

U21
Impact Review 2019



16
inspirational
projects

Positive
change
for society



RISE is U21's showcase of student-led projects in the areas of sustainable development, social enterprise and non-profit innovation.

Find out how you can get involved on [page 10](#)



"Enough
to cement
anyone's faith
in the future
of humanity"

What support
can you pledge?
universitas21.com/rise

Contents

- 02 From the Chair
- 03 Provost's Update
- 04 U21's Commitment to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals
- 05 U21 Staff Scholarship takes the Research Impact Agenda to a Global Level
- 06 The 2019 U21 AGM – University of Maryland *Globalization, Isolationism and the Response in Higher Education*
- 08 Educational Innovation Leaders gather at the University of Johannesburg to meet the challenges of the 4th Industrial Revolution
- 09 Senior Leaders meet at the University of Auckland
- 10 Students RISE to U21's newest challenge
A Year in the U21 Health Sciences Group
- 12 The U21 workshop at the University of Glasgow
- 13 Developing Malaria Vaccine – an example of a U21 Joint PhD
- 14 U21's 3MT® showcases brilliant research from around the world
- 15 U21 Graduate Collaborative Research Award funding delivers publication success
- 16 U21 Early Career Workshop looks at 'Water and Society'
- 17 Innovation in Global Education takes centre stage at UC Davis
- 18

From the Chair

The theme of the 2019 U21 AGM and Presidential Meetings was *Globalization, Isolationism, and the Response in Higher Education*. The timely discussions that emerged at this event confirmed that U21's membership face many shared difficulties in a rapidly changing global landscape, including serious challenges to the integrity and quality of international higher education. It is one of the network's greatest strengths that it allows university leaders from across the world to come together to explore how U21 can provide shared solutions to such common issues.

U21's capacity to deliver effective shared platforms for students, staff and institutional leaders allows members to find strength in collaboration and to foster global knowledge exchange and research collaboration across countries and continents. This report provides many excellent examples of the global opportunities that the network has supported over the past year. I thank my fellow Presidents for supporting their students and staff to become as engaged as possible in U21 events and initiatives.

“ For the first time in 2019, U21 expanded its membership to 18 countries, welcoming KU Leuven, Belgium, to the network. The addition of another

European university allows us to further strengthen our bonds on this continent, particularly important at this time of writing. We warmly welcome Rector Luc Sels and our new colleagues from Leuven to U21 and look forward to working with them on their ambitious internationalisation goals. ”

As always, my sincere thanks to the U21 Secretariat team who work with skill and great professionalism to deliver an impressive range of opportunities to members. Trudie McGuinness joined the Secretariat as Director of Strategy Planning and Operations, very ably replacing Jade Bressington during her time on maternity leave. I also thank Professor Bairbre Redmond who guides the academic direction of the network, for her leadership and continuing commitment to setting the highest standards in the U21 network's services to its members.

Professor Sir David Eastwood
Vice-Chancellor and Principal, University of Birmingham
Chair of Universitas 21



Provost's Update

U21 is committed to creating inspiring shared spaces where members can benefit from the collective experience and wisdom of colleagues from around the world. At all its events, U21 seeks to harness the considerable collaborative strength of the network to tackle shared problems and find new solutions, achieving more together than is possible alone.

“ The past year has seen the delivery of an ever-increasing suite of U21 events, funding opportunities and student-focused initiatives for the network members. The growing number of staff and students from across the network membership who are becoming increasingly involved in U21 activities is a testament to the success and relevance of these projects. I am very aware of the debt of gratitude that U21 owes to our member institutions who act as hosts for U21 meetings and conferences. In 2019 ten U21 universities^[1] held U21 events, allowing their colleagues from around the world to come together to share expertise, explore challenges and develop new common network resources. Each one of these events has also given the attendees important new perspectives into the host institution, city and country. ”

I also want to acknowledge the many individuals across the network who take on governance and leadership roles in U21 membership steering groups, those who advise on the planning of new projects and, particularly, those U21 Presidents who act in an advisory capacity to U21 on the Presidential Executive. The time that these individuals give generously to the network, on top of their already busy schedules, is invaluable in ensuring that U21 continues to deliver relevant and valuable resources to members.

