



UNIVERSITÉ
DE GENÈVE

PRESS RELEASE

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UNIGE joins the European University Alliance 4EU+

The Alliance 4EU+ is part of the European Universities Initiative, supported by the European Commission. It paves the way for increased academic mobility.

The University of Geneva (UNIGE) is joining the European University Alliance 4EU+, formed by the universities of Prague, Heidelberg, Paris/Sorbonne, Warsaw, Copenhagen and Milan. The alliance's governing board took the decision to extend the alliance at its meeting in Heidelberg in early July 2022. This collaboration will gradually enter into force from the start of the 2022 academic year. The members of the alliance share common goals with high quality teaching and cutting-edge multidisciplinary research at the service of society and on the defence of common values.

“This alliance brings together some of the most widely recognised universities – four of which are members of the LERU – with which we already work closely both in teaching and research. We will now be able to take our projects one step further and strengthen academic mobility for our students and researchers,” emphasises Yves Flückiger, Rector of the UNIGE. “Europe is facing complex challenges, like the digital transformation of society or the sustainable development goals set forth by the United Nations. They can only be met through a multidisciplinary approach, allowing researchers to work within comprehensive networks such as the one we are delighted to join today.”

“With the University of Geneva, we are gaining a valuable strategic partner. Both in Switzerland and internationally, the University of Geneva enjoys an excellent reputation as an outward-looking, research-intensive comprehensive university with outstanding connections in the non-university research landscape,” says Prof. Dr Bernhard Eitel, Rector of Heidelberg University and Chair of the 4EU+ European University Alliance. “Building on existing cooperation, we intend, in the coming years, to advance common strategic projects in the areas of education, mobility and research and to establish 4EU+ as an innovation driver on the European and international educational scene.”

Academic expertise at the service of society

Taking advantage of its unique location in the heart of international Geneva, one of the world's capitals for multilateralism, the UNIGE has developed a very dense network of collaborations with international and non-governmental organisations. “It thus helps to strengthen the interface between science and politics and to put academic skills

at the service of society, in full coherence with the 4EU+ Alliance project,” notes Stéphane Berthet, UNIGE’s vice-rector in charge of international affairs.

The 4EU+ European University Alliance, originally 4EU, was founded in March 2018 by the universities of Prague, Heidelberg, Sorbonne in Paris and Warsaw, and in October 2018 became 4EU+ with the addition of the universities of Copenhagen and Milan. The group is one of the university alliances that had received initial funding in June 2019 under the Erasmus+ pilot call “European Universities”.

The vision of the 4EU+ Alliance is that of a “European University” on the pattern of a comprehensive research university that connects the students, teachers and researchers at the partner universities. By supporting strategic higher education partnerships and building up an integrated university system, the European Commission pursues the goal of clustering research, teaching and innovation in Europe in new structures, and thereby modernising and strengthening the European Education Area and increasing its visibility across the globe

The University of Geneva is a member of various European research networks, including the League of European Research Universities (LERU) and the Coimbra Group.

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About the University of Geneva

The University of Geneva was founded in 1559 by Jean Calvin and Théodore de Bèze and it ranks amongst the top 1% universities in the world. It enjoys worldwide recognition and develops an ever-strengthening international network, building upon its unique situation at the heart of International Geneva, a world capital for multilateralism. As a research-intensive institution, UNIGE has been awarded numerous prizes, including Nobel prizes and Fields medals, and is an active member of the European League of Research Universities (LERU). UNIGE focuses on multidisciplinary approaches to face today’s challenges such as the digital revolution and the sustainable development goals. UNIGE welcomes about 19’000 students coming from nearly 150 different countries in its nine faculties and thirteen interdisciplinary centres embracing Sciences, Medicine, Humanities, Economics and Management, Social Sciences, Law, Theology, Psychology and Educational Sciences, as well as Translation and Interpreting. UNIGE fulfils three missions: education, research and knowledge sharing.

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