

ANNUAL  
REPORT

1 OCT 2023 - 30 SEPT 2024

# IAU

The global voice of  
higher education

20  
24



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## ABOUT IAU

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The International Association of Universities (IAU), established in 1950 under the auspices of UNESCO, is an independent, non-governmental, and Membership-based global organization dedicated to serving the worldwide higher education community. Its mission is to foster cooperation, exchange, and advocacy within the realm of higher education, providing expertise and offering a platform for meaningful dialogue among universities, higher education institutions, and other stakeholders.

Founded with a vision to create an international center for collaboration among universities and higher education institutions from across the globe, the IAU continues to uphold this mission to this day. It stands as the global voice of higher education, uniting diverse institutions and individuals in their collective pursuit of advancing knowledge, research, and educational innovation.

Today, the IAU brings together over 600 Members from more than 120 countries. These Members participate in regular reflection and joint actions on common global priorities related to higher education, fostering an environment of shared understanding and progress. In recognition of its global standing and impactful work, the IAU holds official partnerships with a number of prominent international organizations, including UNESCO (Associate status), the United Nations Economic and Social Council (UN ECOSOC) with Consultative status, and the Council of Europe (Participatory status). These partnerships further enhance the IAU's capacity to advocate for higher education and promote its values on the world stage.

As part of its commitment to supporting its Members, the IAU offers an extensive range of services that cater not only to its Member institutions but also to various higher education stakeholders. This includes organizations, governmental and non-governmental authorities, policymakers, decision-makers, specialists, administrators, educators, researchers, and students. By providing access to a wealth of resources, expertise, and opportunities for networking, the IAU ensures that its Members and partners are equipped to navigate the evolving landscape of global higher education.

The financial sustainability of the IAU is largely supported by its Membership fees, which play a crucial role in enabling the Association to implement its wide array of activities and initiatives. These activities include the hosting of webinars and thematic debates, organizing events and conferences, producing specialized publications, and facilitating a range of global projects. Each initiative serves to advance the IAU's mission, offering valuable opportunities for knowledge exchange, professional development, and collective problem-solving among higher education institutions worldwide.

To achieve its core objectives, the IAU engages in a broad spectrum of activities aimed at fostering knowledge development and dissemination, analyzing emerging trends, and offering specialized publications and portals that address key challenges and opportunities in higher education. Additionally, the Association provides advisory services, facilitates training programs, and encourages peer-to-peer learning. These activities collectively contribute to the IAU's advocacy and representation efforts, ensuring that the interests of higher education institutions are effectively communicated on a global scale.

Through its ongoing work, the IAU remains committed to advancing the role of higher education in addressing the world's most pressing challenges, reinforcing the importance of collaboration, inclusivity, and innovation within the global academic community.

## Message from the IAU President



As I look back over the past year as President of the IAU, I am proud of the various achievements and steps we have made towards our mission of contributing to peace and human development by promoting and enhancing the power of higher education. The past year has been marked by challenges to global peace and security, from which higher education institutions are not immune. Institutions around the world are grappling with threats to academic freedom, epistemic skepticism exacerbated by populist rhetoric, and questions of the relevance of universities in the modern age. However, as institutions are forced to address these complex issues, the IAU stands strong as a pillar of community and shared belief in the power of higher education to transform lives, build capacity, connect diverse peoples, generate and disseminate new knowledge, and find sustainable solutions to local and global challenges.

In this vein, it was a pleasure to gather the IAU Membership and the broader higher education community at the IAU 2023 International Conference in Doha to discuss "Higher Education with Impact: the Importance of Intercultural Learning and Dialogue." There, we met with familiar faces and new colleagues to reaffirm both the essential role of universities in nurturing intercultural learning and competence, and the duty of the IAU to embody a diverse global higher education community committed to our core values.

Turning to the work of the Association, I am proud of the diverse array of work produced

by the IAU this year, in particular in the domains of our four priority areas—Leadership, Internationalization, Sustainable Development, and Digital Transformation—and the World Higher Education Database. Notable outputs this year include the 6<sup>th</sup> IAU Global Survey Report on Internationalization, the realization of the Institutional Site Visit on Open Science, and the completion of the World Higher Education Database update on the United States. Looking forward, we have many ongoing and renewed projects, such as the Responsible Futures International programme for sustainable development, the HESD Cluster for the SDGs, and the Executive Leadership Programme from which IAU Members may wish to benefit. In addition to offering these opportunities for learning and Membership engagement, the IAU has actively participated in events around the world to support our Members, grow our Membership community, network with peers, and further propel the vision and mission of the Association.

The IAU 2024 International Conference in Tokyo, Japan, which will be covered in depth in the next annual report, was another opportunity for the IAU Membership and the broader higher education community to come together. The event provided a platform to discuss the critical challenges facing the higher education sector today centering around the topic "University Values in a Changing World." There, we confirmed our mission and recognised our collective efforts towards advancing the cause of higher education worldwide and position the sector as a key stakeholder in society.

As we begin the 2024-2025 academic year, I invite you to deepen your engagement with the IAU by participating in our various programmes, joining us at events, and, if your university or association is not yet a member of the IAU, becoming a Member. As the oldest and most inclusive association of universities, the IAU provides great value to its Members, and we would be pleased to have you join us in our mission to further the role of higher education in society.

A handwritten signature in white ink that reads "A J Deeks". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

**Andrew J. Deeks**

IAU President 2022-2026

Vice Chancellor and President, Murdoch

University, Australia

## Message from the Secretary-General



Welcome to the IAU 2024 Annual Report, which examines the period of 1 October 2023 to 30 September 2024. This academic and financial year began with the IAU 2023 International Conference at Qatar University in Doha where we discussed *Higher Education with Impact - the Importance of Intercultural Learning and Dialogue*. The success of the Conference, which welcomed over 300 participants from 80+ countries, set the stage for the year to follow. Amid heightened geopolitical tensions and pressures on universities, the Conference reaffirmed the IAU community's commitment to global citizenship, peace, respect for diversity, and the belief in the power of higher education to transform society for the better.

Beyond the annual Conference, this year has also been marked by many achievements and progress on various fronts of IAU work, in particular for our four priority areas: Leadership, Internationalization, Sustainable Development, and Digital Transformation. Work has excelled this year thanks to support from the priority area working groups established by the Administrative Board in 2023. They have helped inform the IAU Executive Leadership Programme; the 2nd IAU Global Survey on Digital Transformation; a *Report on Open Science: The Challenge for Universities*; the IAU Cluster for Higher Education and Research for Sustainable Development (HESD); the presentations of the *IAU 6<sup>th</sup> Global Survey Results*; and the reimagined IAU Internationalization advisory programme, now known as HEIAS. Each of these programmes provides long-term benefits for institutions and individuals involved. The priority areas also inform our ongoing *Webinar Series on the Future of Higher Education*. Thus

far, the series has produced over 70 webinars. Beyond offering an opportunity for participants to learn from, we invite Member institutions to use the series as a basis for internal and further debate.

In addition, this year has also witnessed the continued development of the *IAU World Higher Education Database (WHED)*. This March, the WHED team finished an update of 2500 HEIs in the United States, and has begun to review institutions and systems in the African continent. The WHED remains the only official source of information on HEIs and HE systems at the global level; it is a critical resource in the context of the *UNESCO Global Convention on the Recognition of Qualifications concerning Higher Education*.

As well, the IAU has participated in some 30 events around the world, either in person or virtually. We co-organised some of the events, contributed sessions to others and delivered keynote speeches where we advocated for the importance of high quality, open and accessible higher education for society. This strong engagement led to strengthened cooperation with UNESCO, the UN, global partners, and, of course, our Member institutions and organisations. It is thanks to this deep engagement with and of our Members and the shared belief in the power of higher education that we are able to pursue our mission as the global voice of higher education.

I invite you to discover more about the work of the Association by reading through this report, as well as to become more involved in our various programmes and events. Additionally, if your institution is not already a Member of the IAU, I encourage you to consider joining our global higher education community.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Hilligje van't Land'.

**Hilligje van't Land**  
IAU Secretary General

# GOVERNANCE

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The IAU Administrative Board convened its 93<sup>rd</sup> meeting at the IAU 2023 International Conference hosted by Qatar University.

Andrew Deeks, IAU President 2022-2026, inaugurated the meeting by stressing the successful organisation of the Doha conference. The Conference sessions welcomed many excellent speakers and triggered high-level conversations on *Higher Education with Impact: The Importance of Intercultural Learning and Dialogue*. The focus on Open Science during the International Conference was welcomed, and it was highlighted that Digital Transformation, Open Science, and Generative AI are important topics to be addressed by the IAU.

President Deeks moreover acknowledged the work of the Secretariat on the Association's four priority areas. With regard to expanding the IAU's reach, the President pointed out that the IAU Secretariat must more proactively engage with partners worldwide to ensure more inclusivity and diversity in the IAU's collaborations. President Deeks thus proposed to continue conversations around key themes and issues addressed in the meetings, including the positioning of the IAU vis-a-vis rankings, multilingualism, and IAU membership development. In particular, the Board welcomed the Secretariat's use of the Working Groups and Expert Groups established to guide the work of the Association.

At the meeting, the Administrative Board accepted the invitation from the University of Rwanda to host the **IAU 2025 International Conference**.



IAU Secretary General Hilligje van't Land, IAU Board Member and Former Qatar University President Hassan Al-Derham, Qatar University President Omar Al-Ansari, and IAU President and Murdoch University Vice Chancellor and President Andrew Deeks, amongst others, at the IAU 2023 International Conference.