Finally, all U21 activities are made possible by the U21 Secretariat. Their innovative and energetic approach to their work is underpinned by a real appreciation of the individual and collective needs of the members, ensuring that all partner universities can maximise the value of their membership. Jade Bressington, Sally Cockcroft, Rachel Edwards, Caroline Hetherington, Trudie McGuinness, Tarlok Singh and Connie Wan – it is a pleasure to work with you.

Professor Bairbre Redmond
Provost
Universitas 21

^[1] Lund University, P. U. of Chile, U. College Dublin, U. of Auckland, U. of Birmingham, U. of Glasgow, U. of Johannesburg, U. of Maryland, U. of Nottingham, UC Davis



U21's Commitment to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals

As one of just over 5,000 NGOs with Economic & Social Affairs Council (ECOSOC) Consultative Status, U21 is in a position to offer various benefits to our members including participation in a range of UN events and the opportunity to submit written statements to events.

Our Consultative Status allows for seven annual UN Grounds Passes, available at each site - New York, Geneva & Vienna and nine temporary grounds passes which can be from one day up to three months. There is also the capacity for the network to apply to organise events alongside a relevant UN event.

As part of our commitment the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDGs) Trudie McGuinness, Director of Strategy, Planning & Operations attended two days of Coalition Meetings formally representing U21 at the UN Climate Change Summit in September 2019. She attended the [Youth Climate Summit](#) and a talk from [Professor Jeffrey Sachs](#). She said,

“ It is clear from members across the network that they are fully committed to supporting the UN to achieve the Sustainable

Development Goals. There were a number of ideas raised at the SLM in Auckland about the role that the network can play in relation to the SDGs. As a Secretariat, we are now exploring how we can best realise some of those ideas, which includes exploring the development of a U21 Community of Practice for SDGs and the possibility of a U21 carbon offset programme. ”

The U21 Secretariat has convened a Sustainability Statement Project Working Group to review and update the U21 Sustainability Statement ensuring that it is relevant and appropriate for members' current needs.

Alongside this work, the U21 Secretariat will be gathering information from members on the key sustainability initiatives that they have undertaken since the last U21 Sustainability Statement was signed in 2009. The Secretariat will use this to develop case studies for showcasing on the U21 website, where they can be used to inspire and benefit both members and other visitors to the site.

U21 Staff Scholarship takes the Research Impact Agenda to a Global Level

Many universities in Australia have been considering how best to respond to the research engagement and impact agenda and are looking to the experiences of universities in other countries to inform their work. In 2019 Joann Cattlin, from The University of Melbourne Graduate School of Education, received a U21 University of Melbourne Professional Staff Scholarship to undertake related research in the area, which enabled her to travel throughout Canada and the United States of America.

Undertaking a study tour of 8 universities (including U21 members, the University of Maryland, the University of Connecticut and McMaster University), Joann was able to meet over 65 researchers from a range of disciplines in her travels. This allowed her to explore how institutions support the impact of research and how enhanced research engagement with collaborators and stakeholders can support funding applications, partnership negotiations and generating institutional research reputation.

Joann commented on her experiences:

“ The way research is conducted is changing to embrace wider collaboration and dissemination; researchers and professionals in research management roles need new skills and strategies to achieve this. It was clear that while engagement was a fundamental part of many researchers' methodology and institutional missions, it required coordinated, targeted and timely support to not only be effective, but to build organisational capacity and reputation for generating research that makes a difference. ”

Joann is now presenting her work a range of forums and at the recent Australasian Research Management Society (ARMS) Conference. You can read her full report [here](#).



KU LEUVEN



The 2019 U21 AGM: University of Maryland *Globalization, Isolationism and the Response in Higher Education*

University Presidents and Senior Leaders from U21 members came together at the University of Maryland (UMD) to discuss issues and challenges around the topic of *Globalization, Isolationism and the Response in Higher Education*.

Events focused on how the U21 network can utilise its collaborative advantage to address the world's greatest global challenges. With nationalistic politics on the rise across the world and the challenges facing the planet, delegates considered the notion that there has never been a more pressing time to enhance cross-border collaboration in higher education.

Professor Sir David Eastwood, Chair of U21 and Vice-Chancellor

and Principal of the University of Birmingham said.

