



## The Promise of Higher Education *70 Years of IAU (1950 – 2020)*

### Call for Book Contributions

The International Association of Universities has the pleasure of inviting its Members, partners, organizations, associates, and scholars to join in celebrating its 70 years. We are seeking contributions (1500 to 2500 words ca. three to five pages) to a celebratory book that deal with the themes highlighted below. Rather than academic articles, the book envisages short essays and thought-pieces, so please keep references to a minimum.

All submissions and abstracts will undergo a review process. Abstracts of 200-300 words should be submitted in English by 15 March 2020; selected contributors will be notified by 16 April 2020 and final submission of the essays is expected by 1 June 2020. The publication is foreseen for the end of October 2020 in time for a festive launch at the IAU 16th General Conference, to be hosted by University College Dublin in November this year.

#### Introduction

IAU was called into life in 1948 at the Preparatory Conference of the Representatives of Universities in Utrecht, convened by UNESCO. In his Opening Statement to the Conference, H.R. Kruyt, the Chair of the Commission, laid out the institutional *raison d'être* of the IAU as he called upon nations to recognise that: "*[t]he institutions of higher education throughout the world are an autonomous force in society. They should, therefore, have an autonomous organization ready and able to co-operate with the United Nations, with UNESCO, and with other international and academic bodies*".

Two years later, the constitution of the IAU was adopted and the Bureau founded. IAU has been the global voice of higher education ever since. The IAU is bound to the fundamental principles and obligations of higher education as listed in the Preamble of the Constitution, adopted in 1950. They remain as relevant today as they were seventy years ago:

*"Conscious of the fundamental principles for which every university should stand, namely: the right to pursue knowledge for its own sake and to follow wherever the search for truth may lead; the tolerance of divergent opinion and freedom from political interference;*

*Conscious of their obligation as social institutions to promote, through teaching and research, the principles of freedom and justice, of human dignity and solidarity; to develop mutually material and moral aid on an international level;"*

IAU advocates for academic freedom, institutional autonomy, social responsibility and international collaboration. In addition, IAU reaches out to higher education worldwide by continuously monitoring and updating the World Higher Education Database ([www.whed.net](http://www.whed.net)), which currently lists over 19,600 higher education institutions.

## The Promise of Higher Education. 70 years of IAU (1950-2020) - The Concept

To mark its 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, the IAU wishes to publish a collection of essays that focus on relevant themes and challenges in higher education over time by revisiting the past, analysing the present, and looking into the future. These essays will be published in a book and launched at the IAU 16th General Conference in Dublin. This book is also one of the IAU contributions to the [UNESCO Futures of Education Initiative](#)

**The editorial team welcomes proposals that address the following five broad topics:**

**Part I: The Legacy of 70 Years of IAU.** This part will consist of essays and testimonials which will introduce the reader to IAU's history, its mission and significant activities and events over time, as well as how the association positioned itself in its quest to promote academic partnership and solidarity among diverse, yet convergent societies and political systems. IAU would welcome contributions that reflect on how IAU and IAU Members have critically engaged with themes in higher education over the last seventy years and how they have helped shape the agenda and bring about change.

**Part II: Facilitating International Cooperation.** For the past seventy years, IAU has provided a global forum for debate, exchange and cooperation to leaders of higher education institutions and associations. This part of the Anniversary Book is dedicated to the IAU community, the experiences that have brought together cultures, led to the development of new partnerships and generated new projects and initiatives. Personal and institutional accounts of the internationalization dynamic and enduring projects were developed with the support of IAU, as well as cases of value-driven actions of IAU Members and their impact on good governance in higher education globally are warmly welcomed.

**Part III: Codifying the Values of Higher Education.** IAU advocates for academic freedom, institutional autonomy, social responsibility, solidarity and cooperation, tolerance, equity in access and access to knowledge, scientific integrity and ethical behaviour, and quality in learning, research and outreach. Contributors are invited to revisit the values of the IAU and critically reflect on what they might mean in the 21st century, how higher education features as a common good, whether it is true that it fosters fairness, diversity and inclusion. How do the values and the mission of the university fare in the face of current challenges, if and how universities can retain and safeguard academic and institutional integrity. I.e. contributions that make projections on how academic values may stand the test of time.

**Part IV: The Changing Landscape of Universities.** This part of the book invites contributors to discuss the challenges universities and other higher education institutions, researchers and educators face today; to reflect on the concept of constants and change in higher education in regard to its public mission and outlook; the digitization of HE and its impact on higher education; the social dimension of teaching and research and changes in the student experience. This part also invites thought-pieces on the role of universities in society (in all its aspects – civic, social, cultural and economic) and how universities contribute to a sustainable future. Of particular interest are contributions that tackle the ethical dimensions of scientific and technological innovation, as well as questions regarding governance of knowledge. In short, essays focusing on how universities react, adapt and actively shape transformation are particularly encouraged.

**Part V: The Promise of Education: the Future.** Papers should reflect on the value and relevance of universities in the future, look into how universities will actively shape the future and in what ways they will have to adapt and transform as institutions. What are the skills and knowledge-sets future students will require to successfully participate in a knowledge economy and solve political and social challenges? Papers are also invited to lay out the relevance of the arts and humanities in the future alongside the natural and technical sciences and how to foster future creativity, personal development and human growth. Additional questions could address the intercultural and soft skills required in an age of globalization and mobility; the future of internationalization and cooperation; moreover, we invite you to make bold suggestions on how higher

education will unlock further potential to serve the common good and empower humanity. higher education will unlock further potential to serve the common good and empower humanity.

## Submission process

Contributions are first to be submitted by 20/03/2020 in form of an abstract. Abstracts are to reflect the topics above and indicate the part for which the submission is made - suggestions for alternative topics are also welcome and will be considered.

All abstracts should be submitted in English. The expected length of the abstract is 200-300 words. Please include a biographical note and institutional affiliation (do not exceed 300 words).

Full papers will be solicited according to thematic suitability with consideration to regional and gender balance. Selected contributors will be invited to submit their full papers by 01/06/2020.

Please use <http://resource-cms.springernature.com/springer-cms/rest/v1/content/40204/data/v5> as the style guide for submissions.

Scheduled publication date: October 2020.

Calendar of the submission process
20/03/20 - Submission of abstracts and biographical note
16/04/20 - Notification of selected contributors
01/06/20 - Submission of full papers

Please submit the abstract and all other information here: <https://forms.gle/EFnwsALdBqCU1BHV7>

## Contact

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IAU does not offer remuneration for the submission of abstracts and/or published essays.

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