➔ **About IAU / Governance Structure**

<https://iau-aiu.net/Governance-Structure>

## IAU Administrative Board

2022-2026

### PRESIDENT

**Andrew Deeks**, *Vice-Chancellor and President, Murdoch University, Australia*

### IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

**Pam Fredman**, *Former Rector, University of Gothenburg, Sweden*

### MEMBERS

#### Africa

**Sunungurai Dominica Chingarande**, *Vice Chancellor, Women's University of Africa, Zimbabwe*

**Jouhaina Gherib**, *Former Rector, University of Manouba, Tunisia (IAU Vice President)*

**Abdul-Rasheed Na'Allah**, *Former Vice-Chancellor, University of Abuja, Nigeria*

#### Americas

**Patrick Deane**, *Principal and Vice-Chancellor, Queen's University, Canada (IAU Vice President and Treasurer)*

**Fernando Leon-Garcia**, *President, CETYS University, Mexico*

**David Quigley**, *Provost and Dean of Faculties, Boston College, USA*

**Ignacio Sánchez Díaz**, *President of the Pontifical Catholic University of Chile, Chile*

#### Asia & Pacific

**Mohd Hamdi Abd Shukor**, *Former Vice Chancellor, University Malaya, Malaysia (IAU Vice President)*

**Hassan Al-Derham**, *Former President, Qatar University, Qatar*

**Salim Daccache**, *Rector, Saint Joseph University of Beirut, Lebanon*

**Samit Ray**, *Chancellor, Adamas University, India*

**Yoshiaki Terumichi**, *President, Sophia University, Japan*



93<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the IAU Administrative Board in Doha, Qatar.

#### Europe

**Peter Aronsson**, *Vice-Chancellor, Linnaeus University, Sweden*

**Shahin Bayramov**, *Rector, Karabakh University, and Former Rector Mingachevir University, Azerbaijan*

**Henk Kummeling**, *Rector Magnificus, Utrecht University, The Netherlands*

**Miquel Nicolau-Vila**, *Former Rector, University of Andorra, Andorra*

**Inga Žalėnienė**, *Rector, Mykolas Romeris University, Lithuania (IAU Vice President)*

#### Organisations

**Roberto Escalante**, *Secretary General, UDUAL, Mexico*

**Cristina Montalvão Sarmiento**, *Secretary General, Association of Portuguese Speaking Universities, Portugal (IAU Vice President)*

### DEPUTY MEMBERS

#### Africa

**Nana Aba Appiah Amfo**, *Vice-Chancellor, University of Ghana, Ghana*

**Wondwosen Tamrat**, *President, St. Mary's University, Ethiopia*

#### Organisations

**David Julien**, *Secretary General, Inter-American Organization for Higher Education, Canada*

**Amr Ezzat Salama**, *Secretary General, Association of Arab Universities, Jordan*

### HONORARY PRESIDENTS

**Dzulkifli Abdul Razak**, *President 2012-2016, Rector, International Islamic University of Malaysia, Malaysia*

**Juan Ramón De La Fuente**, *President 2008-2012, Former Rector, National Autonomous University of Mexico, Mexico*

**Goolam Mohamedbhai**, *President 2004-2008, Former Secretary General, Association of African Universities, Ghana*

## IAU Strategy 2030

IAU works to enhance the higher education community's role and actions in advancing societies worldwide.

The **IAU Strategy 2030** identifies IAU's focus on four key higher education priority areas.

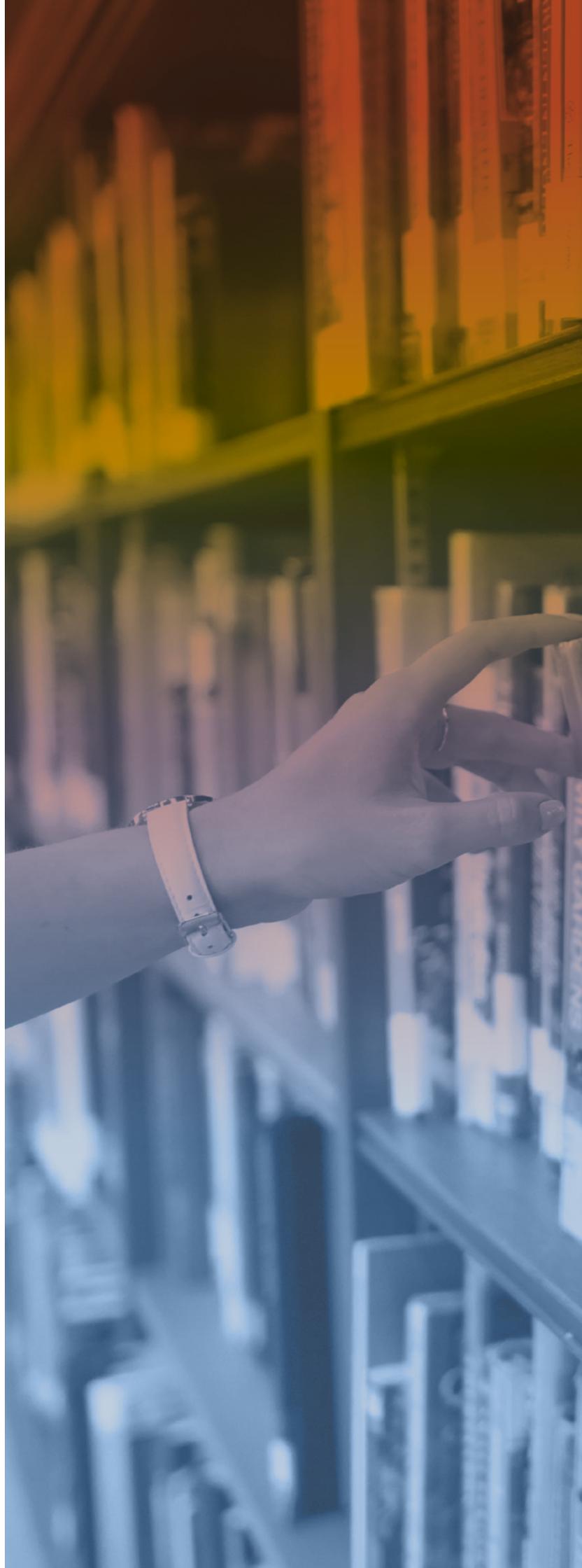
### These priority areas are:

- **Globally-engaged and Values-based Leadership:**  
Higher education institutions have enhanced capacity to respond to complex institutional and systemic challenges, including the need for social transformation
- **Internationalization for Society and the Global Common Good:**  
IAU leads the global higher education community, including all stakeholders, towards this common understanding of internationalization, and will proactively engage its Members in this endeavour
- **Higher Education and Research for Sustainable Development:**  
Higher education is a key driver of sustainable development and plays a vital role in the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: Transforming our World.
- **Digital Transformation of Higher Education:**  
In line with the principles and values laid out in the 2022 IAU Policy Statement, IAU nurtures a shared commitment to build a humanistic, ethical, inclusive and purpose-based digital transformation of higher education for the global common good.

## Core Values

The IAU promotes the following **core values** among its Members and the broader higher education community:

- Academic freedom, institutional autonomy, and social responsibility, locally and globally
- Cooperation and solidarity based on mutuality of interests and shared benefits
- Tolerance of divergent opinions and freedom from political interference
- Equity in access and success in higher education and open access to knowledge
- Scientific integrity and ethical behaviour as cornerstones of conduct for all stakeholders in higher education
- Higher education and research in the public interest
- Quality in learning, research, and outreach



# VISION AND MISSION

IAU – The Global Voice of Higher Education

## VISION

As the global voice of higher education, IAU will be the most influential and representative global association of diverse higher education institutions and their organisations, advocating for and advancing a dynamic leadership role for higher education in society. By promoting and enhancing the capacity of higher education to transform lives, build agency, connect diverse peoples, generate and disseminate new knowledge, create insights and find sustainable solutions to local and global challenges, we aim to contribute to peace and human development.

## MISSION

By articulating the fundamental values and principles that underpin education and the pursuit, dissemination and application of knowledge, the Association leads and advocates for the development of higher education policies and practices that respect diverse perspectives, promote social responsibility, and contribute to the development of a sustainable future.

IAU serves as a think tank and forum for the development of new approaches, the sharing of best practice and the undertaking of joint action, encouraging and facilitating innovation, mutual learning, and cooperation among higher education institutions around the world.



### A Standard and Trendsetter

The IAU maintains an open and constructive dialogue with its Members, as well as national and international organisations. This commitment allows the IAU to accurately represent the diverse higher education community, contribute to informed policymaking, provide recommendations, and advocate for strong, accessible, and equitable higher education systems globally. As a standard and trendsetter, the IAU develops Policy Statements on issues of global concern for higher education.



### A Facilitator for International Collaboration

The IAU organises global events and webinars with speakers and participants from all regions around the world. These initiatives foster mutual exchange and dialogue across the IAU's four thematic priority areas to promote collaboration, networking, and the establishment of strategic partnerships.



### A Capacity Builder

The IAU offers capacity-building and advisory services to support institutional development at every stage, such as the Internationalization Strategies Advisory Service (ISAS2.0), which supports higher education institutions in developing, reviewing, and enhancing their internationalization strategies; IAU's Executive Leadership Programme (ELP), which provides current and emerging university leaders with the tools and networks their universities need for success; Responsible Futures International (RFI), which aims to embed holistic sustainability in student learning at educational institutions and brings sustainability at the heart of education; and institutional site visits on the digital transformation of HE, that connects universities globally for exchange on innovations related to digital transformation, including teaching & learning, and research. Members are invited to engage with these programmes.



