

Getting Involved in U21 Activities and Events

Much of U21's activity is split into three clusters of engagement, representing the full breadth and depth of the network's vision, and the aims and goals it strives to achieve:

Educational Innovation

Academic Cluster Lead:

Professor Simon Bates
(University of British Columbia).

Manager: Lavinia Winegar-Gott
(U21 Senior Cluster Manager)

www.universitas21.com/link/EI

Aim: *To collaborate and share expertise and resources that address key issues in university education; to realise the benefits of research-inspired teaching and facilitate the development of innovative approaches to teaching and learning.*

The highlight of the EI Cluster is its very popular annual conference, based on contemporary educational themes, to which each member can send up to three senior delegates (normally the VP/PVC Education, other senior academic leaders and/or the Director of Teaching and Learning). This cluster also encompasses the Deans of Education group which meets annually as part of the American Educational Research Association (AERA) meeting. The cluster's activity is overseen by a small steering group which meets face-to-face twice a year.

Researcher Engagement

Joint Academic Cluster Leads:

Professor T. S. Andy Hor
(University of Hong Kong).
Associate Professor Caroline Daley
(University of Auckland).

Manager: Dr Christina Mellor

www.universitas21.com/link/RE

Aim: *To support the development of a global perspective in emerging researchers and early career academics and to facilitate the development of international collaborations in research.*

The group supports the development of research students and researchers early in their careers, assisting them to develop collaborations through the Graduate Research Project Awards, Joint PhD Programmes and Early Career Researcher workshops, combining these with opportunities for Research Leaders and Deans/Directors of Graduate Studies to benchmark and co-operate at an international level. There are annual meetings for Research Leaders (VP/PVC Research); DDoGS (Dean/Director of Graduate Studies) and Research Collaborators (individuals working with VP/PVC Research on research collaboration). The cluster's activities are overseen by a small steering group who meet face-to-face annually.

Student Experience

Academic Cluster Lead:

Professor James Conroy
(University of Glasgow).

Manager: Bernice Molloy

www.universitas21.com/link/SE

Aim: *To deliver internationally-focused opportunities, both actual and online, which enhance student engagement, mobility and employability and help prepare students for life and work across international borders and cultural boundaries.*

Student-focused activities in this cluster include the annual U21 Undergraduate Summer School, the Undergraduate Research Conference, the on-line Global Ingenuity Challenge competition and traditional and non-traditional student mobility initiatives. This cluster also showcases the unique benefits and privileges that U21 students can expect to receive when visiting/studying in other U21 member universities in the network. The cluster's activities are overseen by a small steering group who meet face-to-face annually. There are a number of sub-groups and activities for staff in the cluster which include opportunities for those in the Student Mobility Network to come together on-line and around larger international professional meetings and for those involved in employability.

Other U21 Events and Activities

U21 AGM & Presidents' Meeting

This is the key 3-day event in the U21 calendar, attended by the university Presidents and Senior Leaders who meet both collectively and separately during the event to discuss key issues for international higher education, and to agree on the strategic directions for the future development of the network. This event consists of:

- 1. Senior Leaders' Meetings**
- 2. Presidents' Peer-to-Peer Meeting:** this allows Presidents/Vice Chancellors to come together to discuss shared matters of importance related to their key leadership role; this meeting is strictly restricted to Presidents and no delegation is allowed.
- 3. U21 Annual Symposium:** an interactive half-day event where attendees have the opportunity to explore contemporary topics in international higher education assisted by invited experts.
- 4. Annual General Meeting (AGM):** The short formal company business meeting, known as the U21 LBG AGM.

Health Sciences Group

The U21 Health Sciences Group was established in 2000 to provide a framework for Health Sciences faculty, within some U21 member universities, to explore opportunities for more specialized collaborative projects, information exchange and sharing of resources. This very active Group runs a number of projects in Health Sciences, an annual Conference and, in recent years, a student Summer School.

The U21 Health Sciences Group has a separate membership subscription. Membership of this group is optional and not all U21 members participate in the group. The Group is supported by its full-time manager Caroline Voisine who is based at the University of British Columbia. For more details on the health Sciences Group see:

webpage U21health.org

or email: caroline.voisine@universitas21.com

Finding out about U21 Events

Events that take place regularly around the network are always promoted via the events calendar on the U21 website. The event page also lists all upcoming Senior Leaders' Meetings.

www.univeristas21.com/events

Communications

Most of the communication within the network takes place electronically. The U21 website (www.universitas21.com) is a valuable source of up-to-date information about what's going on around the world. It contains details of all U21 meetings and events, and has dedicated pages on each of our key clusters of activity:

- **Educational Innovation**
- **Researcher Engagement**
- **Student Experience**

Please encourage your colleagues to visit the U21 website and make it a first port of call for gathering information. We are in the process of reviewing our website with a view to relaunching an enhanced version in 2018.

