

Call for Papers: IAU Horizons Magazine - In Focus: Relevance and Value of Universities to Future Society

27 May 2022

Call for Papers

The International Association of Universities (IAU) invites its Members and the global higher education community to imagine higher education for the future - in form of an article for the next issue of IAU Horizons. This issue will be a unique contribution to the [IAU 16th General Conference in Dublin](#) on 25-28 October 2022.

We invite contributions around these four thematic areas:

1. Universities are critical observers, mediators, and drivers of change - all at the same time. Today, the world is more connected than ever, yet also more complex. Higher education is tasked with making sense of this complexity and called upon to propose solutions to the challenges we face to help shape a better and sustainable future. **In this rapidly changing context, what kind of transformations in higher education are needed to create a more equitable and sustainable society?**
2. Universities build on the diversity of cultures and knowledge systems around the world. In an age of global connectivity, however, there is a growing disparity of opportunity and increasing gaps in science, technology and innovation. There are calls to reconsider established traditions around knowledge production, break free from the pressures of competitive systems, give more appreciation to the local context, and strive for more integrated local and global knowledge systems. **What are the pathways toward a meaningful and system-wide discussion on these issues and how to create a knowledge commons with fair access and open knowledge circulation?**
3. Future societies require strong and high-quality education systems that strategically link all educational stages, from pre-primary to lifelong learning, that bring forth citizens that are digitally, scientifically and humanistically literate. **What are the knowledge sets, skills and competences that are necessary for learners to shape the future? Is it possible for higher education to inculcate a more meaningful sense of collective and individual agency and enlarge the scope of the curricula with deeper social, ethical and conceptual questions that go beyond the immediate purview of the subject matter?**
4. To shape the future and empower humanity, universities must come together with a shared sense of purpose to learn, challenge, and collaborate – even if they at times have competing interests and agendas. Diverse local societal needs are often connected to the global challenges of our time and require a global discourse and international collaboration. **How can we bring about coherence, build synergies and amplify the significance of higher education to society globally?**

Contribute to shaping the conversation on the *Relevance and Value of Higher Education to Future Society* by sharing your views and perspectives. Please submit a short abstract (100 words) explaining the focus of the article.

The deadline for the expression of interest is **3 June 2022**. The articles are short opinion pieces of a **maximum of 800 words**. They are to be submitted to IAU no later than **27 June 2022**.

Submit [your expression of interest](#) here

For any questions, please contact [Andreas Corcoran](#).