

U21 proposal for revised network mission and principles

Universitas 21 (U21) is a global university network that aims to enrich education and research within and between its members, and to strengthen their capacity through internationalisation and open dialogue.

Distinctive in its highly intentional nature, U21 offers member universities a suite of high-value, cooperative research, learning and development opportunities for staff and students. Our goal is to nurture well-informed, highly educated, globally responsive citizens and leaders of the future.

Established in 1997, U21 has a deep commitment to connecting people across borders and diverse cultures. Our member-led initiatives and programmes are designed to inform and assist the development and networks of our staff and students. We enable our members to collaborate, exchange knowledge and enhance their capacity to engage with their own wider communities and beyond.

We offer a unique portfolio, interconnecting the core university priorities of student experience, researcher engagement and educational innovation. This combination of global learning and global collaboration ensures our members remain at the forefront of the latest international developments within higher education.

These priorities underpin the following principles that guide the activities of the network.

Principles

- Take a lead on the critical role of research-intensive universities in responding to the grand challenges of our time, with a strong focus on sustainable development in all U21 programmes, activities, advocacy and collaborations with internal and external partners
- Ensure inclusivity, equity, and diversity of representation for staff and students in all network opportunities
- Share best practice and proactively disseminate knowledge to enhance the work of members and contribute to improving the quality of the higher education sector more broadly across the globe
- Increase understanding and trust between and within our member universities, their staff, students, and alumni, providing enhanced peer support and broader global connections across national boundaries and political divides
- Facilitate the development of new and deeper relationships and equitable partnerships that yield new perspectives, knowledge and societal impact, locally and globally
- Prioritise the development of leadership capabilities for staff and students
- Support the development of students as globally aware citizens and as the next generation of leaders