

United Nations  
Academic Impact  
Member Institution  
Handbook  
December 2017



## **Congratulations on becoming a member of UNAI!**

Your institution has joined over 1100 academic and research institutions who are members of United Nations Academic Impact (UNAI).

The United Nations Academic Impact (UNAI) initiative—mandated by the United Nations General Assembly—aligns institutions of higher learning with the Organization in supporting and contributing, through research and education, to the realization of United Nations goals. What binds such institutions and the United Nations together in the UNAI is dedication to a shared culture of intellectual social responsibility.

UNAI is a programme of the Outreach Division of the Department of Public Information. In becoming a UNAI member, each institution is required to complete a minimum of one activity per year in support of at least one of the ten principles:

- 1) A commitment to addressing issues of poverty through education;
- 2) A commitment to building capacity in higher education systems across the world;
- 3) A commitment to educational opportunity for all people regardless of gender, race, religion or ethnicity;
- 4) A commitment to encouraging global citizenship through education;
- 5) A commitment to the opportunity for every interested individual to acquire the skills and knowledge necessary for the pursuit of higher education;
- 6) A commitment to human rights, among them freedom of inquiry, opinion, and speech;
- 7) A commitment to promoting intercultural dialogue and understanding, and the “unlearning” of intolerance, through education.
- 8) A commitment to advancing peace and conflict resolution through education;
- 9) A commitment to promoting sustainability through education;
- 10) A commitment to the principles inherent in the United Nations Charter.

**To learn more and familiarize yourself with UNAI, we encourage you to visit:**

The UNAI website: <https://academicimpact.un.org/>

The website features news articles, links to scholarships and contests and the UNAI Hubs as well as the member forum, where you can create discussion topics, issue direct calls for collaboration or solicit feedback from the Academic Impact network on any UNAI-related project.

The UNAI Twitter account: <https://twitter.com/ImpactUN>

The UNAI Facebook account: <https://www.facebook.com/ImpactUN>

By subscribing to the UNAI Twitter feed and Facebook page, you will stay up-to-date with UNAI activities, learn more about recently issued reports from the United Nations and find out about interesting UNAI-related events, including webcasts.

### **Your first steps as a UNAI member**

- 1) Share that your institution has become a member of UNAI with your colleagues and students (through campus news, your institution's weekly update email, alumni channels, newsletters etc.)
- 2) Contact your institution's social media managers and notify them that your institution is now a member of UNAI; request them to:
  - a) Follow UNAI on Twitter - @ImpactUN
  - b) Like our Facebook page - facebook.com/ImpactUN
  - c) Share any events/research related to the UN mandate with us through social media
- 3) Create a user account on our website to have access to the member forum.
- 4) Encourage your students to create local chapters of ASPIRE: "Action by Students to Promote Innovation and Reform through Education". ASPIRE chapters are student-driven in promoting and supporting the principles of Academic Impact and therewith serve to amplify the importance of unity and action in addressing global challenges.
- 5) Write a story introducing your institution—stating why you wanted to join the UNAI and what activities you were planning on organizing—and send it to us via our website or by email.

### **What your institution can do as a member of UNAI**

This is only a partial list of activities your institution can partake in as a member of UNAI. Please feel free to innovate!

It is likely that your institution is already undertaking activities that further the UN mandate, such as conducting research related to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), encouraging students to be global citizens and/or 'greening' your campus (the use of solar panels, conserving water, recycling etc.). We encourage you to be creative in finding new ways academic and research institutions can further the UN mandate. You can also collaborate with other UNAI members to host regional events or undertake joint research projects or engage in campus exchange programs to leverage the UNAI network. In any event, let us know about what you are doing!

Academic Impact events that take place at United Nations Headquarters in New York are often webcast, and the webcasts themselves are archived for viewing on demand. This makes it possible for institutions around the world to follow such discussions, and we would like

to encourage you to report on what then transpires on your campuses by submitting summaries of panel discussions, seminars etc. that have taken place at your institution or by writing an article on a webcast event.

There are also a number of international days and observances that you can use for ideas or to tie into existing UN activities.

Below is a list of some of the official United Nations Observances that take place every year and may be of interest to your campus. You can also check our website, sign up for our monthly newsletter, sign up for our mailing list and follow us on social media for ideas on how your campus can undertake activities related to the UNAI principles.