### A Think Tank and Knowledge Hub

The IAU conducts research and global surveys on the higher education sector and on institution specific issues. The Association further ensures the dissemination of relevant knowledge and data in relation to its strategic priorities, as well as information relevant to current events and ongoing sectoral debates. IAU Members are encouraged to take part in global surveys and research opportunities to help inform the global higher education community of regional, national, and international trends.



### A Centre for Communications

The IAU disseminates information and news relevant to the broad higher education community around the world, including universities and other higher education institutions, as well as national and multilateral organisations and government agencies. Members are invited to follow the IAU on social media, sign up for the IAU monthly newsletter, and share information with the IAU so that it may be disseminated amongst the Membership community.

## IAU in numbers

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We are pleased to share with you some of the IAU's major achievements in numbers for the academic year 2023-2024. The IAU continually enhances engagement with Members, strengthens partnerships, and develops meaningful new initiatives for the benefit of the global higher education community.

**9 webinars** in the IAU series on *The Future of Higher Education*

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**70+ invitations** honoured to speak at events

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**90+ speakers** from around the world at IAU events

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**130+ countries** represented at IAU Events

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**2.3 Million searches** on HEIs on the WHED

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**1.1 Million page views** on the IAU website

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**32,000+** mailing list subscribers

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**14,000+** followers on LinkedIn

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Thank you for supporting IAU's vision and mission.

## GLOBAL EVENTS

### IAU International Conference 2023

The IAU 2023 International Conference welcomed more than 300 participants from around the world to Qatar University in Doha to discuss "Higher Education with Impact: The Importance of Intercultural Learning and Dialogue." The meeting highlighted a crucial need for higher education institutions around the world to mutually and strategically develop alliances to foster common understanding and collaboration.

The conference emphasised the critical role of the universities as hubs for fostering intercultural learning and competence. During the conference, it was emphasised that the higher education sector has the responsibility to support and cultivate intercultural learning and dialogue not only at institutions but throughout society. This duty lays the foundation for higher education institutions around the world to acknowledge and embrace cultural diversity and provide students with an environment to thrive.

During the opening plenary session entitled **"The Intercultural Imperative in a De-Globalizing World?"** speakers highlighted that universities are inherently intercultural: in their mission and daily activities. This key characteristic and principle must remain inviolable, even in times of strife and heightened geopolitical tensions as universities are essential in building intercultural competencies, nurturing mutual understanding, and establishing a sense of interconnectedness. In a world that seems increasingly polarised and divided, marked by the erosion of social coherence and human freedoms, universities can leverage their influence and stem breakdowns in civic discourse.

During Plenary Session III on **"The Impact of Geopolitics on the Future of International Cooperation,"** panellists discussed the pressing dilemmas higher education leaders face and their impact on universities and global collaboration in a world grappling with escalating geopolitical challenges. The conflict in the Middle East served as a poignant example, highlighting the complexity and heterodoxy universities need to navigate. While universities embrace diverse perspectives, it was emphasised that war 'embodies' the ultimate divergence of opinions. This raises an important question about the role of universities and how leaders must mitigate the extraordinary geopolitical pressures by their various stakeholders and constituents during times of conflict. Criticism has been levelled against universities for taking a public stance, while others face criticism for lack of it. On top of the responsibilities of upholding institutional integrity and credibility, universities must avoid being 'instrumentalized' by political and social actors. One speaker translated this dilemma into a discourse of



academic responsibility: university leadership must choose to take or abstain from a public stance and defend their decision clearly. The ability of university leaders to take a stance further hinges on the contextual situation and the systems within which their institutions operate. It emerged that striking a delicate balance between upholding university values and preventing political interference has become increasingly challenging in many parts of the world.

Overall, the discussions reinforced the importance of the truly global platform IAU provides for voices around the world to convene and share their perspectives on the evolving challenges and opportunities that the higher education sector faces. To close the conference, IAU Secretary General Hilligje van't Land stressed that intercultural learning not only enriches the academic experience but also nurtures responsible global citizens capable of positive change. Moreover, she reiterated the key role of higher education institutions in society today, as they are crucial for fostering intercultural learning and dialogue, an essential aspect of their social mission and promoting a culture of peace.

# IAU Representation at Events

This past year, the IAU was honoured to strategically engage and speak at various events and conferences around the world. The IAU had the privilege to co-host many of these events in collaboration with its partners and Members. Others were hosted by the United Nations and its bodies with whom the IAU works closely to shape the future of higher education. The IAU's presence at this year's events reinforces the Association's commitment to engaging in activities and discussions that benefit the higher education sector at large and around the globe. More information, including presentations and conference materials, are available on the [IAU website](#).

## GLOBAL EVENTS

### September 2024

#### EAIE 2024 Annual Conference & Exhibition

Toulouse, France

Theme: *En Route*

#### Higher Education Summit 2024 - HES

University of Padova, Italy

Theme: *Co-Creating Change: Strategies and Policies for a Sustainable Futures*

#### Opening the Academic Year

University Macerata, Italy

Theme: *The Value of our European University*

### August 2024

#### LACHEC Conference

Bogotá, Colombia

Theme: *Possible Scenarios*

### June 2024

#### ERUA

Mykolas Romeris University, Lithuania

Theme: *Social Innovations for Transformative Society*

#### ENIC-NARIC Meeting

Naples, Italy

Theme: *Gateway to Recognition of Qualifications*

#### Teaching, Learning & Higher Education Research

Central European University, Austria

Theme: *Collaboration, Collective Intelligence, and the Future of Education*

#### Academy of Sciences of Turkmenistan: Science, Technology, and Innovation Conference

Ashgabat, Turkmenistan

Theme: *Science, Technology and Innovation*

#### WES-CIHE Summer Institute

Boston College, United States

Theme: *Internationalization of Higher Education*

### May 2024

#### NAFSA 2024 Annual Conference & Expo

New Orleans, USA

Theme: *Resilience, Renewal, Community*

#### EURASHE 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Conference

St. Pölten University of Applied Sciences, Austria

Theme: *Stronger Together*

#### Council of Europe Forum on History Education

University of Bologna, Italy

Theme: *Reinforcing Historical Awareness and Culture through Higher Education*

#### ENIS 2024 Conference

Tbilisi, Georgia

Theme: *The Future of International Student Mobility*

#### Manouba University Symposium

University of Manouba, Tunisia

Theme: *Liberty and Responsibility*

### April 2024

#### FAUBAI Annual Conference

São Paulo, Brazil

Theme: *Inviting for a New Journey*

### December 2023

#### ESD-Net 2030 Global Meeting

United Nations University, Japan

Theme: *Transforming Education Together*

### November 2023

#### FEDE Academic Conference 2023

London, United Kingdom

Theme: *Education, citizenship skills and the workplace*

#### Conference of the Americas on International Education (CAIE)

Las Vegas, United States

Theme: *Futures of Internationalization: Perspectives and Practice*

#### Annual EWORA Conference

Istanbul, Turkey

Theme: *Global Female Leadership and the Future of Universities*

### October 2023

#### Anniversary of the Magna Charta Universitatum

Lodz, Poland

Theme: *Universities and Re-Construction of Cities: the Role of Research and Education*

#### UIL International Conference on Promoting Lifelong Learning in Higher Education

Shanghai, China

Theme: *Promoting Lifelong Learning in Higher Education: From Institutional Strategies to Practical Implementation*

#### First International Forum on Higher Education in Mongolia

Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

Theme: *Innovation: Challenges and Best Practices in Higher Education*

**ACA Strategic Summit 2023**

Brussels, Belgium

Theme: *Internationalisation of Higher Education in a Changing Context***UNITED NATIONS EVENTS****September 2024****Transforming Knowledge for Africa's Future UNITWIN Forum**

30 September–2 October 2024, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

IAU was an official partner to the *UNESCO Chairs and Partners Forum* in Addis Ababa, which aimed to strengthen interdisciplinary and collaborative research capacity in Africa, through more inclusive and effective South-South and South-South-North research partnerships. The IAU Board Members from Tunisia, Ghana, Zimbabwe, Nigeria and Ethiopia, IAU Members and partners and the IAU Secretary General were invited to speak in several Forum sessions and hosted an engaging debate on *"Stronger Higher Education and Doctoral Education for a Stronger African Continent"*.

**July 2024****UN High-Level Political Forum (HLPF)**

16 July 2024, New York, USA

The IAU co-organized an official side event with the University of Bergen at the UN High-Level Political Forum (UN-HLPF) 2024 on *"Empowering Communities: Innovations in Local Air Monitoring for Sustainable Development amidst Multiple Crises,"* aligned with the 2024 High-Level Political Forum's theme of *"Eradicating poverty in times of multiple crises"* focusing on SDG 1 and SDG 13.

**April 2024****UN Ocean Decade Conference**

10-12 April 2024, Bergen, Norway

The IAU supported a side event on *Ocean Science Diplomacy* with the University of Bergen at the UN Ocean Decade Conference.

**January 2024****UNESCO Transforming Mentalities**

24–25 January 2024, Paris, France

The IAU participated in the 15<sup>th</sup> International Forum of NGOs hosted by UNESCO on *"Transforming Mentalities"*; it highlighted good practices and effective ways of addressing persistent social inequalities. This theme aligned well with the discussions held at the IAU 2023 International Conference on *"Higher Education with Impact: The Importance of Intercultural Learning and Dialogue,"* held in Doha.

