



UNICA online Student Conference 2021

"Transforming Your University in the post COVID-19 age"

Promoted by NOVA University Lisbon

19 - 21 July 2021

Regular updates will be available on the event webpage:

<https://www.unica-network.eu/event/unica-student-conference-2021/>

Guidelines for UNICA member Universities

Version as of 10 March 2021

Introduction

Initiated in 2000 by Freie Universität Berlin, the **first university to advocate the involvement of students in the activities of the network**, the UNICA Student Conference is now an established and joyful UNICA tradition. The Conference gathers every 2-3 years **200 to 300 students from UNICA Member universities** whose enthusiasm and ideas bring a breath of fresh air to the network.

The Conference provides students with a unique possibility of meeting their peers from other European countries and to share their views on meaningful issues related to HE. **Students are also encouraged to formulate opinions and recommendations that can be voiced within the UNICA network as well as to relevant stakeholders and give rise to new challenging initiatives.**

Topics

The main theme of the Conference **"Transforming Your University in the post COVID-19 age"** will be addressed in the **ten discussion Fora** listed below, which will be chaired by representatives of ESU, ESN, NOVA, and IYNF (International Young Nature Friends).

The Chairs will support the preparation of Student delegates, facilitate the forum discussion groups both during the preparatory meetings and the Conference, and contribute to the preparation of the outcomes.

Topics of the ten discussion Fora

1. Science in the city
2. Equal, diverse and inclusive universities
3. Europe's position in world's politics
4. Social media and European societies
5. More sustainable societies: the role of universities
6. International students: engaging with local communities
7. How can Universities and cities work together to improve students' life?
8. Formal and informal learning: Innovative pedagogical approaches prompted by the COVID-19 crisis
9. Inter-disciplinary and trans-disciplinary education
10. Jobs in the digital society: the role of universities



A description of the ten topics with examples of reference documents/suggested reading is available [here](#).

Steps to participate in the Conference

1. Nomination of the Academic Tutor and Contact Person

Each UNICA member university is kindly invited to appoint:

- **AN ACADEMIC TUTOR**

The Academic Tutor assists the students during their preparation for the Conference. A tutor also facilitates the contacts with other (academic and non-academic) experts in the field who could provide the students with guidance and advice during the preparation.

- **A CONTACT PERSON**

The Contact Person is responsible for practical matters regarding the conference (i.e. ensuring that the students are registered) and the contact with Organisers.

Academic tutor can also assume the role of the contact person. If a University's contact person is different from the academic tutor, it is very important that he/she stays in close contact with both students and the tutor and forward all the information he/she receives from the Organisers.



Please submit the information about the Academic tutor and the Contact person **as soon as possible (deadline was 5 February 2021)** via the registration forms available at <https://www.unica-network.eu/event/unica-student-conference-2021/>.

UNICA members who already appointed the Academic Tutor and Contact person before the postponement of the Conference to 2021 and wish to confirm the same names are kindly asked to register them again.

2. Selection of Student delegates

All UNICA member universities are invited to participate with a **delegation of up to 10 students per capital city**.

Please note that this general rule can be applied with some flexibility if necessary, especially for countries counting more than one UNICA member, **up to a maximum of 14 students per delegation**.

Universities based in the same capital city are warmly **encouraged to cooperate** (we will be happy to put in touch the ATs/CPs of those universities, upon request).

Eligible delegates are students who - at the deadline of 31 March 2021 – are enrolled to either last year of Bachelor studies, Master studies (any programme year), and PhD studies (any programme year). The proficiency in English is an essential requirement.

We encourage our Member Universities to select students based on motivation letters that explain the students' interest and motivation to attend the Conference and the added value, relevant knowledge and qualities they could bring to the meeting. Each University is free to add more criteria to these basic requirements.

3. Registration of Student Delegates

The Contact Persons should take care of registering selected students by 31 March 2021, by filling out the registration form available at <https://www.unica-network.eu/event/unica-student-conference-2021/>.

Please note that you will be required to indicate **a first and a second preference among the 10 thematic discussion Fora** for each student in the registration form.

