



UNITED NATIONS ACADEMIC IMPACT

Why Join?

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WHO WE ARE

United Nations Academic Impact (UNAI) is an initiative that unites institutions of higher education around the shared goal of using scientific inquiry, academic research and education to further the realization of United Nations goals and mandates. The initiative was launched in 2010 by then Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and brings together over 1600 institutions in more than 150 countries to promote higher education's contribution to human progress.

Members of UNAI are required to complete a minimum of one activity per year in support of at least one of the SDGs and/or one of the UNAI principles. In return for their active participation, UNAI provides a platform for connecting institutions with similar goals, serves as a resource for information on UN initiatives and activities of interest to the academic community, promotes the best practices and research of UNAI members, connects member institutions to UN entities who could benefit from their research and expertise and invites UNAI members to in-person and virtual events.



Universities are places that nurture incubation, exchange, innovation and interdisciplinary analysis, setting the pathway to change. From breakthroughs in COVID-19 vaccines, treatments, and therapeutics – to thought leadership brought to life by high-level experts and decision-makers coming from all sectors – universities are at the intersection of knowledge and action."

Amina J. Mohammed, Deputy Secretary-General of the
United Nations

21 APRIL, 2022

WHY JOIN UNAI?

BEING A MEMBER OF UNAI INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING BENEFITS:

VAST NETWORK

Access to a network of more than 1600 institutions in more than 150 countries

INVITATIONS TO UNAI EVENTS

Invitations to in-person and virtual events hosted or organized by UNAI, its Hubs and member institutions, and by the UN System

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Updates on UN activities, reports, research and commemorative days with ideas for activities you can implement in your classrooms, on your campus or in your community

SCHOLARSHIP AND CONTEST INFORMATION

Information on scholarships, fellowships and contests for college students and symposia, conferences, workshops and calls for papers for researchers and academics

PROMOTION OF YOUR CAMPUS

Have your campus activities and research showcased on UNAI platforms, including social media and the weekly newsletter with nearly 10,000 subscribers

USE OF THE OFFICIAL UNAI MEMBER LOGO

Use of the official UNAI member logo to hold conferences, workshops and events under the UNAI banner

CONNECTION TO UN REGIONAL OFFICES

Connect to UN regional offices for events and speakers in your area and much more!

NETWORK WITH THOUSANDS OF INSPIRING INSTITUTIONS

UNAI Membership opens doors to global academic collaboration. Featured here are some of our member institutions and the work they do to promote the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Ahfad University for Women (Sudan)

Conducts leadership training for women in the workplace and their role as social actors



University of Manitoba (Canada)

Collaborates with Indigenous communities on 3 projects for water and sanitation security

University of Bergen (Norway)

Developed a tool to strengthen science-based decision-making for ocean sustainability



University of Pretoria (South Africa)

Conducts crop research to increase food security and nutrition in African countries



FAQ ABOUT MEMBERSHIP

➤ WHO CAN JOIN?

UNAI is open to accredited degree-granting institutions of higher education including universities and colleges.

➤ DO YOU HAVE TO PAY TO BE A MEMBER OF UNAI?

There is no charge or membership fee to join UNAI, and UNAI does not ask members to spend money beyond the investments they make in the education of students and research.

➤ WHAT IS EXPECTED OF UNAI MEMBERS?

UNAI members are expected to engage in research, instruction, and other activities that advance the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and other goals and mandates of the United Nations.

Schools are expected to carry out at least one activity per year on campus that is aligned with these requirements and report to UNAI. An annual activity report is mandatory to maintain UNAI membership.

➤ WHAT ARE OTHER WAYS MEMBERS ENGAGE WITH UNAI?

Schools are invited to subscribe to our *weekly newsletter*, follow us on social media for updates (@ImpactUN on Facebook and Twitter and United Nations Academic Impact on LinkedIn) and check out articles, podcasts and videos on our website.



FAQ ABOUT MEMBERSHIP

➤ **HOW CAN I CHECK WHETHER MY SCHOOL IS ALREADY A MEMBER OF UNAI?**

The current list of members of UNAI can be found on our website (Home>About UNAI>Our Members). Please check this list before submitting an application to ensure that your school is not already a member of UNAI.

➤ **WHAT ORGANIZATIONS ARE NOT ELIGIBLE TO JOIN UNAI?**

UNAI membership is not open to primary or secondary schools, Model UN organizations, civil society and non-profit organizations, or private sector companies. If you are a civil society organization please check with the UN Civil Society Unit to see if you are eligible to affiliate with the UN through them, and if you are interested in Model UN please check the Education Outreach Section's website for resources. If you are a private sector company interested in affiliating with the UN please check the website of UN Global Compact.

➤ **IF WE HAVE SEVERAL SCHOOLS AND PROGRAMS (INCLUDING GRADUATE PROGRAMS SUCH AS LAW, BUSINESS, OR MEDICAL SCHOOLS ETC.) SHOULD EACH SCHOOL JOIN?**

No, only the main campus should join, and all programs offered at the school are free to take part in UNAI activities under the umbrella of the main school.

➤ **ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS?**

Contact us at academicimpact@un.org

UNAI PRINCIPLES

- 1.** A commitment to addressing issues of poverty through education.
- 2.** A commitment to building capacity in higher education systems across the world.
- 3.** A commitment to educational opportunity for all people regardless of gender, race, religion or ethnicity.
- 4.** A commitment to encouraging global citizenship through education.
- 5.** A commitment to the opportunity for every interested individual to acquire the skills and knowledge necessary for the pursuit of higher education.
- 6.** A commitment to human rights, among them freedom of inquiry, opinion, and speech.
- 7.** A commitment to promoting intercultural dialogue and understanding, and the “unlearning” of intolerance, through education.
- 8.** A commitment to advancing peace and conflict resolution through education.
- 9.** A commitment to promoting sustainability through education.
- 10.** A commitment to the principles inherent in the United Nations Charter.

READY TO JOIN THE

United Nations 
Academic Impact

FAMILY?

Access the enrollment form here:



<https://www.un.org/en/academic-impact/unai-partner-institution>

