



UN-HABITAT'S PARTNERSHIP WITH UNIVERSITIES WORLDWIDE

UNI is UN-Habitat's main mechanism for partnerships with academia and researchers. The partnership is open, and invites all levels of academia to engage.

UNI was introduced as a means of promoting cooperation between UN-Habitat and institutions of higher education, as well as facilitating exchange and cooperation among universities globally. UNI promotes universities becoming closer partners of cities, actively engaged in problem solving, closing the gap between academia and practice, and encouraging collaborative learning.

The collaborations aspire to create the next generation of urban leaders, managers, researchers, and practitioners. UN-Habitat acts as a catalyst, facilitating partnerships between universities and other agenda partners.

The main tools of the partnerships include **Thematic Hubs**, under which the university collaborations target specific focus areas such as Gender, Informal Urbanism and Climate Change, as well as outreach mechanisms of UN-Habitat such as the **Global Urban Lectures**. This lecture series shares expertise across the network via free packages of 15-minute videos, synopsis, biographies of the speakers, and comprehensive lists of links for further study on each topic.

The **UNI Portal** is the entry to the partnership. Here you can:

- *Engage with the Hubs*
- Find *news and opportunities* from our hundreds of university partners worldwide
- *Share your own materials* in the UNI library
- Watch the *Global Urban Lectures*, and;
- Engage in discussion with our thousands of individual members under the *Open Forum*.

For more information on UN-Habitat UNI:

Visit the UNI portal at uni.unhabitat.org

Contact the UNI Office at uni@unhabitat.org

Governance

University Focal Points: Provide the main contact point and internal positioning within the Partner University.

Thematic Hub Coordinators: Operate specific thematic collaborations between universities, UN-Habitat units, and cities.

Steering Committee: Consisting of Thematic Hub Coordinators and representatives of university partners. Provides overall guidance and focus.

UNI Office: Anchoring UNI within UN-Habitat, acts as a catalyst to promote collaborative projects among Partner Universities, Thematic Hubs and UN-Habitat units. Manages vital tools for global collaboration such as the UNI web portal, the partner database, and the Global Urban Lectures.

How to collaborate with UNI

The partnerships are established to support collaborations under the pillars of:

Education: UNI supports collaborations on university courses and curricula, exchanges (internships, fellowships, mentorships), and material (publications, reports and lectures) to guide education related to sustainable urban development.

Research: Building and connecting an international community of researchers with a common agenda and a focus on urgent urban issues. Within the Thematic Hubs, these communities organize events, share materials and engage in discussions. UN-Habitat units can draw on this expertise for their ongoing relating projects through consultancies, expert invites, collaborative project proposals and common outreach initiatives.

Professional Development: Supporting capacity development, spreading new sustainable urban development knowledge generated in universities through experts identified among the partners. Primary means are the Global Urban Lectures, and targeted trainings and workshops.

Policy Advice: UNI aims to close the theory-practice gap and forge university-urban partnerships at local, regional and global levels. Main means are multi partner projects and incorporation of outcomes by the Thematic Hubs.

Knowledge Management: A strong component of UNI is the cross-cutting pillar of Knowledge Management. This to ensure visibility, awareness and the dissemination of material and findings. Main tools are the UNI webportal, the Global Urban Lectures, the database of university partners, the resource libraries of the Thematic Hubs, as well as the progressive portfolio of collaborative projects established under UNI.

To start a discussion on possible collaborations, or to find out more about the resources produced by UNI, please contact the UNI Office at uni@unhabitat.org