“ Values in many of our countries, many of our cultures, are being challenged. We serve as custodians of those values if we stand together. And U21 enables that. We’re going to explore the ways, as a network, that we can enhance our efforts. ”

UMD showcased their ‘[Do Good Institute](#)’ which seeks to engage the entire student body in initiatives designed to ensure that every student who graduates from the university will do so informed and motivated to ‘Do Good’ in their communities and around the world.

The 2019 U21 Presidential Symposium included a keynote by Allan Goodman, President of the Institute of International Education and the meeting culminated in a second keynote by Pulitzer Prize-winning New York Times columnist Thomas L. Friedman.

U21 members from across the world had plenty of opportunity to network at the various social functions offered by UMD. The most prestigious of these was the awards dinner held at The National Museum of African American History and Culture, a Smithsonian Institution in the heart of Washington D.C.

We look forward to an equally convivial and stimulating meeting at the University of Zurich, which will host the next U21 AGM from 6 to 8 May 2020.

KU Leuven, Belgium joins U21

Universitas 21 welcomed KU Leuven in October 2019. KU Leuven becomes the fifth member of the network from Europe, and, for the first time, brings the number of countries in the network to eighteen.

KU Leuven’s ambitious, globally-focused strategy is fully in line with U21’s founding principle of fostering the internationalisation of higher education. The university is also keenly focused on applying research solutions to big societal and economic questions, which also aligns well with U21’s own aims, in its focus on the UN Sustainable Development Goals.



Educational Innovation Leaders gather at the University of Johannesburg to meet the challenges of the 4th Industrial Revolution

The annual U21 Educational Innovation Leaders' Symposium is a key opportunity for those in positions of leadership across the U21 network to come together to share ideas and find new opportunities to drive high quality student learning in our research-intensive universities.

The choice of the 2019 Symposium topic of *The 4th Industrial Revolution and the Future of the University*, held in October at the University of Johannesburg, offered just such an opportunity for those who have responsibility for overall educational excellence in U21 universities, many at vice-presidential level.

There is a shared awareness across the network that the 4th Industrial Revolution is leading to radical changes in education, employment and much more. Our graduates will face very different employment careers to those with which we are familiar, and there will be growing challenges to the ways in which

universities operate in the expanding knowledge economy.

At the U21 Leadership Symposium a combination of keynote papers and participant colloquia allowed senior education leaders to explore how best to prepare their institutions to operate effectively in this changing context. Over three days these leaders considered how to ensure that standards of education offered in their university remain relevant in the face of growing external challenges.

The educational leaders also discussed how they would safeguard the standards of education for which they are responsible, making sure that they remain relevant in the face of growing competition and how collectively, through the network, they can continue to shape and inform the international higher education agenda of the future.



Senior Leaders meet at the University of Auckland

Working together to sustain quality higher education in times of global uncertainty was the theme of the 2019 Senior Leaders' Meeting, hosted by The University of Auckland. Senior Leaders and representatives from 25 U21 universities came together to explore the collaborative power of the network in addressing uncertainties around geopolitics, inclusivity and the curriculum of the future.

With such good global representation at the meeting, a wide range of perspectives could be shared and discussed, with both Senior Leaders and University of Auckland staff presenting on a variety of regional challenges. Delegates collectively explored how each other's experiences, and the U21 network as a whole, can be best used to address these global issues.

Sustainability and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals were also central to discussions, as well as challenges in achieving equity and diversity in the university and how best to support students and staff to retain open and inclusive debate in the face of growing populist ideas.

Senior Leaders were challenged to consider how universities should protect the rights of staff and students to academic

freedom and freedom of speech in a thought-provoking talk by Vice-Chancellor of The University of Auckland, Professor Stuart McCutcheon. Professor McCutcheon addressed the topic of the reputation of higher education and shared examples of the tension between academic freedom and the right to free speech.

To share some of their regional and cultural context, the University of Auckland hosts welcomed Senior Leaders to the university's Fale Pasifika, the heart of the Pacific community on campus. Associate Professor Toeolesulusulu Damon Salesa, the university's first ever Pro Vice-Chancellor (Pacific) led a Pacific Forum, offering unique perspectives on Pacific culture, from the challenges of climate change for the Pacific Region, to Pacific student experiences, and memorable performances showcasing Samoan culture.

Led by Dr Kate Riegle van West, winner of the U21 3MT® competition in 2016, the senior leaders were also invited to participate in a hand-on session in learning the traditional Maōri practice of poi. Poi, originally a performance art, using tethered weights through a variety of rhythmical and geometric patterns, has been shown by Dr Riegle van West's research to also have a variety of important therapeutic benefits for users.