Students from the same delegation are encouraged to cover **as many topics as possible**. It is also **recommended that no more than two Students per delegation should attend the same Forum**.

The organisers will do their best to accept the first choice of all Students. However, the second option could be assigned if the overall distribution of the students in the Fora is not balanced.

Based on the preferences expressed by the students, **UNICA will confirm the topic assigned to each student to the Contact Person/Academic Tutor appointed by each UNICA member**.

Roadmap and schedule of the Conference

In order to facilitate the preparation of Student delegates, allow them to meet and discuss ahead of the Conference, and make the most out of the event in July, the following **online activities will be proposed to Student delegates from mid-April to early July 2021** (precise dates will be communicated soon):

Dates	Activity	For Whom
Mid-April	Plenary session led by the Chairs of the Fora, who will give a presentation on each topic	All Student delegates
Late April to early June	Warm-up meetings with breakout rooms for each Forum. For the purpose of the warm-up meetings, the 10 topics of the Student Conference will be grouped under 4 general themes, as follows:	<i>Students will only need to attend the meeting on their specific topic, as specified below.</i>
Late April	Meeting 1: Relation/ Engagement between City and University	Students assigned to the topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Science & the City; • International students: engaging with local communities; • Jobs in the digital era: the role of Universities and cities
Mid-May	Meeting 2: Universities' Social and Sustainable Responsibilities	Students assigned to the topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equal, diverse and inclusive universities; • More sustainable societies: the role of universities; • How can Universities and cities work together to improve students' life?
Late May	Meeting 3: Policy	Students assigned to the topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Europe's position in world's politics; • Social media and European societies
Early June	Meeting 4: Educational Methods/ Approaches	Students assigned to the topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formal and informal learning: Innovative pedagogical approaches prompted by the COVID-19 crisis; • Challenges and opportunities of inter-disciplinary and trans-disciplinary education
Mid-June – early July	Lectures by experts followed by Q&A	All Student delegates
19 – 21 July	UNICA Student Conference Preliminary schedule (still subject to slight changes): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 19 July (afternoon): opening, welcome addresses; presentations of the videos • 20 July (full day): Student Fora • 21 July (morning): final discussions, presentation of the outcomes, closing 	All Student delegates

DOWNLOAD THE [GRAPHIC ROAD MAP](#)

Please note that **the activities organised before the Student Conference are not mandatory. However students should be encouraged to participate and contribute as much as possible** and each student **should attend at least the plenary session and the warm-up meeting on her/his topic.**

Preparation and documents to be submitted by the students

The Student delegations are encouraged to start the content preparation to the Conference under the supervision of their Academic Tutor as early as possible.

Once the distribution of students in the different Fora is confirmed, UNICA will put the students of each group in contact with the respective Chair, who will provide support and guidance for the preparation to the Conference.

Documents to be submitted by the Students



Short paper

Each student is requested to provide a short preliminary abstract of **minimum half a page and maximum 2 pages** on her/his analysis of the Forum theme and recommendations on how to overcome the existing challenges.

The students should structure the abstracts as follows: Introduction, Analysis, Conclusions and recommendations.

Deadline: papers should be submitted **not later than 18 April 2021.**

The abstracts prepared by the students will feed into the discussions of the warm-up meetings led by the Chairs of the Fora, and the students will have the opportunity to correct and finalize them before the final Conference.

→ Take a look at the [Abstract book of the UNICA Student Conference 2010!](#)



Short video

Each delegation is requested to prepare a **1-minute video on the main theme of the Conference: "Transforming your University in the post COVID-19 age".**

Deadline: 18 June 2021

Guidelines on the preparation of videos and the video competition will be available soon!

Resources

- A list of useful documents and links is available on the Student Conference webpage and will be regularly updated: <https://www.unica-network.eu/event/unica-student-conference-2021/>
- Promotion material is available here: <https://1drv.ms/u/s!AhqxmOZwL8RXhr8Z7ngoxA8p7F6LkA?e=GPWRU9>

Any queries? Contact us!

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