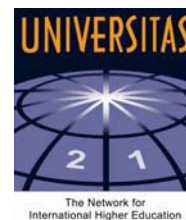


PRESS RELEASE
For immediate release
Friday 10 October 2008



**UNIVERSITAS 21 INSTITUTIONS COLLECTIVELY
CLIMB WORLD RANKINGS**

- **19 of U21's 22 members in top 200**
- **15 members in top 100**
- **High ratings across all individual subject categories**

Following the publication of the Times Higher's World University Rankings, *Universitas 21* (U21) is once more justified in calling itself the leading network for international higher education. Nineteen of the twenty-two members of the network feature in the top 200 worldwide universities listed, with many significantly climbing the rankings.

Among the network's highest climbers was, for the second year in a row, University College Dublin (108 from 177), who since joining the network in 2006 has had marked success in the rankings, climbing over 100 places in two years. UCD has been an important player in *Universitas 21's* activities over the year, hosting the Annual Presidential Meeting in May and having Vice Chancellor Professor Hugh Brady heading up a team to investigate ways in which the U21 universities can contribute significantly to support the global communities challenges laid down by the UN's Millennium Development Goals, a key theme for U21.

Also rising significantly was the University of Glasgow (73 from 83), University of Virginia (96 from 110) and Shanghai Jiao Tong University (144 from 163).

The Times Higher rankings give backing to U21's ability to pool the resources of some of the best students, researchers, teaching and research opportunities in the world in order to achieve even more than could be done by individual universities alone. Speaking of the ranking's publication, Jane Usherwood, Secretary General of *Universitas 21* commented: "*This showing in the THES league tables confirms that U21 members are world leaders in providing quality research and education and we are especially delighted that this respected indicator of academic reputation rates U21 universities so highly.*"

– ENDS –

266 words

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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, University of Delhi, 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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