**November 2023****UNESCO General Conference**

7-22 November 2023, Paris, France

IAU Secretary General Hilligje van't Land gave a speech on the role of UNESCO in securing higher education for society. She emphasised the IAU's work to encourage intercultural dialogue, learning, and citizenship through higher education.



Photos above: IAU Secretary General Hilligje van't Land and John McCourt, Rector, University of Macerata at the opening of the academic year 2024. IAU Deputy Secretary General Andreas Corcoran speaking with Stefania Gianinni, UNESCO Assistant Director General for Education, at a reception at the United States Embassy to France. IAU Secretary General and Board Members at the UNESCO Chairs Conference on Transforming Knowledge for Africa's Future.



Learn more about IAU at Events:  
[www.IAU-AIU.net/IAU-at-events](http://www.IAU-AIU.net/IAU-at-events)

# THEMATIC PRIORITIES



## Values-based Leadership

*Strengthening capacities of leaders to maximise positive impact of universities.*

Leadership, as a core aspect of quality higher education, is vital for enabling institutions to respond to complex challenges successfully and to bring about social transformation. Higher education leadership must be underpinned by values and responsibility; it must also constantly evolve in order to address emerging challenges and opportunities. The IAU priority on Value-based and Globally Engaged Leadership aims to foster exchange of ideas and experience and offer capacity building opportunities for university leaders.

IAU endeavours to strengthen the capacities of university leaders and enhance cooperation among HEIs across the world. Thought leadership for university leaders as part of a truly global discourse is what the IAU offers its members at its conferences, webinars, and in publications. It fosters exchange on the most pressing issues of concern to higher education. Moreover, capacity-building for university leaders is central to the IAU's work, one such example is the IAU Executive Leadership Programme (ELP).

### Leadership Working Group

This year, the Leadership Working Group met three times to discuss the general direction of the priority area and focused in particular on three areas: the design of the IAU Executive

Leadership Programme (ELP), the development of the IAU President's Forum at the IAU 2024 International Conference, a discussion on how the IAU could offer additional support and exchange between university leaders throughout the year, and whether to include aspects of university governance in the priority. The Secretariat wishes to extend its thanks to all members of the working group, and in particular to Patrick Deane, IAU Vice President and Chair of the Leadership Working Group.

### Executive Leadership Programme

The IAU 2023 International Conference in Doha marked the launch of the first edition of the IAU Executive Leadership Programme (ELP). The ELP had set itself the ambitious task to be radically global in its ambition to support university leaders across all higher education systems and types. Its intention is to empower university leaders to manage their institutions successfully and sustainably while navigating the contextual, ethical and political dimensions of university leadership. Guided by experienced current and former university presidents and other practitioners, the programme provides a framework with which to confront the big managerial, ethical, economic and societal questions universities face. Part of the attraction of the programme has been the lively peer-to-peer exchange and

Photo below: The first in person meeting of the 2023-2024 cohort of the Executive Leadership Programme.





learning between the 14 institutions in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, the Americas, the Middle East and North Africa, and Europe. This created unsuspected synergies, collaborations and new insights and demonstrated that a global capacity-building programme for university leaders can successfully straddle different higher education systems if the design of the programme is tailored around principles and best practices.

The first edition of the programme consisted of 10 modules taking place in person in Doha, online throughout the year, and concluded in Tokyo at the IAU 2024 International Conference upon presenting their capstone projects.

This first year of the programme has served as not only a learning experience for participants, but for the IAU as well. Planning for the second edition of the programme also began in early 2024. Intermittent review of the course and constructive consultations with the Leadership Working Group and the Administrative Board have led to slight changes to the programme format and content, including the introduction of two new modules on *Shaping Higher Education in an Increasingly Digital World* and *Forming Transformative Partnerships with Students* and restructuring the Action Learning Groups which accompany each module. The next edition of the programme will begin with three in person sessions in Tokyo at the 2024 International Conference.

**Advocacy** and thought leadership stand as a cornerstones of the IAU's commitment to quality higher education for the global common good, and they are embedded in the Association's mission to guide leaders of universities and other higher education institutions (HEI) worldwide.

Advocacy and thought leadership extend into all priority areas of work of the Association. Through joint projects, research endeavors and global collaborations, the IAU fosters a culture that promotes ethical principles, social responsibility and cultural diversity in academia.

By championing values such as inclusivity, integrity, and equity, the IAU inspires a global community of leaders, educators and administrators to embrace these ideals in their own institutions. In 2024, IAU advocacy efforts were particularly visible in our engagement with global events (page 10), as well as with regional and thematic ones.

In particular, meetings between members of the IAU Leadership team and government representatives from around the world provided excellent grounds for the Association to advocate for the right to and necessity of values based higher education. This work will be continued in the future.



### ➔ Priorities / Leadership

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IAU Leadership: <https://www.iau-aiu.net/Leadership>



## Internationalization for Society and the Global Common Good

*Promoting an inclusive, fair and ethical internationalization of Higher Education.*

### Internationalization Working Group

The Internationalization Working Group held two online meetings on 17 June 2024 and 10 September 2024 which were devoted to the finalisation of the new programme of advisory services in internationalization, following the Administrative Board decision at the IAU 2023 International Conference in Doha. The new programme: Higher Education Internationalization Advisory Services - HEIAS will be launched first in the IAU newsletter of November 2024 and then at the IAU International conference in Tokyo, 22 - 24 September 2024.

### Sixth edition of the Global Survey on Internationalization of Higher Education

On 2 April 2024, the report of the **6<sup>th</sup> edition of the Global Survey on the Internationalization of Higher Education** was published and officially launched through a webinar. The survey was a collaborative effort between the IAU and partner organisations. The full list of supporting organisations is available on the IAU website.

Photo below: 2024 meeting of the Network of International Education Associations (NIEA) in Toulouse, France.

The survey collected 722 unique replies from higher education Institutions in 110 countries and territories around the world. The data was analysed at both global and regional levels, and the results were summarised in a full report, an executive summary and in figures. The full report and the executive summary have been translated into French thanks to the support of the *Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie - AUF*.

Results have been presented at various conferences and events, both online and in-person, in different regions of the world. Notably, two dedicated webinars were organised to present the results for Asia & Pacific and the Middle East and North Africa.

### Partnerships for Internationalization

#### Network of International Education Associations (NIEA)

The Network of International Education Associations (NIEA), coordinated by the IAU, held two meetings in 2024 at the NAFSA and EAIE conferences in May and September 2024 respectively. Planning began in early 2024 for the third **Global Dialogue on Internationalization of Higher Education** to be held in South Africa, but the event was since cancelled as contributors continue to debate the advantages of an in person versus online event.



## Future of Internationalization Partnership (FIP) Project

The Future of Internationalization Partnership (FIP) is a three-year project that began in May 2021. Funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC), the project brings together The Center for International Higher Education (CIHE) at Boston College, the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (OISE) at the University of Toronto, and the IAU.

FIP aims to deepen theoretical understanding of how internationalization is changing in response to global pressures. During the third year, the project focused on conducting further analysis of select questions from the sixth edition of the IAU Global Survey on Internationalization, which address emerging issues on internationalization. The themes analysed included: international partnerships, the link between internationalization and sustainable development, and the link between internationalization and diversity, equity and inclusion. The project will end in 2025.

## COST Action - European Network on International Student Mobility: Connecting Research and Practice - ENIS

ENIS responds to the need for systematic interdisciplinary and international exchange of knowledge on theoretical frameworks, research methodologies, findings, and best practice examples, as well as translating scientific findings into recommendations for International Student Mobility - ISM practice. It does so by bringing together researchers in ISM from different academic fields as well as practitioners working at international offices at higher education institutions, national agencies and other governmental organisations, NGOs and student associations.

In 2024, Giorgio Marinoni, Manager HE and Internationalization and leader of the *ENIS Working Group 5: Connecting Research and Practice*, chaired a session at the ENIS annual conference in Tbilisi, 13 - 15 May. There, he presented some of the outcomes of the work of WG5. These outcomes include short articles published by practitioners in ISM in media, results of the needs analysis of researchers and practitioners, and exchange between researchers and practitioners. He also contributed to the thematic reviews conducted by WG1 on International Student Mobility, which is still ongoing and on the Impact of COVID-19 on Higher Education, which was submitted for publication in a special issue of "Comparative Migration Studies".

COST funding for the ENIS network will end in 2025 and the network is already discussing a sustainability plan for the future.

## Research project on Ukrainian students with refugee/migrant background at Higher Education Institutions in France

Thanks to the initiative of Kateryna Nakvatska, who was an IAU Internationalization intern between February and July



Photo above: Members of the ENIS Working Group, including IAU Manager for Internationalization Giorgio Marinoni, presenting their work at the annual EAIE conference.

2024, the IAU began a research project on the experience of Ukrainian students with refugee/migrant background at Higher Education Institutions in France. This qualitative research project is a follow-up project to the 6<sup>th</sup> IAU Global Survey on Internationalization and it is a cooperation between IAU and a research group at the Middle East Technical University - METU in Ankara, Türkiye. 21 Ukrainian students were interviewed, and the results of such interviews were analysed with the intent of publication of a scientific article in a peer-reviewed academic journal.

## Online Diploma on the Management of Higher Education Internationalization

In collaboration with the UNESCO Chair for Internationalization of Higher Education and Global Citizenship of the University of Guadalajara, the IAU is organising the second edition of the online diploma on the Management of Higher Education Internationalization. This second edition expanded the focus of the first from Latin America and the Caribbean by including two new regions: Africa and the Middle East.



