



Taking Teaching & Learning Seriously
***Universitas 21's* Teaching & Learning Conference**

- **4th *Universitas 21* Teaching & Learning conference**
- **Twelve leading research-led universities represented**
- **Delegates from Asia, Australasia, Europe and the Americas**
- **Establishing a strong Teaching & Learning network**

With research-led universities garnering much criticism in recent months for being *too* research-focussed, *Universitas 21* was delighted to have the opportunity to show that its members are taking Teaching and Learning as seriously as research in its 4th international Conference on the subject. Participants represented Australasia, Europe, Asia and the Americas in the two-day conference hosted by the University of Glasgow from 21-22 February.

The conference focussed around two key themes – *Internationalisation* and *The First Year Experience* – and with highly-regarded keynote speakers from around the world (Dr Diana Oblinger, CEO of EDUCAUSE; Dr Marcia Devlin, University of Melbourne; Professor Kerri-Lee Krause, Griffith University and Professor Ron Piper, St Andrews University) stimulated a great deal of discussion, debate and enthusiasm.

With over 70 participants, a great deal of common ground was found and projects are now being formulated by the conference's academic leads, Professor Andrea Nolan of the University of Glasgow and Dr Philip Nolan of University College Dublin, to take ideas and collaborations forward within the *Universitas 21* network and run alongside the research projects which are already high on the network's agenda.

Speaking after the conference, one delegate from Lund University in Sweden commented "*We have a hard time figuring out how research intensive institutions with their specific research profile actually can add to the student experience, but this is certainly a promising step in doing this and bringing teaching and learning higher up the agenda.*"

Jane Usherwood, Secretary General of *Universitas 21* welcomed the opportunity to share thinking on teaching and learning innovations in a global context saying "*U21 members are all research-intensive in nature while still recognising the importance of the student experience and sound innovative pedagogy. Conferences such as this, our fourth on teaching and learning, give the opportunity to learn from and with colleagues and provide opportunities for future collaboration - this is another step on that journey.*"

This was the fourth U21 conference looking at Teaching & Learning, but the first to include delegates from a variety of disciplines and posts. The outcomes and future proposals linked to this conference will be available on the *Universitas 21* website in the coming weeks.

– ENDS –

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Notes to editor:

Universitas 21 was founded in 1997 as a network for international higher education, bringing together a collection of some of the leading research-led universities around the world.

Since then, *Universitas 21* has evolved into an internationally recognised partnership, which strives to facilitate collaboration and co-operation between the member universities, creating entrepreneurial opportunities on a scale that no member would be able to achieve operating independently or through traditional bilateral alliances.

Universitas 21 comprises the following members: University of Auckland, University of Birmingham, University of British Columbia, Delhi University, University College Dublin, University of Edinburgh, Fudan University, University of Hong Kong, Korea University, McGill University, University of Glasgow, Lund University, University of Melbourne, Tecnológico de Monterrey, University of New South Wales, University of Nottingham, University of Peking, University of Queensland, Shanghai Jai Tong University, National University of Singapore, University of Virginia, Waseda University.

For more information or further details about the network, please log on to www.universtias21.com

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