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The School of Nursing celebrates its twenty-fifth anniversary

■ The School's main challenge for the future is to adapt to EHEA standards by making nursing a four-year course

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The [University School of Nursing at the UdL](#) [<http://www.eui.udl.cat/>] is celebrating. It will mark 25 years of history with a number of activities that will be run throughout the 2009-2010 academic year. The programme includes the eighth [Congress of Nursing of Catalonia](#) [http://www.eui.udl.cat/modules/news/news_0023.html] at the beginning of November. The series of Seminars on Nephrology Nursing of Catalonia will also be held in the same month. The School will also cater for training needs by hosting the Seminars for Nursing Students of Catalonia. Two exhibitions and nine conferences on a wide range of topics such as international cooperation, environmental health and legal matters to consider in nursing practices will round off the programme of events.



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Luisa Guitard, Joan Viñas and Miguela Martínez during the presentation of the commemorative events

The first of the commemorative events took place today in the main lecture hall on the Health Sciences campus. It coincided with the official opening of classes and was presided over by the rector of the University of Lleida, Joan Viñas. The president of the National Conference of Directors of University Nursing Schools, Pilar Tazón, gave the conference Adapting Nursing Courses to the Bologna Plan. The European Higher Education Area (EHEA) is in fact the main future challenge that these courses must overcome. The [degree in Nursing](#) [<http://www.infermeria.udl.cat/>] will become a four-year rather than a three-year course, which will involve introducing continuous assessment and placing greater emphasis on practical training, according to the director of the University School, Luisa Guitard.

The [UdL's School of Nursing](#) [http://www.eui.udl.cat/principal_diplomatura.html] currently has around 200 students spread across its current three-year course and the [official master's degree in Nursing Science](#) [<http://www.masterinfermeria.udl.cat/index.html>]. The number of places has grown over the last few years to reach an

availability of 90 for first-year students. This year, between 200 and 300 people were placed on a waiting list. In view of the lack of these professionals in the healthcare system, Guitard highlighted that the increase in student numbers must go hand in hand with more teaching staff and resources. However, the limitations of the public healthcare sector must also be taken into account as it is responsible for giving students their practical training.

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