

International Association of Universities



Executive Leadership Programme

ELP

Executive
Leadership
Program



The **ELP** has provided me with valuable insights into the challenges faced by my institution. It has shown me that these challenges are not unique and has given me the opportunity to learn from others on how to address them effectively for progress and prosperity.

Dr. Tebogo I. Magang,

Botswana Accountancy College, ELP Participant

Table of Contents

About the ELP	1
ELP Format	2
ELP Engagement	3
ELP Overview	4
ELP Action Learning	6
ELP Outcomes	7
ELP Facilitators	8
ELP Details	11

About the **ELP**

The **IAU** Executive Leadership Programme (**ELP**) is unique. It is radically global in its ambition to support university leaders across all higher education systems and types. It focuses on common issues and challenges and covers central aspects of higher education management for a sustainable running of the institution. The **ELP** empowers university leaders to navigate the contextual and political dimensions of university leadership. In short, the programme provides a framework with which to confront the big managerial, ethical, economic and societal questions universities face.

A photograph of a woman with short, wavy, light-colored hair, smiling and gesturing with her hands. She is wearing a dark blue blazer over a red top and a blue lanyard with yellow stars. The background is softly blurred.

ELP

Executive
Leadership
Program

ELP Format

The programme starts and ends with in-person meetings and continues online throughout the year. It is designed for current or emerging heads of institutions, and participants will be awarded a learning badge after the successful completion of all modules. It is designed in modular form, and the twelve modules consist of a thematic workshop and action learning groups – separated into current and emerging leaders for real peer-to-peer engagement.

In between the in-person ELP modules, held on-site in conjunction with IAU conferences, participants will follow this capacity building programme from anywhere in the world through online sessions.



Modules 1-3

IAU 2025 International Conference
University of Rwanda, Rwanda

Modules 4-9

Online
Virtual Participation



Modules 10-12

IAU 2026 International Conference
Location to be announced

ELP Engagement

The participants draw on their collective experience and examine best practices to address common challenges. Through peer-to-peer exchange, participants learn how to mobilise collective efforts to address critical issues and proactively shape their institutional future.

The modules are facilitated by eminent current and former university presidents and higher education experts with ample experience in coaching and workshop facilitation.



ELP Overview

The **ELP** offers a comprehensive range of sessions that explore critical aspects of higher education leadership, including governance, strategic planning, financial management, and global collaboration. The **2025-26** programme will include sessions such as:

Module Topics

Introduction to the ELP

1. The Changing Mission of Universities

Stakeholder Management

2. Effective Leadership, Governance, and Risk Management
3. Building Partnerships Across the Global Higher Education Landscape
4. Creating and Managing Effective Teams
5. Forming Transformative Partnerships with Students

Operational Leadership

6. Navigating the Strategic Planning Process
7. Budgeting, Financial Strategy, and Administration



ELP Overview

- 8. Diversifying Income Streams and Fundraising Strategies in HE.
- 9. Shaping Higher Education in an Increasingly Digital World

Transformative Leadership

- 10. Towards a Transformation of Higher Education
- 11. Charting a Sustainable Future for Higher Education
- 12. Communicating the Role of Higher Education in Society



ELP Action Learning

Integral to the **ELP** is the incorporation of peer-to-peer learning and the application of practical knowledge acquired during the programme. To facilitate this aspect, the **ELP** engages participants in Action Learning Groups. This additional support mechanism will act as a sounding board as you develop your capstone project throughout the year. You will present the results of your action research project at the in-person closing session at the next IAU International Conference in 2026. Projects might include new policies informed by your **ELP** learning experience, inclusive strategic planning processes, crisis or risk mitigation plans, or any other outputs relevant to your work as a university leader.



ELP Outcomes



Enhanced Your Strategic Thinking and Planning

Gain a new perspective on different aspects of global higher education to improve scenario thinking and its implications for your current strategy and future plans.

Understand Your Leadership Capabilities

Gain better knowledge of the different dimensions of strategic leadership to become a globally engaged leader of change.



Develop Effective Teams

Explore leadership expectations and improve interpersonal management skills to unlock the full potential of diverse high-performing teams.

Advance Your Governance and Management Skills

Focus on central aspects of higher education management for a sustainable running of your institution.



Build a Global Network of Peers

Create long-term partnerships, connect with colleagues from all over the world, and share experiences to learn from each other.

ELP Facilitators



Andrew Deeks

President of Murdoch University, Australia and
IAU President



Tawana Kupe

Former Vice Chancellor, University of Pretoria,
South Africa



Andreas Corcoran

Deputy Secretary General,
International Association of Universities



Fanta Aw

Executive Director and CEO, NAFSA, USA



Pam Fredman

Former Rector, University of Gothenburg,
Sweden and IAU Immediate Past President

ELP Facilitators

Patrick Deane

Principal and Vice Chancellor, Queen's University,
Canada



Paul Tiyambe Zeleza

Senior Advisor for Strategic Initiatives and Professor,
Howard University, USA, and Former Vice Chancellor
United States International University, Kenya



Teri Balsler

Immediate past Provost and Vice President,
University of Calgary, Canada



Jacob Blasius

Executive Director, Global Student Forum,
Denmark



ELP Facilitators



Manja Klemencič

Professor of Higher Education, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia and Fellow at Harvard University, USA



Enzo M. Le Fevre Cervini

Senior Researcher, University of Buenos Aires, Argentina



Chris Brink

Former Vice Chancellor, Newcastle University, UK



Renée T. White

Provost, Executive Vice President, and Professor of Sociology, The New School, USA

ELP in Details

Practical Information

Dates

October 21-23 2025 to
October 2026

Format

In person and online

Registration

Please register via the
form on the [IAU website](http://www.iau-aiu.net/Leadership).
www.iau-aiu.net/Leadership

Coordinators

Dr. Andreas Corcoran, IAU Deputy
Secretary General
Margaret Harris, IAU
Communications & Media Officer

Programme Fees*:

IAU Members: 2400 €
IAU Member LDC Rate: 1700 €
Non IAU Members: 3450 €
Non IAU Member LDC Rate: 2300 €

*Travel and accommodation not
included in fees








INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITIES

The International Association of Universities (**IAU**), created under the auspices of UNESCO in 1950, is a membership-based organisation serving the global higher education community through advocacy, expertise, and exchange.

IAU brings together Members from over **130** countries for reflection and collaborative action on common priorities. It is an independent, non-governmental organisation in an official partnership with UNESCO (Associate status), UN ECOSOC (Consultative status), and the Council of Europe (Participatory status).

IAU provides a forum for building a worldwide higher education community, promotes collaboration and the exchange of information, experience and ideas.

-  International Association of Universities
-  International Association of Universities
-  elp@iau-aiu.net
-  iau-aiu.net/Leadership
-  UNESCO House, 1 rue Miollis, Paris, France