Students RISE to U21's newest challenge

RISE (*Real Impact on Society and Environment*) is U21's newest student opportunity: an international showcase of student achievement in sustainability and social innovation. The initiative has been designed to accelerate the scale and impact of student-led projects by connecting them with a network of experts in academia and industry.

Each U21 member was invited to nominate a student-led project based on an aspect of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. Student teams have been offered international exposure and access to a global network of expert supporters, U21 has worked to attract pledges of support for the different projects from our partners in industry and academia.

52 pledges have been made so far, creating exciting opportunities for the groups to continue their inspirational work.

Could you get involved? Make a pledge at universitas21.com/rise

MAP Youth: Building human capital and education equality among Zigongese youth - *University of Amsterdam*

Biodegradable Starch Plastic: Tackling plastic pollution through materials engineering - *University of Delhi*

SDG Awareness Week: an international collaboration for sustainability action - *U21 Health Sciences Student SDG (Group led by University of Melbourne)*

Team3 Farm: Creating jobs and food security in Eastern Cape - *University of Johannesburg*

Lilypads: Fighting period poverty in Uganda through women-led entrepreneurship - *The University of Edinburgh*

One Step at a Time: enhancing social inclusion for people with disabilities - *University of Glasgow*

The Eczema Eradication Project: Forging international patient-led healthcare communities - *University of Hong Kong*

Circular Ground: building a circular green economy, turning coffee grounds into coffee cups - *The University of Queensland*

Snap Recycle: increasing local recycling engagement through app-based technology - *University of Birmingham*

Watchtower: Strengthening social connections through peer-to-peer mental health support - *The University of Auckland*

Sustainability Week Switzerland: Giving sustainability a national voice in Swiss HE - *University of Zurich*

Baby Boxes: Fighting infant mortality in Uganda - *University of Connecticut*

RISE Awards

A panel of judges from the world of social entrepreneurship and innovation had the unenviable task of deciding which teams demonstrated the most impact, potential, and innovation in their short video pitches.

Each winning team will receive a bespoke prize package, designed in consultation with U21, and valued at US\$2000.

Congratulations to our exceptional winning projects!
You can see all of our inspirational entries [here](#).



Most Innovative:
Guided Hands
Lianna Genovese,
McMaster University

Guided Hands is a medical technology innovation that enables people with reduced fine motor skills to complete everyday tasks, which would otherwise be impossible, such as writing, painting, and using a tablet. The product offers increased independence, quality of life and improved access to education. The judges were highly impressed with Lianna's ingenious approach to the challenge. The invention has also captured the imagination of the public, with Lianna receiving numerous pledges of support, from web design in Canada to medical experts in the UK.

Goal 3: Good Health and Well-being; **Goal 4:** Quality Education.



Most Impact:
Foodprint
Annie Clayton
and Luke Davis,
University of Nottingham

Foodprint is a social supermarket in Nottingham, the UK's poorest city, selling otherwise-wasted food at low prices to those experiencing food poverty. Building on this income generation, Foodprint also delivers free food to schoolchildren, elderly people, and foodbanks. Foodprint's two-part model enabled them to start breaking even in 2019, safeguarding the crucial support to vulnerable communities in Nottingham, and supporting their newest innovations: a mobile social supermarket, and an Empowerment Programme to upskill Foodprint volunteers and support them into employment.

Goal 2: Zero Hunger; **Goal 13:** Climate Action



REAL IMPACT ON
SOCIETY AND
ENVIRONMENT



Most Innovative:
Roots Africa
Cedric Nwafor
and Mandela Jones,
University of Maryland

The Roots Africa initiative connects students and academic institutions in America with farming communities in Uganda and Liberia, sharing technology and expertise to empower the next generation of agricultural innovators. Through both virtual and in-country elements, Roots Africa has also given US students a unique opportunity to understand different regional contexts and make global contributions. The team has already trained over 400 farmers and 200 students in Africa to increase capacity and quality, creating lasting growth and change.

Goal 1: No Poverty; **Goal 2:** Zero Hunger; **Goal 9:** Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure.



