



news release

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UU Forms Partnership With Leading Spanish University

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The University of Ulster has teamed up with the University of Granada in Spain to explore the exchange of cultural, scientific and technical knowledge between staff and students of the two institutions.

An agreement for mutual co-operation between the two universities was signed by UU Vice-Chancellor Professor Richard Barnett and Rector David Aguilar Pena of the University of Granada.

The agreement was proposed by Professor Michael McTear of the School of Computing and Mathematics at UU and his Granada counterpart Professor Ramon Lopez-Cozar from the Department of Languages and Computer Systems.

The first outcome of the agreement has been a six week visit by Professor Lopez-Cozar to UU and a four week return visit to Granada by Professor McTear. In future it is hoped that there will be exchanges of students and staff between the universities as well as research collaboration.

During his visit to Granada Jordanstown-based Professor McTear will be assisting in the development of a new Masters Degree and also working with Professor Lopez-Cozar on research into language processing in computing.

He said: "We want to develop systems where people can connect to computers through speech rather than using keyboards or mice. Our particular interest is on how the technology can be used in 'smart homes' enabling elderly or disabled people to live more independently. The technology would enable people with little knowledge of computers to access information and services simply through speech."

Professor McTear added: "We hope that the agreement with Granada will facilitate the exchange of students, academics and even administrative staff. We want to encourage more students from European universities to come to UU as well facilitating our students to travel and learn there."

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