



Call for proposals

Transforming higher Education for the Future

The International Association of Universities (IAU) and Benemérita Universidad Autónoma de Puebla (BUAP) are pleased to launch the call for proposals for the IAU 2019 International Conference taking place in Puebla, Mexico from 13-15 November.

With a view to exploring how leaders and experts of higher education institutions envisage higher education in the future, Transforming Higher Education for the Future is the theme of this year's conference. The conference will constitute a platform not only for discussing opportunities, but also for outlining major challenges facing higher education today. Recognizing that higher education is exposed to a multitude of challenges in increasingly complex societies, this conference will, among others, consider the impact of technological advancements, and discuss the responsibility of higher education in the pursuit of sustainable development and other global challenges. A more detailed description of the theme is available on page 3.

While the plenary sessions will set the scene for presenting broad visions of higher education's future, the breakout sessions will serve as interactive sessions focusing on specific aspects of higher education prospects. IAU aims to create an inclusive dialogue and bring together different perspectives from around the world. The call for proposals is open for the following four breakout sessions:

1. Transformations in teaching and learning

At a time when we have increased access to information, how are teaching pedagogy and learning models changing? Should HEIs today prioritize student-centered learning and stimulate self-directed and problem based learning to better prepare students for societal challenges? The aim of this session is to discuss transformations in teaching and learning to enhance the quality and relevance of higher education.

2. How will financing shape the future of higher education?

Many universities are facing heightened pressures to accommodate an increasing number of students, to produce cutting-edge research and adapt to labour market and societal demands - all within a context of dwindling public funds. In turn, students and their families are increasingly bearing the cost through tuition fees. This session aims to discuss how different financing models are affecting the future of higher education.

3. Research systems and equitable access to knowledge

What are the prospects for more equal and fair access to academic knowledge and research? How do factors such as artificial intelligence, rankings and publishing houses affect the opportunities for open science and research? This session aims to debate the value as well as the consequences of research systems and proposing solutions for the future.



4. Competences for a transforming world

One of the key responsibilities of universities and higher education institutions (HEIs) is to ensure students have the necessary competences to participate actively in society. However, today's rapid societal changes are making it increasingly difficult to make accurate predictions about the needs of tomorrow's workers and citizens. The aim of this session is to discuss how universities stay relevant in a continuously transforming world.

Abstract & bionote: To submit your proposal, you need to prepare an abstract (max. 500 words) for your presentation highlighting what you wish to present and how it will contribute to the topic selected. In addition, you will also need to submit a short bio-note (max 200 words).

Target audience: Higher education leaders, deans and department heads, researchers and other HEI representatives.

Deadline: The call for proposal will close on 15 April 2019. The Conference Programme Committee will review submissions and the selected proposals will be announced in the beginning of June 2019.

Selected presentations: The authors of the retained proposals will be invited to make a 15 minutes presentation during the IAU 2019 International Conference and will benefit from a conference registration fee waiver. Travel and accommodation are covered by the speakers directly.

Submission: Please complete the following form in order to submit your proposal:

<https://goo.gl/forms/iyGB2i9tQ5U4ywuY2>

Contact:

For inquiries, please contact:

Ms. Trine Jensen

t.jensen@iau-aiu.net

[cc: trinekovacjensen@gmail.com](mailto:trinekovacjensen@gmail.com)



Concept note

Transforming higher Education for the Future

Recognizing that higher education is facing a number of challenges brought about by today's complex societies, the IAU 2019 International Conference is set to discuss the future role of higher education against a backdrop of two major global phenomena: the impact of rapid technological advancements on higher education; and secondly, the urgent need to create more sustainable societies.

The IAU 2019 International Conference is devoted to *Transforming Higher Education for the Future* in order to explore how higher education leaders and experts envisage higher education, not only in the future, but also for the future. The Conference will not only facilitate sharing visions, but will also constitute an open dialogue that seeks to outline opportunities as well as challenges of higher education today. Acknowledging that local contexts differ in terms of in terms of culture, tradition, religion, demographic, language, politics and economics, IAU values this diversity and believes it is crucial to continue to foster exchange on higher education beyond borders and regions in an increasingly interlinked world.

Higher education has an important role to play in proposing solutions, in shaping societal development, and in fostering debate on the ethical and social dimension of the transformations taking place around the world. Research carried out within higher education can inform decision-makers; through its community engagement, higher education can propose inclusive and innovative solutions to address societal challenges. On a global level, we can exchange and learn from other experiences and practices, with a common objective of advancing higher education and sustainable societies

Framed by the theme *Transforming Higher Education for the Future*, IAU will convene leaders and experts to share their visions about higher education connecting local, national, regional and global perspectives and to generate discussions on what is the essence of higher education today and in the future. The Conference will constitute a global space for the exchange of ideas and opportunities; it will also be a space to identify key challenges and hurdles preventing transformation. It will offer a space to question the status quo, and to imagine an ideal world of higher education free of everyday constraints. Higher education institutions will have the opportunity to present current initiatives and research being carried out to transform higher education, to enhance education and research, and to promote sustainable solutions for future societies.

The outcomes of the discussions in Puebla will prepare the ground for the 16th General Conference in 2020 where IAU will be celebrating its 70th anniversary since its first and founding General Conference in 1950.

Make sure your institution attends the Conference in Puebla and contributes to the global voice for higher education!