Most Potential:
Solar4Schools
Wenjing Yang,
Lund University

Solar4Schools makes solar power affordable for schools in rural Kenyan communities, by developing power systems that not only provide clean off-grid energy, but generate revenue through mobile phone charging stations. With reliable sources of electricity, schools can be open for longer days and offer a better education, whilst also providing an important service to the local community. By creating an income stream from solar power, Solar4Schools has designed a sustainable model which has the potential to improve the lives and education of people in rural or developing settings across the world.

Goal 4: Quality Education; **Goal 7:** Affordable and Clean Energy.



A year in the U21 Health Sciences Group

The U21 Health Sciences Group (HSG) is a unique university network of Health Sciences academic staff and students from 19 U21 members, based within leading research-intensive medical and health sciences schools.

This past year the HSG, through its wide range of projects, groups and activities has continued to make positive and demonstrable impact on Health Sciences education and research across the network, and beyond. We are also pleased this year to welcome the [University of Connecticut](#) into our network and look forward to other future collaborations.

Our key highlights:

The [Global Learning Partnership](#), a 4-week interdisciplinary global health placement experience for health sciences students ran for the third time. This unique opportunity offered students the opportunity to carry out health promotion projects as well as learn more about the SDGs within the community of Dhungkharka, a rural community in Nepal. The [UN Sustainable Development Goals Initiative Group](#) is now exploring ideas to develop the GLP in further locations and is excited to run the next GLP in March.

Students from six of our member universities ran the [UN SDG Awareness Week](#) with a joint focus on *From Policy to Action* involving presentations, practical workshops and lectures.

The University of Birmingham hosted our [Summer School](#) on the theme of *Antimicrobial Resistance*. Forty-two undergraduates participated in the 2-week Summer School that involved field trips, group assignments, student presentations and a local excursion. The 2020 Summer School will be taking place at Fudan University on the theme *Path to Manage Non-Communicable Diseases with Global Health Perspectives*.

Our Annual Meeting at the [University of Glasgow](#) was themed *Safe and Sound: Improving Healthcare Education*. Attracting 200 members, the event offered members the chance to

come together to share ideas and collaborate on both new and established projects. The meeting focused on the Scottish approaches to healthcare improvement, research in undergraduate curriculum, as well as continuing with the theme of Mental Health and Wellbeing where a workshop proved to be a useful exercise in further developing the U21 Declaration on University Mental Health. This collaborative project with U21 will continue through to our next meeting.

During the meeting, the [Gender Based Violence Project](#) team officially launched an interactive online learning resource that aims to provide pre-qualifying training to health and social care students to help tackle Gender Based Violence. This free open access resource can be downloaded here: u21health.org/gender-based-violence-project

We attracted 100 delegates to our [Doctoral Student Forum](#) where students came together to present their research, network and participate in a series of masterclasses on the theme of *The International Doctoral Student Experience and Transferability of Doctoral Training*.

We are looking forward to welcoming members to our next [U21 Health Sciences Group Annual Meeting](#) hosted by University College Dublin on 25 – 28 August 2020. Professor Patrick Felle and his team are putting together an exciting and dynamic programme on the theme *One Health: A Collaborative Approach to Healthcare*. <http://u21health.org/dublin-2020>

[Global Learning Partnership](#)
[Gender Based Violence online resource](#)

For more information

Corrina Greenwood, Operations Manager,
U21 Health Sciences Group
c.a.greenwood.1@bham.ac.uk | u21health.org



