

International Association of Universities (IAU)

For a worldwide higher education community

Founded in 1950 under the auspices of UNESCO, the International Association of Universities (IAU) is an independent international non-governmental organization. The permanent Secretariat of the Association is based in Paris, France.

IAU is a membership organization that brings together universities, other institutions of higher education and national and regional higher education associations from around the world. Its mission is to strengthen higher education worldwide by providing a global forum for reflection and action on common concerns.

The Association provides its Members, and in general all higher education stakeholders (decision-makers, specialists, administrators, teachers, researchers and students), a uniquely global platform for reflection and action, as well as a wide range of services. These include information (through the IAU/UNESCO Information Centre on Higher Education), research and analysis of latest developments in higher education (through different scholarly publications and reports), and advocacy of higher education institutions views on a number of key priority themes (through policy statements). IAU is also committed to building partnerships and networks between higher education institutions worldwide as well as with various international, regional and national bodies (through conferences and most recently the LEADHER Programme).

The Association upholds the values of academic freedom and institutional autonomy, whilst also promoting greater accountability, institutional responsibility and effectiveness, and the ideal of knowledge made accessible to all through collaboration, commitment to solidarity and improved access to higher education.

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