## Priorities / Internationalization for Society and the Global Common Good

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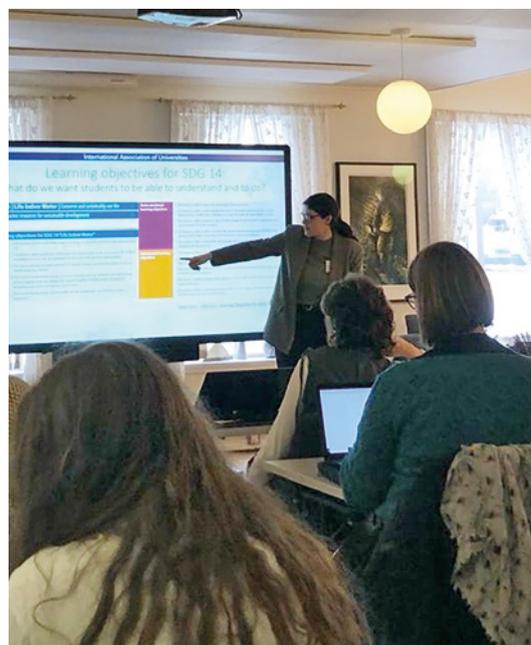
IAU Internationalization:

<https://www.iau-aiu.net/Internationalization>



## Sustainable development

*Strengthening the role of Higher Education for the UN Decade of Action for Sustainable Development and encouraging cooperation between HEIs.*



Photos above: Networking session at the IAU 2023 International Conference in Doha. IAU Programme Officer for HESD presenting at a workshop on teaching and learning for SDG 14 at the University of Bergen in February 2024.

**Initiatives undertaken in the context of the IAU thematic priority Higher Education and Research for Sustainable Development (HESD) include the following:**

### HESD Working Group

To achieve the goals set in the IAU Strategy 2030, the HESD actions are structured around key activities and communicating with the Membership and partners beyond. IAU HESD work is supported by experts from the IAU HESD Cluster and the [HESD Working Group \(WG\)](#). The WG chaired by Prof. Jouhaina Gherib met on 6 October and 6 November 2023 and approved the Cluster Terms of Reference (see above) during this meeting. The second meeting took place on 6 June 2024.

### IAU HESD Cluster: fostering peer-to-peer learning

Initiated in early 2018, the [IAU Global Cluster on HESD](#) brings together around 70 universities around the globe, including 16 'Leads' coordinating the work per SDG. The IAU leads on SDG 17: Partnerships for the goals. In the past year, two main IAU HESD Cluster Meetings took place virtually on 25 and 26 March, and on 27 September 2024, in addition to various meetings in the sub-groups online and in-person. During the sessions, the Cluster members presented current activities and

discussed possible joint projects. The IAU has developed [Terms of Reference](#) for Cluster Members and issues upon request Cluster Certificates. The Cluster Activity Report 2023-24 can be found [here](#).

### Responsible Futures International

After the first seven institutions kicked off the international pilot in October 2023, the [IAU- SOS UK Responsible Futures International Programme](#) has been engaging students and staff through online meetings and communication activities ('Spotlights'), working towards the institutional audits concluding the first programme cycle. The achievements of the pilot group will be presented at the IAU International Conference 2024.

### Publication with UNESCO, ESD Net Engagement and UN High-Level Political Forum (HLPF)

#### IAU leads on UNESCO ESD Publication

The IAU has been commissioned by UNESCO to develop a new publication on the Whole-Institution Approach (WIA)

in the context of Education for Sustainable Development (ESD). Through a consultation in the spring of 2024, the IAU Network provided input for the drafting process. In May 2024, the IAU facilitated a UNESCO Webinar on the WIA ESD, which also contributed to the consultation for this publication. The publication will be tested through action research and published in 2025.

### ESD for 2030 Global Network

The IAU is a partner in the [ESD for 2030 Network](#), following the UNESCO GAP ESD, and launched at the [UNESCO World Conference on ESD](#) in 2021. The IAU supports the Berlin declaration and the ESD for 2030 Roadmap.

### UN High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) 2024

The IAU actively participated during the HLPF 2024 for the sixth consecutive year, providing information to its Members and mobilising higher education for SDGs. Highlights included an official side event with the University of Bergen and the International Science Council (ISC) ISC, titled "[Empowering Communities: Innovations in Local Air Monitoring for Sustainable Development amidst Multiple Crises](#)," the [HESI Global Forum](#), and IAU partner SULITEST's side event presenting survey results on "[Faculty Perception for Sustainability in HE](#)". Representing the IAU, Principal Investigator Kerry Ryan Chance of the Habitable Air project [spoke during the session](#) "Science, technology and innovation: Triggering transformation and sustaining science-driven solutions" on the urgent issue of air pollution and how this impacts on climate change and public health. See here an [overview](#) of the IAU at the HLPF.

### Other events of importance for HESD included:

- ▶ **SDG 14 Workshop at the University of Bergen:** In February 2024, IAU Programme Officer for Sustainable Development Isabel Toman was invited by the University of Bergen to [present IAU's HESD initiatives](#) and take part in the discussions around the revision of the Biology Masters programme to align with Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) and the SDGs.
- ▶ **IAU sessions at SDG Bergen conference:** The first of these two sessions focused on "A Whole-Institution Approach for ESD and the SDGs" and was organised in collaboration with SOS UK. The second session asked the question "[Which Transitions are Needed to Integrate SDGs in Higher Education?](#)" and was co-organised with UiB and the SDG 14 subcluster.
- ▶ **IASAS Summit:** IAU Vice President Jouhaina Gherib delivered a keynote on "Universities and Sustainable Development: Lessons from a third mission in the spotlight" at the [IASAS Global Summit](#) in Korea in May 2024.
- ▶ **Jean Monnet Network Conference:** IAU Programme Officer for Sustainable Development Isabel Toman spoke on a panel

on Higher Education and the SDGs in late June 2024 at the [Jean Monnet Network Conference](#) organised by RMIT Australia. During this session, she presented the IAU's work in the context of the conference theme "Time is Running Out! Systemic, Disruptive Innovation to Achieve the SDGs."

- ▶ IAU Members and partners participated at the [UN Summit of the Future \(SOTF\)](#) in September and contributed to a [Statement](#) by the Education and Academia Stakeholder Group.

## Partnerships

The IAU HESD work supports UNESCO initiatives, in particular the ESD initiatives, The Futures of Education and Higher Education initiatives. Furthermore, IAU works in synergy with partner networks to further enhance the work on HESD.

### Other HESD Projects in the period under review include:

- ▶ **University World News:** The IAU partners with UWN for the [UWN SDG Hub](#), opening up stronger visibility to IAU and its members working on SD.
- ▶ **UNESCO's Greening Education Partnership:** As a partner, the IAU attends working group meetings and stays informed on UNESCO engagement for ESD and at COP, and was invited onto the board of the UNESCO IOC Ocean Decade NGO Task Group (SDG 14).
- ▶ **Regional Centres of Expertise on ESD:** IAU sits on the Ubuntu Committee of Peers and advises the RCE network. IAU Secretary General Hilligje van't Land attended the online RCE Meeting in Tokyo in December 2023.
- ▶ **Sulitest and SDSN France:** Hilligje van't Land is on the leadership council/advisory board and IAU in close contact with both.
- ▶ IAU is working with other partners in HESD including UNODC, UNU-RCE, Sulitest, SDSN, ACU, EAUC, Oikos, MECCE and the **HESI (Higher Education Sustainability Initiative)**.



### Priorities / Sustainable Development (HESD)

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IAU Global Portal on HESD: [www.iau-hesd.net](http://www.iau-hesd.net)



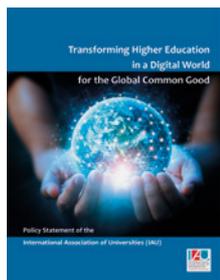
# Digital transformation of higher education

*Harnessing the potential of technology to improve access to quality higher education.*

## Digital Transformation Working Group

The working group on digital transformation, composed of Administrative Board members and chaired by Mohd Hamdi Abd Shukor, former Vice-Chancellor of the University of Malaya, Malaysia, provided strategic guidance for the activities within the priority of Digital Transformation. This year saw the implementation of new initiatives and the relaunch of the institutional site visit programme. The main achievements are highlighted on these pages.

### 1) Normative function



#### The IAU Policy Statement:

[Transforming Higher Education in the Digital World for the Global Common Good](#), adopted during the IAU 16<sup>th</sup>

General Conference in 2022, continues to be the guiding framework for the different actions and activities which are implemented by the IAU. It outlines essential values and principles that

must underpin digital transformation. The IAU continues to nurture a shared commitment to building a human-centred, ethical, inclusive and purpose-based digital transformation of higher education for the global common good.

### Open Science Expert Group

**EXPERT GROUP  
OPEN SCIENCE**  
FOR THE FACILITATION OF PEER-  
LEARNING AND EXCHANGE OF  
EXPERIENCE



The Open Science Expert Group began working together in October 2023. The +20 members have met regularly over the past year to identify the key opportunities and challenges for universities in the transition to Open Science. Framed by the UNESCO Recommendation on Open Science, the Expert Group has developed a report that aims to support university leadership in promoting and contributing to the transition towards Open Science at the institutional level. The Expert Group provides advice and recommendations in terms of how universities play an essential role in leading as well as shaping this transformation. It also identifies different tensions and issues at stake for universities and it uncovers how important it is to collaborate at the global level to ensure a fair and inclusive implementation of the Open Science principles.

## 2) Monitoring function

After several years of rapid digital transformation particularly accelerated by the COVID-19 pandemic, the IAU is pleased to have launched the second Global Survey on Digital Transformation of Higher Education to monitor the current state of play. The questionnaire was developed in collaboration with an International Advisory Committee.