U21 workshop at the University of Glasgow

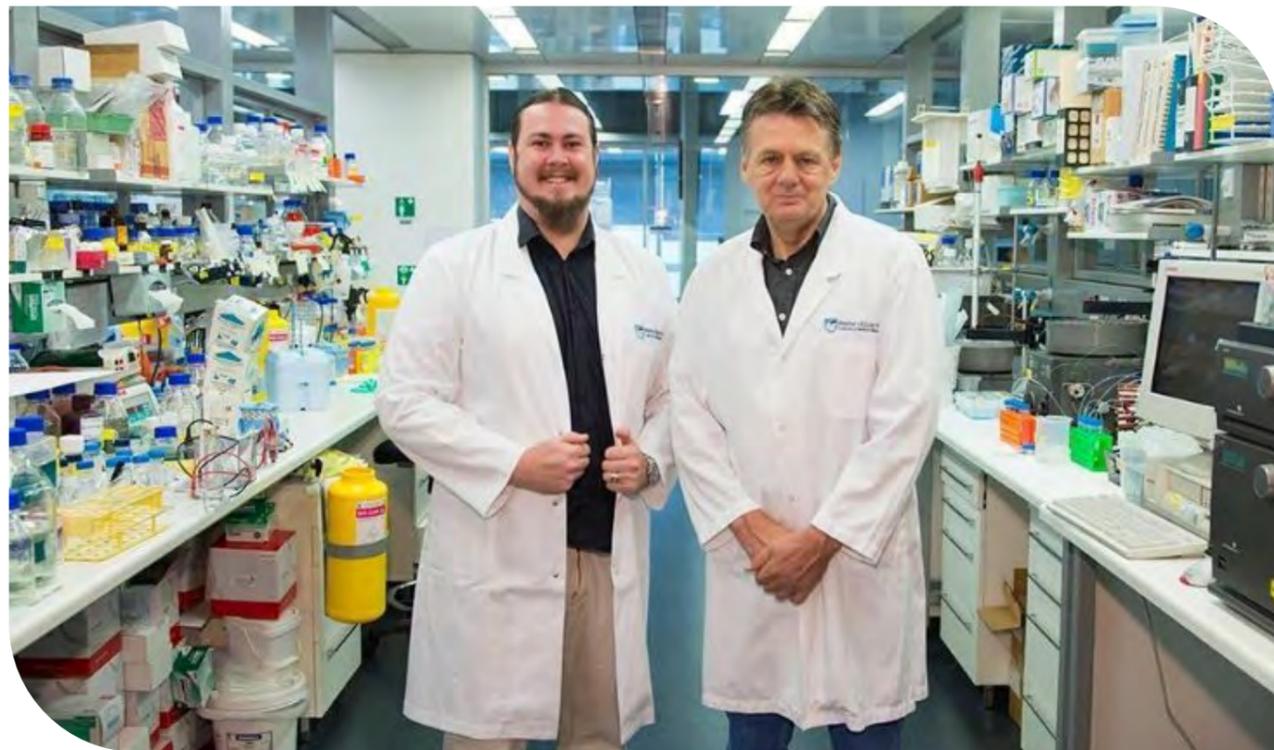


As part of U21's continuing and improving commitment to our members, an in-depth approach to our Communications and Engagement programme has been undertaken. Part of this work has been to encourage our members to hold U21 workshops to ensure that everyone in their own university community is aware of U21 and what it can offer them. The workshops also offer an opportunity for U21 to explore the strategic priorities of the member university and better tailor our offering to align with those.

The University of Glasgow held one such workshop in May. All those involved in International Student Experience, Researcher Engagement and Educational Innovation were invited to hear about the opportunities that are open to them through

U21. Ms Rachel Sandison, Vice Principal, External Relations at the University of Glasgow and U21 Senior Leader, hosted the afternoon workshop on the university's stunning campus. She gave a comprehensive overview of the university's international engagement which included a student experience testimony from a first year student who had attended the U21 Summer School in Malaysia. This was followed by an overview presentation of the opportunities that U21 can offer, before participants were invited to discuss how U21 might be able to better support their work.

If you would like to hold a similar U21 workshop event in your university we would be delighted to support you – please contact: rachel.edwards@universitas21.com



Developing Malaria Vaccine – an example of a U21 Joint PhD

Christopher Haggarty-Weir's aim was to be part of the top malaria research in the world and to help validate vaccine targets for pre-clinical development and beyond. Thanks to a U21 joint PhD programme between the University of Melbourne and the University of Edinburgh, he not only achieved this goal, but also went on to become the co-founder and Director of a stem cell technology company in Edinburgh (SpectCell) and founder of a biotech start-up and investment consultancy and he has now been acquired by the Dutch multinational firm, [topstart](#) and the [PNO Consulting group](#) as a life science consultant.

Dr Haggarty-Weir completed a U21 joint PhD in Medicine and Chemistry between the University of Melbourne (Walter and Eliza Hall Institute) and the University of Edinburgh (School of Chemistry) under the supervision of Professor Alan Cowman, FRS, AC. U21 creates and nurtures international knowledge exchange and as a result of an ongoing collaboration between Professor Cowman at the University of Melbourne and Professor Paul Barlow at the University of Edinburgh, Christopher was able to complete his PhD in Edinburgh. The collaboration with Edinburgh, and eventually also working with The University of Glasgow's School of Chemistry allowed him to specialise further and become more competitive.

