

# A virtual MSc program in Decision Systems Engineering

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*Abstract: The presentation describes the evolution of the MSc program in Decision Systems Engineering at Rey Juan Carlos University over nearly ten years. From a fully physical program, we have evolved into a fully virtual program with nearly 80 students in 10 countries in the current edition. We shall describe its contents, the technologies employed and the life cycle of the project. We shall also describe issues concerning its internationalisation and role in cooperation for development.*

*Keywords: curriculum development; study programmes in decision sciences; teaching technologies; internationalisation*

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## 1 MSc Program in Decision Systems Engineering

The Department of Statistics and Operations Research of the Rey Juan Carlos University (Spain) proposed, ten years ago, an innovative MSc program in Decision Sciences.

From the beginning, the aim was to offer an international MSC open to students from different countries, and then, it has been evolved from a fully physical program into a fully virtual one. These first editions gave us a great experience and with the feedback, a new improved version of the master was proposed in 2007. From this moment, the MCs program Decision Systems Engineering at Rey Juan Carlos University is recognised by the Spanish Ministry of Education with the *Quality Mention* and is one of the most successful MSc in Decision Science in Spain, with more than 80 students each edition from more than 10 different countries.

This MSc program constitutes a very useful way to improve the collaboration between the Rey Juan Carlos University and different Universities along the world. Thanks to it, at this moment, several students from different countries (Algeria, Angola, Ecuador, Colombia, among others) are preparing the PhD thesis in

different fields of Decision Science at the Rey Juan Carlos University. This fact give a great opportunity (not only for the students, but also for the teachers) of being involved in innovative research projects in their countries that otherwise is not possible to tackle.

In goal of this presentation is to describe the evolution of the MSc program and our experience during these years, describing how the collaboration between different Universities with different point of views takes place.