WUN
WORLDWIDE
UNIVERSITIES
NETWORK

Vision and Strategic Plan
2026-2029

Purpose

WUN brings together leading universities to advance models for high-impact, worldwide research collaboration. Further, WUN shapes university policies and practices while providing a trusted forum for leaders as they navigate shared global challenges.

Vision

To shape the future of university education and research systems to deliver positive impact for communities.

Value

WUN's value is founded on its ambition to reimagine and empower global, inclusive research collaboration.

It aims to bring this expertise to shape research organisation and processes and to influence university education and research.

It provides a trusted environment for Presidents and senior leaders to think differently about the role of universities in a globally connected research system.

The network is values-led. It operates with respect and integrity, empowering members' research excellence in collaboration that supports communities.

Impact

To enable researchers to collaborate globally and demonstrate how to maximise impacts that improve lives and livelihoods.

WUN's member universities are dedicated to global research collaborations with local and international impacts. We believe this impact is amplified through the Network and can be even more impactful through a collective approach to improve aspects of the research ecosystem. The Network brings an established community of universities to this task, with experience and expertise in collaborations and deep knowledge of research systems and processes.

WUN will focus on three interrelated priorities to enhance its impact.

Global research collaboration
We will undertake a focused set of higher-impact collaborations, supported by stronger institutional commitments, external investment and measurable outcomes.

Systems shaping
Improved organisation and processes within research systems will boost research impacts. Through thought leadership and partnerships, we will help to inform the system in which we operate, influence policy and convene on major issues.

Trusted leadership network
In a challenged and challenging world, the Network provides an environment for exchanging ideas and practice, mutual support, and strategic peer learning.