

U7+ Alliance of World Universities 2020 Presidential Summit

Q. What is the U7+ Summit?

A. The U7+ Summit is an annual meeting of the [U7+ Alliance of World Universities](#), the first coalition of university presidents aimed at defining concrete actions universities can take to collectively address global challenges in coordination with government leaders in G7 countries and beyond.

Q. How many U7+ Summits have there been?

A. This is the second U7+ Summit. The first was held in France last year at the Paris Institute of Political Studies, commonly referred to as Sciences Po, and included university leaders from 47 universities in Europe, Asia, North America, South America, Africa and Australia.

Q. When and where is the 2020 U7+ Summit?

A. Northwestern University will host the 2020 U7+ Presidential Summit virtually due to public health considerations as well as travel restrictions associated with the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

Q. Why did Northwestern want to host the U7+ Summit?

A. The world faces urgent challenges—from climate change and migration to global health and national security—and universities such as Northwestern can and must reach beyond borders to help find solutions. Hosting the U7+ Summit aligns with Northwestern University's goals, which include bringing together the world's brightest minds to address critical global challenges.

Q. How was Northwestern selected to host the Summit?

A. Northwestern University was formally selected to host the 2020 U7+ Summit by the U7+ Alliance Executive Committee based on its deep commitment to the work of the U7+ Alliance as well as the University's track record of global leadership and engagement. Northwestern will host the Summit in partnership with U.S. cosponsoring institutions Columbia University, Georgetown University and the University of California, Berkeley.

Q. Why is it called U7+ Alliance?

A. The annual summit typically takes place immediately before the annual [G7 Summit](#) of world leaders. U7+ refers to universities in the G7 countries, along with universities in other countries around the world.

Q. What kind of issues does the U7+ Alliance tackle?

A. University leaders at the 2019 U7+ Summit adopted [six principles](#) to guide their plans for addressing global challenges on the multilateral agenda. Some challenges covered include climate and energy transitions, inequality and polarized societies, technological transformation, and community engagement and impact.

Q. French President Emmanuel Macron presided over the 2019 U7+ Summit. Who will preside over the 2020 U7+ Summit at Northwestern?

A: The main plenary session open to the media and broader public will feature a special address from the United Nations Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth, Ms. Jayathma Wickramanayake, a fireside chat featuring higher education leaders discussing the role of universities as global actors and a closing ceremony with a special performance from the student a cappella group [Purple Haze](#).

Q. Who attends the U7+ Summit?

A. We expect participation from more than 100 university leaders from G7 countries and beyond.

Q. What universities have been invited to the 2020 U7+ Presidential Summit?

A. More than 100 presidents and top leaders of universities in 20 countries have been invited to attend this year's U7+ Presidential Summit:

- Aix-Marseille Université (France)
- Ashesi University (Ghana)
- Australian National University (Australia)
- Columbia University (United States)
- École Polytechnique (France)
- Free University Berlin (Germany)
- Georgetown University (United States)
- HEC Paris (France)
- Hitotsubashi University (Japan)
- Université Félix Houphouët-Boigny (Ivory Coast)
- Imperial College London (United Kingdom)
- Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (India)
- Keio University (Japan)
- Kenyatta University (Kenya)
- Kyoto University (Japan)
- London School of Economics and Political Science (United Kingdom)
- Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München (Germany)

- McGill University (Canada)
- National University of Singapore (Singapore)
- Paris Sciences et Lettres (France)
- Osaka University (Japan)
- Sapienza University of Rome (Italy)
- Sciences Po (France)
- Seoul National University (South Korea)
- Sorbonne Université (France)
- Technical University of Munich (Germany)
- University College London (United Kingdom)
- Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (Mexico)
- Università Bocconi (Italy)
- Università degli Studi di Milano (Italy)
- Université Cheikh Anta Diop (Senegal)
- Université Côte d’Azur (France)
- Universidad de Buenos Aires (Argentina)
- Université de Bordeaux (France)
- Université de Grenoble Alpes (France)
- Université de Lyon (France)
- Université de Paris (France)
- Université Mohammed VI Polytechnique (Morocco)
- Université Paris Saclay (France)
- Université de Strasbourg (France)
- University of British Columbia (Canada)
- University of California, Berkeley (United States)
- University of Cambridge (United Kingdom)
- University of Cape Town (South Africa)
- University of Edinburgh (United Kingdom)
- University of Heidelberg (Germany)
- University of Ibadan (Nigeria)
- University of Mannheim (Germany)
- University of Montreal (Canada)
- University of Nairobi (Kenya)
- University of Naples Federico II (Italy)
- University of Ottawa (Canada)
- University of Tokyo (Japan)
- University of Toronto (Canada)

Q: What is the theme and agenda of the 2020 U7+ Summit?

This year’s Summit will center on the role universities can play in fostering intergenerational justice—ensuring solutions to global challenges are developed in a way that takes the interests and rights of future generations into account—as the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic disproportionately impacts the hopes and futures of youth worldwide. Topics on this year’s

summit agenda include the U7+ Alliance's engagement with the G7, ethical applications of artificial intelligence and strategies for sparking intergenerational dialogue on issues of global relevance. The Summit will include students from U7+ Alliance universities sharing their visions for the future of higher education, and will culminate in a declaration of the Alliance's new and renewed commitments to fostering educational and economic opportunity for the next generation.

Q. How was the theme and agenda for the 2020 U7+ Summit developed and finalized?

A. Northwestern University and its US cohosts developed the agenda for the 2020 U7+ Presidential Summit in collaboration with the U7+ Alliance of World Universities Executive Committee. [The agenda](#) will build on the work begun at the inaugural U7+ Summit hosted by Sciences Po in Paris in 2019. Students from 22 universities across 12 countries also played a role in setting the agenda for this year's U7+ Presidential Summit. The students-convened virtually in June and July 2020 to discuss and present their recommendations for how universities can best prepare them for active engagement in efforts to address pressing global challenges, including injustice in its many forms, inequality and climate change. The students' recommendations will kick-off this year's Summit discussions and inform the U7+ Alliance's agenda for the coming year.

Q. What is expected to come out of this year's U7+ Summit?

A. This year's Summit will culminate in commitments to intergenerational justice and multilateral engagement with the G7. The commitments will establish a launch point and framework for collaborative, coordinated action across sectors and among universities worldwide to address global challenges disproportionately affecting youth.

Q. What was the result of last year's inaugural Summit? What has the U7+ Alliance accomplished in its first year?

A. Since the inaugural Summit, U7+ Alliance members have self-organized into working groups, each of which is dedicated to taking concrete [actions](#) to address a specific global challenge. For example, one group of 21 U7+ members led by the University of Toronto and University of Edinburgh is taking inventory of how universities are monitoring and doing their part to reduce their own greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Another U7+ working group that includes leaders from more than a dozen universities worldwide, published a [paper](#) this year that established 16 recommendations for the ethical use of artificial intelligence and technology in society. U7+ universities are also working to increase the scope of their partnerships with community organizations, NGOs, citizens, multinational organizations and other global actors critical to building a more just, sustainable and prosperous world.

Q. What is the official hashtag of the U7+ Summit?

A. The hashtag #U7Alliance is the recommended hashtag to share news about the event, and we encourage tagging @NorthwesternU, when applicable, as the host institution.