The questions of the survey cover multiple themes that most higher education institutions around the world are confronted with:

- ▶ Leveraging Digital Developments: How can digital advancements be harnessed to enhance teaching and learning and meeting the changing expectations of students?
- ▶ Exploring Generative AI: How to explore the benefits of generative AI while limiting the risks?
- ▶ Embracing Open Science: Is Open Science a priority for the institution, and if so, how to implement it in practice?
- ▶ Ensuring Cybersecurity and Data Privacy: Are the necessary measures in place to ensure a safe online environment and protect the data privacy of both staff and students?

The aim of the survey is to assess how ongoing technological developments are contributing to broad transformations in higher education. Participation from higher education institutions worldwide is essential to ensure that we have ample data to monitor current trends both globally and across the different world regions. The data collection is open until 1 December 2024 and the publication is foreseen towards the end of 2025.

Learn more: <https://www.iau-aiu.net/technology>

## 3) Capacity Building and Peer-to-Peer Learning

### Institutional Site Visits

The IAU was pleased to relaunch the Institutional Site Visit programme this year. The programme aims to foster sharing of knowledge and experience among Members and to allow participants to acquire new insights on how to leverage the digital transformation in higher education.

This year the IAU met at Utrecht University, the Netherlands to discuss Open Science. The IAU brought together a group of 25



Photo above: Participants at the Open Science site visit to Utrecht University.

participants who joined the two-day meeting. Utrecht University organised an extraordinary lineup of staff from different parts of the university to share their experiences in the implementation of Open Science principles across the institution: from the important role of the library, to data stewards supporting staff with the necessary tools and information, it included examples of transformation towards Open Education and Community Engagement in science. The Site Visit moreover demonstrated the importance of reconsidering the structure of positions, including the rewards and recognition schemes and how metrics and rankings can be counterproductive to Open Science aspirations which in the case of Utrecht University led to a decision to withdraw from the THE Ranking.

The two-day programme enabled participants to gain insights into the impressive transformation that Utrecht University has undertaken over the past years to embrace the principles of Open Science leading to stimulating conversations among participants. The experience at Utrecht University showcased to what extent that commitment and engagement from all levels of the institution is crucial across the different faculties. Bringing together and recognizing the important contributions of staff regardless of function or status and rewarding them for their contributions to the global vision set out for the institution is key to support the shift in organisational culture.

Stay tuned for more information about the next Institutional Site Visit.

### Universities and the Interplay of Human Intelligence and Generative AI



The widespread distribution of generative AI has raised many questions for higher education institutions to address, spanning a wide spectrum of visions from utopian ideals to dystopian scenarios. To shed light on what is at stake for higher education, the IAU devoted the 'In Focus' section of its bi-annual magazine IAU Horizons to the topic: Universities and the Interplay

between Human Intelligence and Generative AI. While

generative AI has caused quite a stir, numerous authors remind us that this is a natural reaction when society is exposed to new technological advancements that inherently challenge established procedures and practices. In addition, these developments also bring another complex question to the forefront: what does it mean to be human? Throughout the selection of articles, there is a common trend to view the impact of AI from a dual perspective outlining the opportunities alongside the risks. Striking a nuanced and informed balance in the trade-off between these is the current quest for higher education. In the same manner, many authors also remind us that human steering of generative AI becomes essential to proactively design how to use the technology to serve humanity.

Discover the full set of articles in the magazine available on the IAU website.

In addition to the magazine, the IAU International Conferences remain a space where IAU fosters debate on how Generative AI is impacting universities. The IAU will continue to foster debate and dialogue around the potential opportunities and adverse effects of AI in higher education by bringing together voices from all regions of the world to raise awareness as well as generate mutual understanding of potential benefits and obstacles in different parts of the world.

### 4) Advocacy

The IAU continues to participate in events to present on digital transformation in higher education. Beyond presenting the data from the monitoring projects, it is also an opportunity to advocate for the principles and values outlined in the IAU Policy Statement.



#### ➔ Priorities / Digital transformation

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IAU Digital Transformations:

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# IAU Webinar Series

1 October 2023 to 30 September 2024

Throughout the past year, the IAU continued its [Webinar Series: The Future of Higher Education](#). This webinar series, first developed in 2020, has grown to include over 70 webinars. This year's topics ranged from **universities' role in society in fostering democracy, women in university leadership, the trends and future of internationalization,**

**to education for sustainable development.** This year, the Association produced **9 webinars** which welcomed **58 speakers** from around the world. The IAU extends thanks to its many partners for the collaborative webinars produced this year: the Council of Europe, the European Women Rector's Association (EWORA), the Boston College

## Discover the latest webinars:

### Knowledge Diplomacy in a Changing World (24 October 2023)

This webinar was jointly presented by the IAU and the Centre for the Study of Higher Education (CSHE) at University College Dublin (UCD). In the past, science and cultural diplomacy were seen as an important contribution of universities. Now, the focus is shifting to knowledge diplomacy, emphasising education, research, and innovation. This webinar discussed how the development of relationships with diverse groups outside of the university has become increasingly important.

### MCO - IAU Webinar on Engagement with Civil Society – Experience from Latin America (6 December 2023)

The 'university extension' movement is currently undergoing a revival that is contributing to the democratic mission of the university. It takes different forms and has different names – extension, engagement, linkages, solidarity service learning, participatory action research, social responsibility, etc – but, they all share a common purpose, namely, to place the traditional teaching and research functions of the university within the overall context of the community and society in which it operates. With first-hand perspectives from Latin American countries, the webinar aims to showcase how the university can engage with local communities.

### IAU-UOC Webinar: The Mental Health Crisis - Building Resilience in a Changing World (16 Nov 2023)

Despite the WHO's announcement that the COVID-19 pandemic was no longer a public emergency in May 2023, many challenges persist, including the increase in mental health issues. Current health systems are having trouble matching the increase in demand related to mental health. Due to this, the IAU HESD Cluster on SDG 3: Good Health and Wellbeing has decided to focus on mental health within the higher education community. Experts from the Cluster discussed emerging trends on mental health across countries, lessons learned on how to support communities in uncertainty, new digital solutions, and the role that higher education and research play in the deployment of digital health tools.

### Global Cooperation Webinar on Higher education leadership for democracy, sustainability and social justice (25 January 2024)

This webinar launched the book "Higher Education Leadership for Democracy, Sustainability, and Social Justice" published by the Council of Europe as the 26<sup>th</sup> volume of its Higher Education Series. Several authors of the book were invited to share their viewpoints and discuss the need for higher education to influence and lead society to reinforce democracy, reverse extreme inequities, and build sustainability.

### IAU-EWORA: Tackling the Leaky Pipeline In Academic Leadership (5 March 2024)

In honour of International Women's Day 2024, the IAU and EWORA discussed the persisting challenges to gender equality in academic institutions, including invisible barriers that prevent women from progressing to senior positions. University leaders have the responsibility to implement policies that encourage and support staff in their professional development. Speakers included university leaders and experts in the field, who presented examples of good practice and shared their perspectives.

Center of International Higher Education (CIHE), the Asia-Pacific Association for International Education (APAIE), Qatar University, the eHealth Center at the Open University of Catalonia (UOC), and Universities4GoodHealth. IAU webinars are available on demand on the [IAU Youtube Channel](#) and may be used internally to catalyse informed conversations.

### **IAU Global Survey on Internationalization of Higher Education: Current Trends and Future Scenarios (2 April 2024)**

This webinar launched the publication of the 6<sup>th</sup> edition of the IAU Global Survey on the Internationalization of Higher Education. This edition received responses from 722 higher education institutions (HEIs) in 110 countries and territories. The report analyses the findings in order to present both global and regional trends. Furthermore, it compares current findings with data from the IAU's previous Global Surveys on Internationalization in order to explore long-term changes occurring in the internationalization field.

### **IAU-CIHE: Virtual Internationalization: Global, Regional, and National Perspectives on Virtual Exchange and COIL (17 April 2024)**

This webinar brought together practices and debates on the emergent concept of virtual internationalization. Having left behind the assumption of virtual delivery as an emergency adaptation, virtual approaches to internationalization have emerged as innovations that complement other approaches. While many practices and approaches, such as Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL) and Virtual Exchange, have flourished recently, this webinar brought forth a dialogue of global, regional, and national perspectives.

### **Internationalization of Higher Education in Asia & the Pacific: Current Trends and Future Scenarios (27 June 2024)**

The Asia-Pacific region is incredibly diverse, with a vast array of cultures and education systems. To capture these varied perspectives, this webinar, co-organised with the Asia-Pacific Association for International Education (APAIE), explored internationalization trends in Asia Pacific, drawing insights from the results of the 6<sup>th</sup> IAU Global Survey on internationalization. Experts from key countries in the region discussed these findings, providing a comprehensive overview of the current state and future directions of internationalization of higher education across Asia and the Pacific.

### **IAU & Qatar University: Internationalization of Higher Education in the MENA Region: Current Trends and Future Scenarios (3 September 2024)**

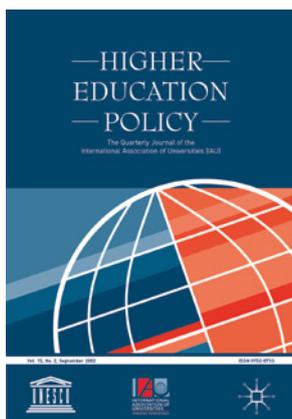
The Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region is very heterogeneous, both in terms of the socio-economic status and political stability of the region's countries. This diversity impacts the quality of each countries' higher education sector and its internationalization policies. To reflect on these contrasting perspectives, this webinar investigated internationalization in the MENA region. The webinar, co-organised with Qatar University, welcomed experts from major countries in the region to discuss relevant trends for the region emerging from the results of the 6<sup>th</sup> IAU Global Survey on internationalization.