We publish U21:Connect, our e-bulletin, every month which contains news and events from around the network. This short publication is emailed to all Presidents and U21 Senior Leaders as well as those who have subscribed to it – you can invite colleagues to subscribe by asking them to fill in the form on our website:

www.universitas21.com/newsletter/signup

We encourage all Senior Leaders and members to put forward contributions for U21 publications– just email Ben Griffiths in the Secretariat:

ben.griffiths@universitas21.com

We also publish an Annual Review which gives a round-up of the year's activities. Our year runs from 1 November to 31 October and the Annual Review is available on-line early in the calendar year, while hard copies are distributed at the AGM. Examples of previous years' Annual Reviews are available at:

www.universitas21.com/link/newsletter

Finally, all Senior Leaders receive regular communications from the Provost with updates, items for action, follow up and matters of shared interest for the group.

Branding

If you would like to use the U21 logo at your institution please contact Ben Griffiths to obtain the images. We have a style guide which details the ways in which the various versions of the *Universitas 21* logos should be used by member institutions which can be found at:

www.universitas21.com/document/library

Social Media

U21 currently use Twitter as the main network social media platform. The page can be found via [@U21News](https://twitter.com/U21News) or via [#U21Network](https://twitter.com/U21Network). We encourage all senior leaders to engage in interaction with this profile through institutional channels as well as personal accounts and would encourage Senior Leaders to bring the U21 Twitter feed to the attention of those internal parties responsible for social media within their institution. U21 also have a dedicated LinkedIn page that we use for discussions before and during core business and cluster meetings, this page is available at:

<https://www.linkedin.com/company/universitas-21>

For further details, email Ben Griffiths in the Secretariat:
ben.griffiths@universitas21.com

Funding

Universitas 21 is not a traditional funding agency and does not run competitive processes to support specific projects and/or staff travel in individual member universities. However, each of the three key clusters (Educational Innovation, Researcher Engagement, Student Experience) has dedicated funds to support joint projects and initiatives that fit with their programmatic plans, approved by Presidents at AGM 2013.

Typically funded projects will include a number of members from at least two regions of the world, and are designed to add value to the U21 network as a whole. Projects should be able to demonstrate that they are supportive of cluster priorities or, if the project is from outside a cluster, clearly demonstrate the value of the work to the network and its objectives.

Those thinking of applying for financial support are strongly encouraged to discuss this informally with their own university U21 Senior Leader in the first instance. Applicants (or their Senior Leaders) should also discuss any projects with the relevant Cluster Manager prior to application. The Provost will also be happy to advise applicants.

Applicants need to ensure that their university is willing and able to administer and account for funds, should they be granted. All applications will require a rationale, a detailed budget and an undertaking to provide a post-project account, both financial and narrative. A copy of the Project Funding process and application forms are available on the U21 website at www.universitas21.com/document/library

Easy Guide to U21 Words, Phrases and Abbreviations

Academic Cluster Leads: Individuals who chair the three key cluster steering groups and represent the work of that area from an academic point of view. At present they are Professor Simon Bates (UBC) - Educational Innovation; Professor T.S. Andy Hor (HKU) and Associate Professor Caroline Daley (Auckland) - Researcher Engagement and Professor James Conroy (Glasgow) - Student Experience.

Annual General Meeting (AGM): The short formal company business meeting, known as the U21 LBG. This meeting forms part of the 3-day AGM & Presidents' Meetings. Confusingly, this event may also be referred to as the Annual Network Meeting or the Annual Presidential Meeting.

Annual Network Meeting/Presidential Meeting: The annual 3-day meeting of all U21 Presidents and Senior Leaders which includes joint and separate meetings for Presidents, Senior Leaders, a Symposium and a short AGM.

Annual Review: A formal review, published at the end of the year, showing the network's annual highlights. It is available online and in hard copy at the Annual Network Meeting.

Cluster: Way of describing the themes of collaborative, programmatic activity within U21.

