



## **U21 2023 Presidential Symposium and AGM**

**Dates:** Wednesday 26 – Friday 28 April 2023

**Location:** The University of Queensland, Australia.

Presidents and Vice-Chancellors of U21 member universities, along with U21 Senior Leaders, are invited to attend the 2023 Annual Meeting and Symposium. This event will provide an opportunity for the group to reconnect in-person to discuss matters of importance to the network and to shape the forthcoming year's agenda. The 2023 U21 Presidential Symposium will explore the critical role that universities play in global efforts to address climate change and transition to a new energy future and will unpack our responsibilities and capabilities and educating our leaders of tomorrow.

### **The Symposium Theme: Partnering for change: what role do universities have in achieving a net-zero future?**

Nations around the world are required to halve their emissions by 2030 and to set net zero targets by 2025 to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius. U21 universities have the capacity to provide knowledge leadership and expertise to address climate change and to ensure today's challenges are not passed on to future generations.

Several U21 members have signed up to the United Nation's Race to Zero program, a global initiative for a zero-carbon world, led by the Environmental Association for Universities and Colleges (EAUC) and Second Nature with support from the UN Environment Program (UNEP). These members join more than 1050 universities from 68 countries to make a range of commitments to reach net-zero emissions by 2050.

Meeting global emissions reduction targets will require the transformation of industry, continual investment in technology, significant training and workforce upskilling, and greater collaboration between government, universities, private partners, and communities. With this in mind, the Presidential Symposium will revolve around five topics, which will be explored through a program of keynote speakers, panel discussions, and case study presentations.

- Topic 1: Teaching and learning to support a new energy future
- Topic 2: Harnessing interdisciplinary research and knowledge leadership to support global net-zero agendas
- Topic 3: Partnering with industry and government to drive net-zero and renewable energy policy
- Topic 4: Leveraging the 2032 'climate positive' Olympics to shape sustainable cities
- Topic 5: Designing and operating nature-positive, low-emissions universities.

### **About The University of Queensland**

The University of Queensland (UQ) is one of three Australian founding members of U21 and is proud to collaborate with international researchers, teachers and innovators to create a cleaner, healthier and happier future.

For more than a century, UQ has delivered knowledge leadership for a better world. With a strong focus on teaching excellence, UQ has won more national teaching awards than any other Australian university.

Our six faculties, eight globally recognised research institutes and more than 100 research centres attract an interdisciplinary community of 1,500 scientists, social scientists, and engineers who champion research excellence and continue UQ's tradition of research leadership.

We look forward to welcoming you to the University's St Lucia campus, with its hub of sandstone buildings enclosing the National Trust-registered Great Court and world-class facilities including the largest Oral Health Centre in Australasia, Australia's largest research library, and the southern hemisphere's largest photovoltaic solar array research facility.

In 2032, Brisbane will host the Olympic and Paralympic Games. UQ will collaborate closely with governments, sports and health experts, private partners in the lead up to the Olympics, as well as President of the Organising Committee Board, UQ alumnus Andrew N. Liveris AO.

### **About Brisbane**

We look forward to welcoming you to Queensland's capital, Brisbane, Australia's third-largest city and one of the fastest-growing capital cities in Australia by population and employment. The city boasts a range of cultural attractions, sporting venues and restaurants. With a comfortable subtropical climate and long, sunny days, Brisbane is the perfect city to enjoy the outdoors. Several world-renowned subtropical forests and marine parks are located within an hour of the city including the pristine Moreton Bay Marine Park, the World Heritage-listed Gondwana Rainforests. Some of Australia's most iconic beaches are also just a few hours' drive from Brisbane, including the Gold Coast to the south and the Sunshine Coast to the north.

### **Brisbane Marriott Hotel**

Attendees will be accommodated at the Brisbane Marriott Hotel, situated in the heart of Brisbane. The hotel features a stunning mixture of serenity and cutting-edge urban style, and offers access to a range of dining facilities, an outdoor pool and contemporary fitness centre. Rooms have been reserved for U21 conference attendees; further details on accommodation and information on how to make bookings will be issued shortly.

### **Preliminary program:**

A full program of events and meetings will be made available in due course; please see the below timetable for a preliminary overview of meetings and social events (please note, dates have been confirmed but programme details may be subject to change):

#### **Wednesday, 26 April 2023**

Morning	Executive Committee Meeting (closed meeting) Senior Leaders' Catch-Up (closed meeting) UQ St Lucia campus tour (optional activity for all other delegates)
Afternoon	U21 Symposium (all delegates)
Evening	UQ Welcome Reception (all delegates)

#### **Thursday, 27 April 2023**

Morning	Annual Network Meeting (all delegates)
Afternoon	Presidents' Peer-to-Peer Networking Session (closed meeting – Presidents only)

Senior Leaders' and Cluster Workshop (all delegates not involved in Presidents' Peer-to-Peer Networking Session)

Annual General Meeting (all delegates)

Evening U21 Formal Dinner – including U21 Awards Ceremony (all delegates)

**Friday, 28 April 2023**

Morning Senior Leaders' Meeting (all Senior Leaders)

Steering Group Meetings (EI, SE and RE)