The Research Culture of the Universidad Libre

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Research has become a priority for the Universidad Libre and its headquarters in Cartagena, since it generates and applies new knowledge and forms of innovation, which are essential in a social context that demands a leading role for higher education institutions. Both formative research and scientific research, especially applied research, are an integral part of the Unilibrist culture . These approaches are implemented with the aim of training professionals with autonomous, critical and creative thinking, and with a pluralistic character, based on respect for others and the environment that surrounds them.

Strengthening the research culture is one of the central objectives of the Universidad Libre and its headquarters in Cartagena. In this sense, the aim is to consolidate training in research through motivation, participation and continuous learning of students, in accordance with the cognitive model adopted by the University. To this end, priority is given to the development of research incubators , in order to consolidate the participation of young researchers in national and sectional projects, supported by adequate human and budgetary resources.

An example of the role of formative research as a cross-cutting axis can be seen in the Study Plan of the Faculty of Economic Sciences and its Business Administration program , where a core of professors with a research profile motivate students to appropriate the epistemological and practical foundations of research through various subjects aligned with the University's policies. These efforts seek to generate spaces for innovation, artistic and cultural creation, promoting a research spirit that contributes to the generation of knowledge useful to society.

The subjects in the Business Administration curriculum play a fundamental role from the beginning of the training. In the first semester, the subject "Oral and Written Expression" encourages the development of opinion articles that are published in the journal Saber Ciencia y Libertad en Germinación . In the second semester, "Epistemology and Research Methodology" lays the theoretical foundations for

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future research work. As they advance in their training, subjects such as "Accounting Theories" , "National Economic Situation" and "Research Models" allow them to apply research concepts in accounting, economics and administration. In higher semesters, subjects such as "Income Tax" lead students to investigate specific problems in Colombian taxation.

The degree options of the program are also closely linked to research, with research work being one of the main alternatives. These projects allow the integration of the learning acquired during professional training with the needs of society, consolidating the research spirit of the student and making the training processes visible through monographs and other research projects.

The Universidad Libre also encourages research through extracurricular strategies, such as research groups attached to research groups. These groups, such as ADMINIRSE, SEINTUR, SILOGI and CIENCIA LIBRE , offer students, under the coordination of teachers, the opportunity to identify and study current issues, promoting personal development and consolidating a research culture. In addition, the Research Group Fair , organized during Unilibrista Research Week , is a key space to socialize the activities developed, reinforcing the University's commitment to research training.

Another important mechanism is the figure of research assistants , regulated by article 40 of the Research Regulations of the Universidad Libre. This figure allows students in the last semesters, or with a research vocation, to become involved in research projects, supporting activities and collaborating in the construction of a research culture. Teachers also play a fundamental role in promoting research through mirror classes, teaching exchanges, national and international presentations and academic production, all mechanisms that encourage the generation of research ideas and problems.

Classroom projects are another important strategy for research training. Using the "problem core" methodology , teachers guide students in formulating practical problems, generating products such as research projects, videos and podcasts. These projects allow knowledge to be transversalized between different subjects, cementing scientific research in students.

Finally, the research lines of the research groups focus on areas such

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as Environment and Development , Economic, Social and Cultural Rights , Social Responsibility and Sustainability , and Innovation and Entrepreneurship , among others. These lines seek to consolidate collaborative work between the different faculties and programs of the Universidad Libre at its headquarters in Cartagena, strengthening shared efforts and interests and generating a positive impact on society.

Conclusion

The Universidad Libre considers research to be a fundamental component of its educational mission, promoting a research culture that fosters critical thinking and the generation of knowledge useful to society. Through its study plans, its incubators, the figure of research assistants and the different curricular and extracurricular strategies, the University is committed to the comprehensive training of professionals capable of facing the challenges of the contemporary world and contributing to the social and economic development of the country.

References

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