The focus of Christopher's research was malaria vaccine development. He was specifically looking at the molecular

structures of novel vaccine candidates in order to bioengineer effective vaccines against the most lethal strain of malaria, *Plasmodium falciparum*.

At the end of his PhD Christopher decided to explore the business side of science taking an MBA programme focused on research commercialisation (in Melbourne) and a Business and Enterprise training course (in Edinburgh) which has led him to become both a successful scientist and businessman.

Christopher concludes,

“ I am very grateful to all those who helped me along the way, including U21 which facilitated this connection which allowed me to benefit from working with three of their outstanding members. I have sharpened and honed my business acumen thanks to the unique blend of training courses and programmes, making me better be able to frame the impact of research not only from a healthcare perspective but from an economic one. ”

Christopher has set up a scholarship in his name at his undergraduate alma mater (University of the Sunshine Coast) that helps fund STEM students experiencing financial hardship, believing that there is a moral imperative for those who achieve some measure of success to give back.



U21's 3MT® showcases brilliant research from around the world

U21's inspiring competition was won this year, by The University of Queensland, founder of the 3MT® competition. The competition offers a glimpse of brilliant research from around the globe as 3MT® winners from our individual members enter the U21 global competition, to find an overall and a people's choice winner.

Cody Frear from The University of Queensland won first prize with his [presentation](#) 'Negative Pressure Wound Therapy in Paediatric Burns; No No or Noo Noo'. Cody's research focuses on a vacuum treatment for burns in children, which removes rogue cells and promotes the growth of new cells and blood vessels, healing children three days faster than those given conventional anti-microbial dressings. Cody said,

“ I was thrilled and not a little shocked to learn that I had won. The calibre of each and every presentation was superb, so

it was an honour even to be placed in the same category as the other finalists. It has been phenomenally rewarding to see this work resonate with so many people. ”

The runner up was Emma Elliott from the University of Glasgow's Institute of Cardiovascular and Medical Sciences. Her [research](#), 'Draw me a clock...' addresses how we assess memory and thinking problems after a stroke.

The 2019 People's Choice, which had a record 9,300 individual votes, was won by Chidinma Raymond from the University of Nottingham's School of Life Sciences. Her [thesis](#) titled 'The Thief with many Faces; Investigating Hepatitis B virus' is designing new detection tests to combat the virus which changes its 'face' and make up in order to escape detection.



Omolabake Fakunle



Mollie Dollinger



Joyceline Alla-Mensah



Blair Izard

U21 Graduate Collaborative Research Award funding delivers publication success

Research collaborators and recipients of the U21 Graduate Collaborative Research Awards (GCRA) from the Universities of Edinburgh, Connecticut, Nottingham, Melbourne and Auckland have successfully published their paper, *'Academic Conferences as Learning Sites; A multinational comparison of Doctoral Students' Perspectives and Institutional Policy'* in the International Journal of Doctoral Studies which was also listed in *Times Higher Education* as one of the best 28 Education Journals.

U21's GCRA's are designed to help to fund research projects, which give doctoral candidates a global view of problem-solving and group work and facilitate cross-cultural working practices. Each project needs to involve at least 3 U21 member institutions and 2 countries.

The team's project examined doctoral students' motivation for participation in national and international conferences. They highlight that institutions need to design doctoral education taking into account learning within the institution as well as external learning sites such as conferences.

U21 played a critical role in the project, bringing the team together through the Researcher Engagement Cluster and providing the platform, opportunity and support to achieve the research aims.

Omolabake Fakunle (doctoral student & Project Lead) from the University of Edinburgh commented,

“ A key aspect in our project was for the doctoral students to have an intercultural experience in a different U21 institution. U21

funds helped with this and to fund travel to present our project findings at five international conferences (in the UK, Australia, United States, Canada & Italy). ”

Drawing on findings from the project the team are currently working on a second paper which discusses barriers faced by doctoral students in relation to participation in conferences. <https://www.informingscience.org/Publications/4383>

Omolabake Fakunle's research areas include the internationalisation of higher education, student experience, and graduate employability. Omolabake won the 2018 Estelle Brisard Memorial Prize awarded by the Scottish Educational Research Association for best research paper written by an early career researcher based in Scotland.

