

International Association of Universities



2025-2026

# Executive Leadership Programme

**ELP** | Executive  
Leadership  
Program





The **ELP** is an amazing forum indeed. Discussing issues with peers from around the world is a very effective way to learn and to challenge each other to do more.

**Dr. Vincent Ogutu**

Vice-Chancellor, Strathmore University, Kenya  
ELP Participant 2024-2025

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# About the **ELP**

The **IAU** Executive Leadership Programme (**ELP**) is unique. It is radically global in its ambition to support university leaders across all higher education systems and types. The ELP empowers university leaders to navigate the contextual and political dimensions of university leadership. It focuses on common challenges and covers central aspects of higher education management for a sustainable running of the institution. In short, the programme provides a framework with which to confront the big managerial, ethical, economic and societal questions universities face.

A photograph of a woman wearing a black hijab and a green and white patterned shawl. She is looking slightly upwards and to the right, speaking into a silver microphone on a stand. Her hands are clasped in front of her.

**ELP**

Executive  
Leadership  
Program

# ELP Format

The programme starts and ends with in-person meetings and continues online throughout the year. It is designed for current or emerging heads of institutions, and participants will be awarded a learning badge after the successful completion of all modules. It is designed in modular form, and the twelve modules consist of a thematic workshop and action learning groups – separated into current and emerging leaders for real peer-to-peer engagement.

In between the in-person ELP modules, held on-site in conjunction with IAU conferences, participants will follow this capacity building programme from anywhere in the world through online sessions.



## **Modules 1-3**

IAU 2025 International Conference  
*University of Rwanda, Rwanda*

## **Modules 4-9**

Online  
*Virtual Participation*



## **Modules 10-12**

IAU 17<sup>th</sup> General Conference  
*Murdoch University, Australia*

# ELP Engagement

The participants draw on their collective experience and examine best practices to address common challenges. Through peer-to-peer exchange, participants learn how to mobilise collective efforts to address critical issues and proactively shape their institutional future.

The modules are facilitated by eminent current and former university presidents and higher education experts with ample experience in coaching and workshop facilitation.





# ELP Overview

The **ELP** offers a comprehensive range of sessions that explore critical aspects of higher education leadership, including governance, strategic planning, financial management, and global collaboration. The **2025-26** programme will include sessions such as:

## Module Topics

### Introduction to the ELP

1. The Changing Mission of Universities

### Stakeholder Management

2. Navigating the Strategic Planning Process
3. Creating and Managing Effective Teams
4. Building Partnerships Across the Global Higher Education Landscape
5. Forming Transformative Partnerships with Students

### Operational Leadership

6. Effective Leadership, Governance, and Risk Management
7. Budgeting, Financial Strategy, and Administration



# ELP Overview

- 8. Diversifying Income Streams and Fundraising Strategies in HE.
- 9. Shaping Higher Education in an Increasingly Digital World

## Transformative Leadership

- 10. Leading the Transformation of Higher Education for the Public Good
- 11. Charting a Sustainable Future for Higher Education
- 12. Communicating the Role of Higher Education in Society





# ELP Action Learning

Integral to the **ELP** is the incorporation of peer-to-peer learning and the application of practical knowledge acquired during the programme. To facilitate this aspect, the **ELP** engages participants in Action Learning Groups. This additional support mechanism will act as a sounding board as you develop your capstone project throughout the year. You will present the results of your action research project at the in-person closing session at the next IAU International Conference in 2026. Projects might include new policies informed by your **ELP** learning experience, inclusive strategic planning processes, crisis or risk mitigation plans, or any other outputs relevant to your work as a university leader.



# ELP Outcomes



## **Enhanced Your Strategic Thinking and Planning**

Gain a new perspective on different aspects of global higher education to improve scenario thinking and its implications for your current strategy and future plans.

## **Understand Your Leadership Capabilities**

Gain better knowledge of the different dimensions of strategic leadership to become a globally engaged leader of change.



## **Develop Effective Teams**

Explore leadership expectations and improve interpersonal management skills to unlock the full potential of diverse high-performing teams.

## **Advance Your Governance and Management Skills**

Focus on central aspects of higher education management for a sustainable running of your institution.



## **Build a Global Network of Peers**

Create long-term partnerships, connect with colleagues from all over the world, and share experiences to learn from each other.

# ELP Facilitators



**Andrew Deeks**

President of Murdoch University, Australia  
and IAU President



**Renée T. White**

Provost, Executive Vice President, and  
Professor of Sociology, The New School, USA



**Shalini Randeria**

President and Rector, Central European  
University, Austria



**Chris Brink**

Former Vice Chancellor, Newcastle  
University, UK



**Noah Sobe**

Chief of Section for Higher Education,  
UNESCO

# ELP Facilitators

**Patrick Deane**

Principal and Vice Chancellor, Queen's University, Canada



**Paul Tiyambe Zeleza**

Senior Advisor for Strategic Initiatives and Professor, Howard University, USA, and Former Vice Chancellor United States International University, Kenya



**Teri Balser**

Immediate past Provost and Vice President, University of Calgary, Canada



**Andreas Corcoran**

Deputy Secretary General, International Association of Universities



# ELP in Details

## Practical Information

### Dates

21-23 October 2025 to  
November 2026

### Format

In person and online

### Registration

Please register via the  
form on the [IAU website](http://www.iau-aiu.net/Leadership).  
[www.iau-aiu.net/Leadership](http://www.iau-aiu.net/Leadership)

### Coordinators

Dr. Andreas Corcoran, IAU Deputy  
Secretary General  
Margaret Harris, IAU  
Communications & Media Officer

### Programme Fees\*:

IAU Members: 2400 €  
IAU Member LDC Rate: 1700 €  
Non IAU Members: 3450 €  
Non IAU Member LDC Rate: 2300 €

*\*Travel and accommodation not  
included in fees*





The ELP is a phenomenal program. The global perspective creates a space for inspiring transformative leadership development.

**Dr. DeBrenna Agbenyiga**

Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs.  
International University of Grand Bassam, Côte d'Ivoire  
*ELP Participant 2024-2025*








# INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITIES

The International Association of Universities (**IAU**), created under the auspices of UNESCO in 1950, is a membership-based organisation serving the global higher education community through advocacy, expertise, and exchange.

IAU brings together Members from over **130** countries for reflection and collaborative action on common priorities. It is an independent, non-governmental organisation in an official partnership with UNESCO (Associate status), UN ECOSOC (Consultative status), and the Council of Europe (Participatory status).

IAU provides a forum for building a worldwide higher education community, promotes collaboration and the exchange of information, experience and ideas.

-  International Association of Universities
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-  [elp@iau-aiu.net](mailto:elp@iau-aiu.net)
-  [iau-aiu.net/Leadership](http://iau-aiu.net/Leadership)
-  UNESCO House, 1 rue Miollis, Paris, France

