

## FACT SHEET: 2020 U7+ PRESIDENTIAL SUMMIT

### ABOUT THE U7+ ALLIANCE OF WORLD UNIVERSITIES PRESIDENTIAL SUMMIT

**The U7+ Presidential Summit** is the annual meeting of the U7+ Alliance of World Universities, the first cross-national 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.

**Where:** [Northwestern University](#) will be the first U.S.-based University to host the U7+ Presidential Summit, which will take place virtually due to safety concerns and travel restrictions associated with the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. Northwestern will host the Summit in partnership with U.S. cosponsors Columbia University, Georgetown University and the University of California, Berkeley.

**When:** November 23-24, 2020

**Event Agenda:** Over two days, more than 100 presidents and leaders from universities in 20 countries will convene virtually to continue the work begun at the inaugural U7+ Summit to explore solutions to pressing global challenges. This year's Summit will center on the role universities can play in fostering intergenerational equity—ensuring that solutions to global challenges are developed in a way that takes the interests and rights of future generations into account. University leaders will discuss how they can work in coordination with the G7 and other intergovernmental organizations as the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic disproportionately impacts the futures and hopes of youth worldwide. Topics for presidential discussion will include youth mental health, the impact of COVID-19 on youth employment and global learning opportunities, ethical applications of artificial intelligence and more. The Summit will also include youth from around the world sharing their visions for the future of higher education, and will culminate in new and renewed commitments to fostering educational and economic opportunity for the next generation.

**Participants:** The inaugural summit, held in July 2019 at [The Paris Institute of Political Studies \(Sciences Po\)](#), included participants from 47 universities representing more than 2 million students around the world. This year, Northwestern University expects to welcome more than 100 presidents and top leaders from universities in 20 countries:

- Argentina
- Australia
- Canada
- France
- Germany
- Ghana
- India
- Italy
- Ivory Coast
- Japan
- Kenya
- Mexico
- Morocco
- Nigeria
- Senegal
- Singapore
- South Africa
- South Korea
- United Kingdom
- United States

## Founding U7+ Alliance Principles and Commitments

In July 2019, the presidents of 47 universities representing two million students worldwide unanimously adopted [six principles](#) and committed to [actions](#) to address five major global challenges during the inaugural U7+ Summit hosted by Sciences Po in Paris, France under the high patronage of Emmanuel Macron, President of the French Republic. 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 global challenge—small yet critical and collective steps toward achieving the [Sustainable Development Goals](#) 193 countries have adopted.

For example, leaders from 21 U7+ universities are collaborating to develop and publish specific targets for improving energy efficiency and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The group, 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 responsible 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.

## About Northwestern University

Founded in 1851, Northwestern University is ranked among the top ten universities in the United States, with a population of more than 8,000 undergraduate students and 13,000 graduate students from more than 75 countries. Northwestern is home to more than 50 research centers across three campuses—in Chicago and Evanston, Illinois and Doha, Qatar—along with sites in San Francisco, New York City, Washington DC and Miami. Northwestern has also forged institutional partnerships with more than 100 world-class academic institutions across more than 35 countries, and is committed to fostering an innovative, interdisciplinary community and delivering an impact that is rare in higher education.

## About the U7+ Alliance

The U7+ Alliance is an international alliance of university presidents who discuss and commit to actions universities may take to address pressing global challenges. It is the first alliance of university presidents aimed at structuring and advancing the role of universities as global actors across the multilateral agenda. In the context of this alliance, university presidents take stock of their unique civic and social responsibilities as global actors, and pledge on behalf of their institutions to take concrete action that will have positive impact in local, regional and global communities. The members of the U7+ Alliance meet annually to establish a common agenda and a strategy for action.

## Helpful Links

2020 U7+ Presidential Summit website: <https://www.northwestern.edu/u7summit/>

2020 U7+ Presidential Summit press kit: [Link forthcoming]

U7+ Alliance website: <https://www.u7alliance.org/>

Northwestern University media kit: <https://news.northwestern.edu/for-journalists/contact-us>