Mollie Dollinger is an Associate Lecturer in Student Success and Partnership at La Trobe University. Her research areas include student-staff co-creation, doctoral education, learning analytics, and work-integrated learning.

Joyceline Alla-Mensah is a doctoral student at the University of Nottingham's School of Education. Her research interests lie in the area of Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET), education and international development.

Blair Izard is a doctoral candidate in the Neag School of Education at the University of Connecticut. Her research interests include education abroad and the preparation of preservice mathematics teachers.



U21 Early Career Workshop looks at *Water and Society*



The 2019 U21 Early Career Researcher (ECR) workshop explored the theme of *Water and Society*, and showcased the world-class research taking place within U21's community of ECRs. The workshop was hosted by Lund University and brought together 35 delegates from 13 U21 member institutions.

Since 2018, the workshops have been themed around the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. With growing concern about a global water crisis, there is an urgent need to bring together innovative researchers from across disciplines to share knowledge and expertise in order to address the issue. *Water and Society* aimed to tackle important challenges such as alleviating water poverty, increasing access to sanitation, while developing international cooperation and support capacity-building for water and sanitation-related activities in developing countries.

Through a variety of presentations and interactive panel discussions on international and interdisciplinary perspectives on water in society, participants were able to share the impact of their research. Lightning talks, whereby a researcher has to

explain their projects through 15 slides that auto-transition every 15 seconds, were a particular highlight. Dr Ya-Ju Chang from the School of International and Public Affairs, Shanghai Jiao Tong University commented,

“ Attending this workshop is a good opportunity for ECRs to find out what is happening in field and talk to others, learning about the perspective from other experts and the global perspective. ”

As well as integrated sessions on knowledge sharing and ECR skills development (for instance applying for funding), there were several panel discussions with distinguished academics and experts in the field of water sustainability including: Professor Catherine Legrand (Pro-Vice Chancellor at Linnaeus University and Alumna of Lund University), Gustaf Olsson (Professor Emeritus at Lund University), Professor Cintia Uvo (Head of Office at the Division of Water Resources Engineering) and Professor Magnus Persson (Division of Water Resources Engineering).



Innovation in Global Education takes centre stage at UC Davis

U21 student mobility and international partnerships professionals gathered at the University of California, Davis, for the U21 Global Mobility Meeting 2019. This annual meeting provides an important professional development opportunity for staff and a touchpoint for those managing student mobility, which within the U21 network has increased consistently for over a decade.

The overarching theme of the meeting was *Equity, Diversity and Inclusion in Study Abroad and Global Education*, and showcased excellence from across the U21 network in creating accessible and inclusive education programmes for students both at home and overseas. The group was joined by Andrew Gordon, CEO of Diversity Abroad, to learn how best to design and advertise programmes that meet these aims.

In recognition of a rapidly changing higher education and employment environment, delegates tackled the challenge of providing high-quality, meaningful international experiences for increasing numbers of students. Virtual exchange, global classrooms, and sustainable study abroad programmes were all up for discussion, and the group formally widened its remit to include global education more broadly, beyond 'traditional' mobility.

In the spirit of sharing excellence and expertise within the network, institutions pitched existing programmes and partnerships for which they would welcome new collaborators from within U21. Delegates all took away opportunities to get involved in new projects across the breadth of global education delivered within U21.

U21 Members



UC DAVIS
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA



THE UNIVERSITY OF AUCKLAND
NEW ZEALAND
Te Whare Wānanga o Tāmaki Makaurau



University of Glasgow

THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE

Tecnológico de Monterrey



UNSW SYDNEY

LUND UNIVERSITY

McMaster University

University of Nottingham
UK | CHINA | MALAYSIA

NUS
National University of Singapore



KU LEUVEN

UNIVERSITY OF JOHANNESBURG



THE UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND AUSTRALIA
CREATE CHANGE

UNIVERSITEIT VAN AMSTERDAM

University of Zurich

WASEDA University
早稲田大学

“

**Empowering universities to share
excellence, collaborate across borders and
nurture global knowledge exchange.**

”

Universitas 21
c/o Strathcona 109
University of Birmingham
Edgbaston, Birmingham
B15 2TT
UK

T: +44(0)121 415 8870
E: u21@universitas21.com
www.universitas21.com