 Learn more about the series and discover past sessions:  
<https://iau-aiu.net/IAU-Webinar-Series-on-the-Future-of-Higher-Education-929>

## KNOWLEDGE HUB

### News and Publications

#### Higher Education Policy Journal



Higher Education Policy (HEP) is the Association's premier research publication and is now on its 37<sup>th</sup> volume. It is an international, peer-reviewed journal covering theoretical, empirical, and practice-based research. From case studies of developments of individual institutions to broad examination of policy-making at the system, national and regional levels, the journal has a comprehensive span. Four issues were published in the 2023-2024 financial year (36.4, 37.1, 37.2, 37.3). The latest issue (37.3) contains articles on various institutional policies, industrial and North-South partnerships, the lasting effects of COVID-19, support mechanisms, and academic career mobility.

#### IAU Horizons



Published twice a year, *IAU Horizons* features the Association's activities, upcoming events, strategic priorities, Member news, and recent IAU publications. Each issue features a special 'In Focus' topic of interest and provides diverse perspectives from around the world. The latest edition, Vol. 29, n.1, was dedicated to *Universities and the Interplay of Human Intelligence and Generative AI*, and the topic for Vol. 28, n.2 was *Countering Global Strife Through Interculturality*.

#### Sixth edition of the IAU Global Survey on Internationalization of Higher Education: Current Trends and Future Scenarios



In January 2023, the IAU launched the 6<sup>th</sup> edition of the Global Survey on Internationalization of Higher Education. The report was published on 2 April 2024 alongside a webinar. The survey received responses from 722 higher education institutions (HEIs) in 110 countries and territories, and the report analysed the findings to present both global and regional trends.

Furthermore, the report compares current findings with data from the IAU's previous Global Surveys on Internationalization to explore long-term changes in the internationalization field.

#### HESD Cluster Activity Report 2023-2024

The [fourth comprehensive report](#) encompasses the IAU HESD Cluster's activities for 2023-2024. The report highlights the efforts of Cluster members using research, events, and industry collaborations to advance the Sustainable Development Goals. Additionally, it includes a newly introduced Terms of Reference for Cluster Membership.

#### Newsletter

Published ten times a year, the IAU Newsletter keeps Members and partners updated on initiatives and opportunities for engagement in the work of the Association. It furthermore highlights Members' news and global learning opportunities. Members are invited to share the Newsletter internally and in their networks as appropriate.



**Publications**

Contact: [iau@iau-aiu.net](mailto:iau@iau-aiu.net)

IAU Publications: <https://www.iau-aiu.net/Publications>

## Member News

The IAU is proud to share the news and accomplishments of our Members and partners with our diverse network of higher education stakeholders. Members benefit from the opportunity to share their updates on both the IAU website and in our monthly newsletter. They are moreover able to advertise their events in the IAU Global Calendar and showcase their initiatives on specialized IAU global portals.

## IAU in the News

Over the past year, the IAU has been pleased to have been featured in a number of press outlets and news stories. Most prominently featured have been the IAU's research on HESD and Internationalization, as well as IAU global events. *University World News*, with whom the IAU partners for their SDGs Hub, has featured the IAU in many of their articles throughout the past year.

## Global Portal on HESD



The [IAU HESD Global Portal](#) is a tool developed by the IAU for its Members, partners, and the general public. It provides access to university actions and more initiatives developed around the world to promote sustainability and contribute to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). First created in 2012 and launched at the IAU 14<sup>th</sup> General Conference in Puerto Rico, it was relaunched with additional features at the IAU 2023 International Conference in Qatar. This version features new functionality and an improved layout. The IAU HESD Portal constantly improves and integrates content submitted by IAU Members and partners and collected via desk-based research. Members and partners are invited to contribute relevant content to the network. While some services are offered on a priority basis for IAU members, the portal is openly accessible online. We look forward to receiving your contributions, questions, and input from the HESD team.



**Global Portal on HESD**

Contact: [iau3@iau-aiu.net](mailto:iau3@iau-aiu.net)

Portal: <https://www.iau-hesd.net/>

## World Higher Education Database (WHED)

The IAU has been collecting and publishing data on higher education systems and institutions around the world since its inception in 1950. This data is currently published via the World Higher Education Database (WHED). The portal is freely available to all and provides information on the education systems of 196 countries and territories as well as on 21,422 institutions. You can see the breakdown by region below:

Region	Institutions	% of Global HEIs
Africa	1927	9
Asia Pacific	7232	34
Europe	4151	19
Latin America & Caribbean	4442	21
Middle East	958	4
North America	2712	13
Total	21422	100

The updating cycle for Africa is currently underway and is due to be completed for the first half of 2025. Current statistics show that just under 60% of institutions are privately funded, which is slightly more than the global average of 57%. It should be noted that these are preliminary figures and the IAU will have a clearer



In collaboration with:



picture of institutional funding, as well as other indicators, once the updating cycle is finished.

The WHED portal continues to include a unique identifier (the Global WHED ID) for each institution listed. These identifiers are being increasingly integrated into internal information systems and have become a vital tool in international higher education surveying and they have been used by various IAU partners and HE stakeholders. A new development this year is the deployment of permalinks for each institution listed in the WHED – these can be used in institutional communications and they make for easy identification of institutions in the WHED.

The IAU continues to provide data extractions, and these are frequently being used for research and by institutions to create student admission and HR onboarding systems.



**WHED**

Contact: Nicholas Poulton ([centre@iau-aiu.net](mailto:centre@iau-aiu.net))

IAU WHED: [www.WHED.net](http://www.WHED.net)

# MEMBERSHIP

## 606 Members on 30 September 2024

Membership is at the heart of IAU’s mission. The Association is committed to engage with Members of the higher education community from around the world to foster strong higher education systems and institutions around the world. Information on Membership Fees and on How to apply is available online: <https://iau-aiu.net/Join-IAU>

Types of IAU Members:

- ▶ Institutions
- ▶ Organisations
- ▶ Affiliates
- ▶ Associates

The IAU is funded primarily through its Membership fees and depends on these funds to effectively carry out its activities, including its online webinar series and thematic debates, events and conferences, publications, projects and other initiatives.

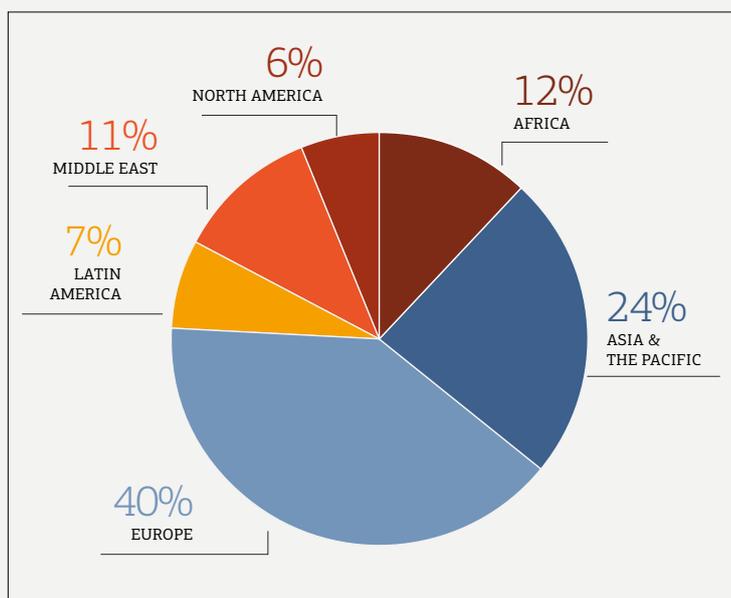
The Members’ strong engagement and financial contributions are vital for the association. It is thanks to its Members’ commitment that the IAU exists and continues to act as the global voice of higher education. IAU institutional membership is open to institutions whose main objective is higher education and the development of knowledge.

➔ Learn more about IAU Membership Benefits and how to join on the IAU website: <https://www.iau-aiu.net/Benefits-commitments>

### Membership Categories and Numbers

The following charts present the breakdown of IAU Membership by types of Members and geographic regions for the period of 1 October 2023 to 30 September 2024.

**Figure 1** – Geographical distribution of IAU Members Institutions (as of 30 September 2024)



**Table 1** – Number of members per category

Member Type	Amount 2024 (as of 30 Sept)
INSTITUTIONS	539
ORGANISATIONS	27
AFFILIATES	21
ASSOCIATES	19
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>606</b>

# New Members

## Institutions

Universidad Empresarial Siglo 21 Argentina	
Monash University Australia	
University of Canberra Australia	
Botswana University of Agriculture and Natural Resources Botswana	
Federal University of Minas Gerais Brazil	
Constructor University Bremen gGmbH Germany	
Assam Down Town University India	
Indian Institute of Management Visakhapatnam India	
Hidayatullah National Law University India	
State Islamic University Syarif Hidayatullah Jakarta Indonesia	
Tishk International University Iraq	
Al-Balqa Applied University Jordan	
The University of Jordan Jordan	
Kazakh National Women's Teacher Training University Kazakhstan	
Avicenna International Medical University Kyrgyzstan	
Arab Open University - Lebanon Branch Lebanon	
Phoenicia University Lebanon	
Klaipėda University Lithuania	
Autonomous University of Guadalajara Mexico	

Mohammed VI Polytechnic University Morocco	
Foundation University Islamabad Pakistan	
Victor Babes University of Medicine and Pharmacy of Timisoara Romania	
University of the Western Cape South Africa	
Florida International University United States	

## Affiliates

Environmental Association for Universities and Colleges - EAUC United Kingdom	
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## Organisations

European Association of Institutions in Higher Education - EURASHE Belgium	
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We would like to extend a thank you to our Senior Fellows for collaborating with and supporting the IAU's efforts.

