state and private institutions in the study and solution of social, national and regional problems

Also, UNAN makes a permanent institutional commitment of mandatory nature and recognizes that research is essential to achieve the Mission of the University. There are research training programs with an emphasis on research methodologies and scientific writing processes. The execution is monitored by the Vice-rector for Research, Innovation and Entrepreneurship (VRIIE). Additionally, there are "Research Committees" in each Faculty made up of professors with experience in research. This has allowed the University to position itself and enter into dialogues with other universities with long research trajectories.

Research training is a permanent pillar of the University's activities and one of the areas that it has been improving the best. These research training programs have been strategic aspects in the transformation of the University, and in recent years the consolidation process has advanced to a great extent, as a result of the great efforts that the directives and authorities have made in terms of resources, which of course will never be sufficient for scientific production activities (Avilés Peralta, Y., Tercero Lola, L., Mayorga, D., & Altamirano Centeno, B., 2020).

For the growth of UNAN León, it has been essential to work on research processes from the foundation to understand the dynamics of knowledge generation in the following way:

Promoting calls for research projects to generate niches for the training of researchers; Production of knowledge for the elaboration of scientific articles to be proposed to high-impact scientific journals; Prepare presentations to be given in national and international events; in summary, build a community of interlearning science (Baron, B., Cancino, J., Guatva, A. & Garcia, D. (2011)).

In addition, the university has been creating institutional spaces for the construction of scenarios of scientific dissemination, so the advances and results of research can be presented as processes of social appropriation of knowledge, such as:

- The "Congress of Scientific Research" that promotes presentations of research projects organized at the University.
- "The University Day of Scientific Development JUDC", an event in which students and teachers participate with research conducted at undergraduate level, in the different curricular components.

With these events, the University aims to show the development of the competencies formed both in students, at undergraduate and postgraduate levels, as in professors, showing the different trajectories of the research practices, so as not to generalize with asymmetric relations, and lead to diverse understandings of the professional training in research (Velandia, B., Rojas, C.A., & Alonso, F.Y. (2021).

UNAN León is among the first universities that publish the most at the national level, leading in the field of health. Some publications in journals of different topics such as:

- Notes on Economy and Society Journal.
- Iberoamerican Journal of Bioeconomy and Climate Change.
- Journal of the Faculty of Law and Social Sciences
- Universitas Journal
- General Archive Journal of UNAN-León- ARCHIVALÍA

To conclude, it is vitally important to highlight that the University created an incentive policy for researchers to publish scientific articles in high-impact indexed journals and participate in prestigious scientific events that ensure the positioning of UNAN in national, regional and international contexts.

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