

The University of the City of Kings

The General Archive of the Indies dedicates the document of the month of May to the Constitutions of the Universidad Nacional Mayor de San Marcos in Lima, which, after its creation by Royal Decree on 12 May 1551, is considered the oldest in the Americas and the only one that has been in continuous operation since the 16th century.

Fray Tomás de San Martín was the one who managed the foundation of the University by getting Charles I to sign the Royal Charter that gave rise to its foundation. The University was inaugurated on 2 January 1553 for *the ennoblement and good of that land*, as stated in the Royal Certificate of foundation.

The General Archive of the Indies holds a dossier prepared at the request of the University of the city of Lima, *on having the same privileges as the University of Salamanca*, which accompanies the Constitutions.

The Constitutions of the University *ordered the foundation and endowment of the university of letters of this city in accordance with that of Salamanca and with its privileges and freedom*, and also set out the guidelines for its rules guiding the functioning and regarding its employees.

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