Cluster Manager: The person within the U21 Secretariat who is responsible for the administration of each cluster's activity and supporting the Academic Leads.

Deans and Directors of Graduate Studies (DDoGS): One of the key groups working as part of the Researcher Engagement cluster, principally concerned with matters to support graduate education and researchers.

Early Career Researcher (ECR): Someone within eight years of the award of their doctorate.

ECR Workshop: Annual skills development workshop for researchers from similar research areas. The workshop is interdisciplinary and an opportunity to build international networks across traditional disciplinary boundaries.

Educational Innovation (EI): One of the key clusters of activity for U21, approved by Presidents at their meeting in Vancouver 2013.

Executive Committee (ExCo): A small group of Presidents appointed by the full board of Presidents to transact business between the formal meetings. The Chair of U21, Sir David Eastwood, University of Birmingham, also Chairs the ExCo.

Forum for International Networking in Education (FINE): A doctoral student networking initiative devised by and for students of education from U21 universities.

Gilbert Medal: An award, introduced in 2012 and named after U21's founder, Professor Alan Gilbert, given to a figure from outside the network in recognition of an outstanding contribution to the internationalisation of Higher Education. U21 Presidents nominate and decide upon each year's recipient.

Global Ingenuity Challenge (GIC): An on-line competition that challenges teams of undergraduate students to come-up with solutions to real-life issues.

Graduate Research Projects (GRP): Small project awards to enable doctoral candidates to develop and implement international research collaborations within the U21 network.

Health Sciences Group (HSG): The largest collaborative group in the U21 network, with their own dedicated executive office and website.

Joint PhD Agreement: An agreement signed by the majority of members in 2009 setting out a framework for the development programmes of study and research for doctoral students.

Limited by Guarantee (LBG): Usually used to describe the not-for-profit company which oversees the activities of U21 - *Universitas 21* LBG.

U21 Ranking of National Higher Education Systems: A research project running until at least 2017 with the research carried out by the University of Melbourne, published on the U21 website:
<http://www.universitas21.com/ranking>

Researcher Engagement (RE): One of the key clusters of activity for U21, approved by Presidents at their meeting in Vancouver 2013.

Research Leaders (RLs): One of the key groups operating within the Researcher Engagement cluster, made up of those with strategic, whole-institution oversight for research matters, for example DVC (Research), Vice President (Research) or similar.

SDG: UN Sustainable Development Goals

Student Experience (SE): One of the key clusters of activity for U21, approved by Presidents at their meeting in Vancouver 2013.

Student Mobility Network (SMN): The way in which Student Mobility Officers communicate with one another, either via an email distribution list (listserv) or face-to-face meetings.

Student Mobility Officer (SMO): The person nominated from each member university to collaborate on matters relating to student mobility, in particular cross network student short-term, semester and year-long exchange.

Steering Group: A group of individuals (normally senior academics) within each cluster who develop and oversee the cluster's activities from a practitioner perspective.

Three Minute Thesis (3MT®): A competition for doctoral students which was developed by the University of Queensland and is now run on a virtual basis, as the U21 3MT, for participating U21 members.

U21 Award: An award given to someone within the U21 network recognising a significant contribution to the internationalisation of Higher Education. Up to two awards are made each year, with nominations coming from peers around the network.

U21:Connect: The monthly e-bulletin sent out to over 6,000 people around the network and beyond.

U21 year: The U21 year (both financial and administrative) runs from 1 November to 31 October.

Undergraduate Research Conference (URC): Interdisciplinary conference held annually at which undergraduates present their research to fellow students from other disciplines, while receiving input and guidance from faculty.

Member Universities

Australia

University of Melbourne
University of Queensland
UNSW Australia

Canada

University of British Columbia
McGill University (up to November 2017)

Chile

Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile

China with Hong Kong (SAR)

Fudan University
Shanghai Jiao Tong University
University of Hong Kong

India

University of Delhi

Ireland

University College Dublin

Mexico

Tecnológico de Monterrey

New Zealand

University of Auckland

Singapore

National University of Singapore

South Africa

University of Johannesburg

South Korea

Korea University

Sweden

Lund University

The Netherlands

University of Amsterdam

United Kingdom

University of Birmingham
University of Edinburgh
University of Glasgow
University of Nottingham

United States of America

University of Connecticut
University of Maryland
The Ohio State University
(up to November 2017)

2017 Applicants

Japan

Waseda University

Switzerland

University of Zürich