

## **2020 U7+ Worldwide Student Forum**

### **How should universities best prepare students for life after graduation, in light of the COVID-19 global pandemic?**

#### **Context:**

Around the world, we face a common challenge. The COVID-19 pandemic will impact the educational, economic and social systems of every country. Beyond this, in each of our societies, the crisis is surfacing new questions about our interconnection, reconsideration of old perspectives and approaches and a search for new visions for the future.

Throughout history, students have risen to the challenge of social change and helped shape the world after crises of all sorts. The same will be true at this time. To move forward together, we need to foster new forms of connection and collaboration around the world and ensure university leaders hear the voices of their students.

On behalf of the 2020 U7+ Summit Executive Committee and U.S. co-sponsoring institutions, Northwestern University will host a worldwide student forum to spark a discussion among students from all U7+ universities, representing 20 countries. Through this forum, we will ask the question, “How should universities best prepare students for life after graduation, in light of the COVID-19 pandemic?”

#### **Worldwide Student Forum Goal:**

Our goal is to provide a platform for students to learn from one another, and amplify the voices of students who want to work to build a new vision for how universities can best prepare students today, given that we are moving into a new world amid a shared global crisis.

#### **Commitment:**

The U7+ worldwide student forum will run from June 12-July 1, 2020. During this time, students will be part of discussion boards through a private LinkedIn group and live small group conversations through Zoom. Each week, students will be invited to respond to a prompt by posting a short text, video, piece of art, music, poetry, or other content and be invited to attend live small group sessions via Zoom.

During the final week of the experience, students will be asked to work in teams to submit a short video message to their school’s U7+ presidential delegate, who is a senior university official. These videos will also be compiled and edited for delivery to the U7+ presidents and publicly through the U7+ Alliance network. The U7+ presidential delegates are also encouraged to hold a Zoom meeting with the participating students at the end of the experience to learn more about their recommendations for how universities should best prepare students for life after graduation amid the COVID-19 global pandemic.

#### **Eligibility:**

Four students from each U7+ university will be nominated by their home institutions and accepted to participate. Undergraduates, graduate students and professional students are all eligible. Ideal students are curious, creative and action-oriented. Each university is encouraged to select student delegates who exemplify the diversity of the institution. The organizing language will be English, but some [multilingual translation](#) will be available through LinkedIn.