Eva Egron-Polak, Former IAU Secretary General

Diana-Camelia Iancu, Associate Professor, Public Governance and Dean, Faculty of Public Administration, National University of Political Studies and Public Administration, Bucharest, Romania

Jocelyne Gacel-Ávila, Catedra UNESCO, "Internacionalización de la Educación Superior y Ciudadanía Global", Universidad de Guadalajara, México

Stephen Sterling, Emeritus Professor of Sustainability Education at the Centre for Sustainable Futures, University of Plymouth, UK

Hans de Wit, Emeritus Professor of the Practice, Distinguished Fellow and Former Director of the Center for International Higher Education, Boston College, USA

Marcelo Knobel, Former Rector of the University of Campinas, Brazil

Hans-Georg van Liempd, Secretary of the University, Tilburg University, the Netherlands

# FINANCIAL REPORT

This Financial Report presents the figures for the IAU financial years 2023 (1 October 2022 to 30 September 2023) and 2024 (from 1 October 2023 to 30 September 2024).

INCOME (in K Euro)	2023	2024
Membership fees	1268	1 059
Programmes and activities	57	163
Knowledge hub, including reference publications	108	153
International Conferences	213	83
Other income	64	77
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>1710</b>	<b>1 535</b>
EXPENDITURE (in K Euro)	2023	2024
Programme and activities	13	90
Knowledge hub, including reference publications	100	90
International Conferences	187	47
Administrative Board and Executive Committee Meetings	49	25
Administrative and office costs	169	200
Staff cost (salaries, social charges, interns)	1090	990
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>1608</b>	<b>1 442</b>
<b>IAU Annual Financial Result</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>103</b>

## Explanatory notes:

### INCOME

IAU's income is generated through annual membership fees, project and initiative grants, contracts and IAU publications. All incomes are cost covering.

### EXPENDITURE

The Association's expenditures have been controlled tightly in order to retain a balanced budget. This has been possible by keeping personnel expenses and other administrative costs at a minimum, while ensuring funding for projects and initiatives.

### SPECIAL MEASURES

In light of geopolitical circumstances impacting higher education around the world, membership fees for 2023-24 had to be adjusted at times or waived when the local situation would justify this. We thank all Members for making this possible and for allowing IAU to continue its great work while remaining inclusive, supportive to those in need and globally representative, despite challenges to our budget.

## SPONSORSHIP/DONATIONS OPPORTUNITIES

IAU stresses the importance of higher education for society at large. It advocates for collaborative, multi-dimensional, equitable and fair cooperation among HEIs and stakeholders across the world; it focuses on sustainability in all that it undertakes and believes in quality higher education for the good of humanity.

If you wish to support our unique work at global level, please look at the different donate options online or contact us. Your contributions will allow the IAU to grow the global higher education community and develop programmes of relevance for all.

Thank you in advance for your support.

Contact: Andreas Corcoran ([a.corcoran@iau-aiu.net](mailto:a.corcoran@iau-aiu.net))

# PARTNERSHIPS

Beyond its institutional and organisational Membership, the IAU collaborates with a wide range of partners at both governmental and non-governmental levels. We are grateful to all our partners for their continued collaboration. The [IAU webpage on partnerships](#) provides brief insights into the projects in which the IAU engages with these partners.

## INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS

 COUNCIL OF EUROPE CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE	 Education Internationale Internationale de l'Éducation Internacional de la Educación Bildungsinternationale	 OEA OAS	 OECD	 THE WORLD BANK	 unesco United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
 unesco Institute for Lifelong Learning	 unesco	 iesalc unesco Instituto Internacional para la Educación Superior en América Latina y el Caribe	 UNODC United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime	 UNITED NATIONS UNIVERSITY UNU-IAS	 HESI Higher Education Sustainability Initiative

## INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL PARTNERS

 The Association of Commonwealth Universities	 ARES ACADÉMIE DE RECHERCHE ET D'ENSEIGNEMENT SUPÉRIEUR	 ASIA-EUROPE FOUNDATION	 CIMEA THE ART OF GOVERNANCE, ALTERNATIVE POLITICS	 COPERNICUS ADVANCED RESEARCH NETWORK ON HIGHER EDUCATION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT	 CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL HIGHER EDUCATION
 DAAD Deutscher Akademischer Austausch Dienst German Academic Exchange Service	 EAIE European Association for International Education	 Enic Naric	 ESN Erasmus Student Network	 GLOBAL STUDENT FORUM	 BSERVATORY
 MECCE MONITORING AND EVALUATING CLIMATE COMMUNICATION AND EDUCATION PROJECT	 NAFSA Connecting People. Changing the World.™	 nuffic meet the world	 REGIONAL CENTRE OF EXPERTISE ON EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT ACKNOWLEDGED BY UNITED NATIONS UNIVERSITY	 SCHOLARS AT RISK NETWORK	 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT SOLUTIONS NETWORK A GLOBAL INITIATIVE FOR THE UNITED NATIONS
 SOS STUDENTS ORGANISING FOR SUSTAINABILITY UNITED KINGDOM	 Sulitest Sustainability Literacy Tools & Community	 multirank			

# SECRETARIAT

The International Universities Bureau is the permanent Secretariat of the Association. The offices are housed at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris, France. Positions are reflective of the period of 1 October 2023 to 30 September 2024:



**Hilligje van't Land**  
Secretary General and Executive Director



**Andreas Corcoran**  
Deputy Secretary General



**Balkhisse Aidara**  
Accounting and Administrative Officer



**Saholi Andriambololo-Nivo**  
WHED Data Officer



**Margaret Harris**  
Communications and Media Officer



**Jessica Huang**  
Assistant, Administration and Membership



**Trine Jensen**  
Manager, HE and Digital Transformation, Publication and Events



**Giorgio Marinoni**  
Manager, HE and Internationalization Policy and Projects



**Craig Pettifor**  
IT Systems Administrator



**Nicholas Poulton**  
WHED Operations Coordinator



**Samuel Pousson**  
WHED Data Officer



**Isabel Toman**  
Programme Officer, Sustainable Development



**Georgeta Sadlak**  
Manager, Information Systems

### Secretariat Team Member Retirement

After a 26 year career at the IAU, Georgeta Sadlak retired from the IAU in March 2024. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to her for her dedication and invaluable contributions to the IAU during her career at the Association. Thank you, Georgeta, for your work over such a significant period of time which saw many changes to the sector of technology and higher education, a sector you helped us navigate with brio. Congratulations on your successful career, and we wish you an enriching retirement, Georgeta!

## INTERNS



**Tereza Matuchova**  
Events and Digital Transformation Intern



**Ruwayda Mohammed**  
Communications Intern



**Aryan Musleh**  
Strategic Communications Intern



**Kateryna Nakvatska**  
Internationalization Intern



**Léa Romain**  
HESD Intern



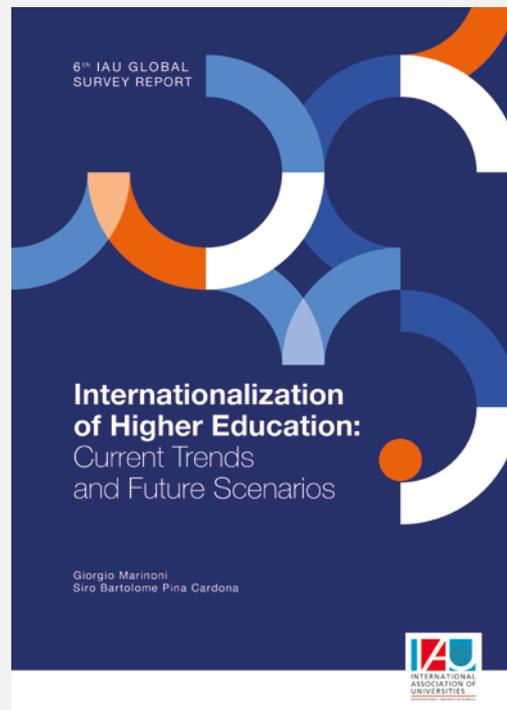
**Kevin Wong**  
HESD and Communications Intern

The IAU welcomes student interns to work with the IAU Secretariat for 2-6 month periods on specific projects.

“ The IAU 6<sup>th</sup> Global Survey on HE Internationalization represents a significant achievement at a time where the world and the notion of internationalization are increasingly fragmented. The report makes evident the contrasts and similarities across regions and therefore constitutes a significant instrument for university leaders to situate their own practices, approaches and assumptions about internationalization in a global context. ”

**Gerado Blanco**

Academic Director, Center for International Higher Education, Boston College



**IAU - INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITIIES / INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITIES BUREAU.** Servicing its institutional and organizational members and beyond, IAU provides a forum for building a worldwide higher education community, promotes exchange of information, experience and ideas, contributes, through research, publication and advocacy to higher education policy debate.

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21-23 October 2025

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IAU Global Meeting of  
Associations (GMA)

24 October 2025

[Meeting exclusively open to leaders of higher education organizations,  
associations and networks]

Hosted by the University of Rwanda