For a complete list of UN observances click [here](#).

Be sure to share any UNAI events taking place at your institution with us over social media, send any details to [academicimpact@un.org](mailto:academicimpact@un.org) or submit an activity report on our website to be featured on our website or in the newsletter!

International Day	Suggested Activities
February 4 - World Cancer Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Campaign aiming to reduce cancer among faculty, staff and students (reducing smoking, encourage exercise and healthy eating)</li> <li>- Lecture series highlighting the work of cancer researchers at your institution</li> </ul>
February 11 - International Day for Women and Girls in Science	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Partner with Girls Who Code to host a hackathon on campus</li> <li>- Host a conference or panel discussion on women's contributions to science</li> </ul>
February 20 - World Day of Social Justice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Event highlighting how your institution promotes gender equality, or the rights of indigenous peoples and migrants</li> </ul>
March 22 - World Water Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 'Bring Your Reusable Water Bottle' campaign</li> <li>- Highlight a researcher whose work relates to water</li> <li>- Organize clean-up of a nearby lake, beach, river etc.</li> </ul>
April 7 - World Health Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Organize a panel discussion on how coalition of departments (School/Departments of Medicine, Rehabilitation, Public Health, Engineering) can work together to improve health</li> <li>- Organize a charity drive for a health cause</li> </ul>
April 23 - World Book and	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Social media campaign asking students and faculty to</li> </ul>

Copyright Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- post about books that have influenced them</li> <li>- Tours of institution's library/ies</li> </ul>
May 21 - World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Organize a panel discussion intercultural dialogue, diversity and inclusion</li> <li>- Highlight diversity at your institution</li> </ul>
June 5 - World Environment Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 'Walk/Bike to school' campaign</li> <li>- Highlight environmental researchers at your institution in lecture series</li> <li>- Incorporate sustainable practices into curriculum</li> </ul>
June 14 - World Blood Donor Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Organize a blood drive</li> </ul>
July 18 - Nelson Mandela International Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Highlight students/faculty/staff at your institution who serve humanity in the fields of conflict resolution, promotion and protection of human rights, reconciliation, gender equality, poverty reduction etc.</li> </ul>
August 9 - International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Highlight indigenous services or students at your institution</li> </ul>
September 8 - International Literacy Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Organize a book swap for students and staff</li> <li>- Organize a book drive for a disadvantaged school</li> <li>- Highlight importance of literacy for critical thinking, participatory government, biodiversity protection, poverty reduction, etc.</li> </ul>
October 5 - World Teachers' Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Appreciation event for individuals who inspire and teach students to be global citizens</li> <li>- Open house at institution's School of Education</li> </ul>
October 10 - World Mental Health Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Highlight mental health services available at your institution</li> </ul>
November 10 - World Science Day for Peace and Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Organize an event bridging the gap between science and society</li> <li>- Essay competition among science students (Life Sciences, Engineering etc.) discussing how their work contributes to a peaceful society</li> </ul>
November 19 - World Toilet Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Highlight that lack of toilets prevents proper sanitation and has dramatic consequences for human health, dignity and security, the environment and social and economic development</li> </ul>

December 1 - World AIDS Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Highlight AIDS research at your institution through a panel or lecture series</li> <li>- Raise funds for UNAIDS</li> </ul>
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### **Branding**



We request UNAI member institutions to feature prominently on their websites and in other public information their relationship to UNAI. To this end, however, we ask that members use the proper UNAI member logo as found on our 'Branding' page (<https://academicimpact.un.org/content/branding>), which does not feature the United Nations emblem itself.

### **Disclaimers**

Membership in United Nations Academic Impact (UNAI) in no way constitutes an endorsement by the United Nations of the member institutions, their activities or services, or their officials or other personnel. Membership in UNAI does not entitle the member institutions to use the United Nations name and/or emblem in connection with their activities except when making factual statements that they are members of the United Nations Academic Impact. Use of the UNAI logo in any way that is contrary to the UNAI Logo Guidelines is strictly prohibited, in particular the commercial use of the UNAI logo, and any such use will be grounds for immediate revocation of membership as well as additional legal action by the United Nations.