



The Association
of Commonwealth
Universities

THE ACU: BUILDING A BETTER WORLD THROUGH HIGHER EDUCATION

For the lives we can lead



The ACU: a unique network of **500+** universities across developed and developing countries

- **50+ countries**
- **10 million+ students**
- **500,000+ academic staff**
- **500,000+ professional staff**



66% of members in low and middle income countries



2/3 of the Commonwealth under the age of 30

Our track record

60+ years' expertise managing multimillion-pound government scholarship schemes: Chevening, Commonwealth, Marshall, QECS

£31m in endowments

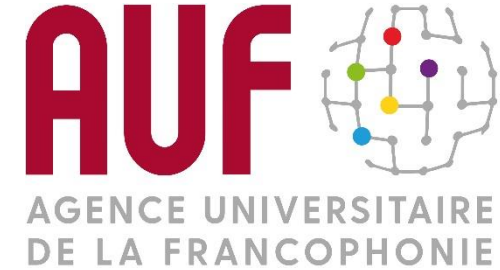
£10m+ project funding from governments, foundations, and corporate partners



Our partners



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



Our mission



To build a better world through
higher education

ACU DIGITAL NOW

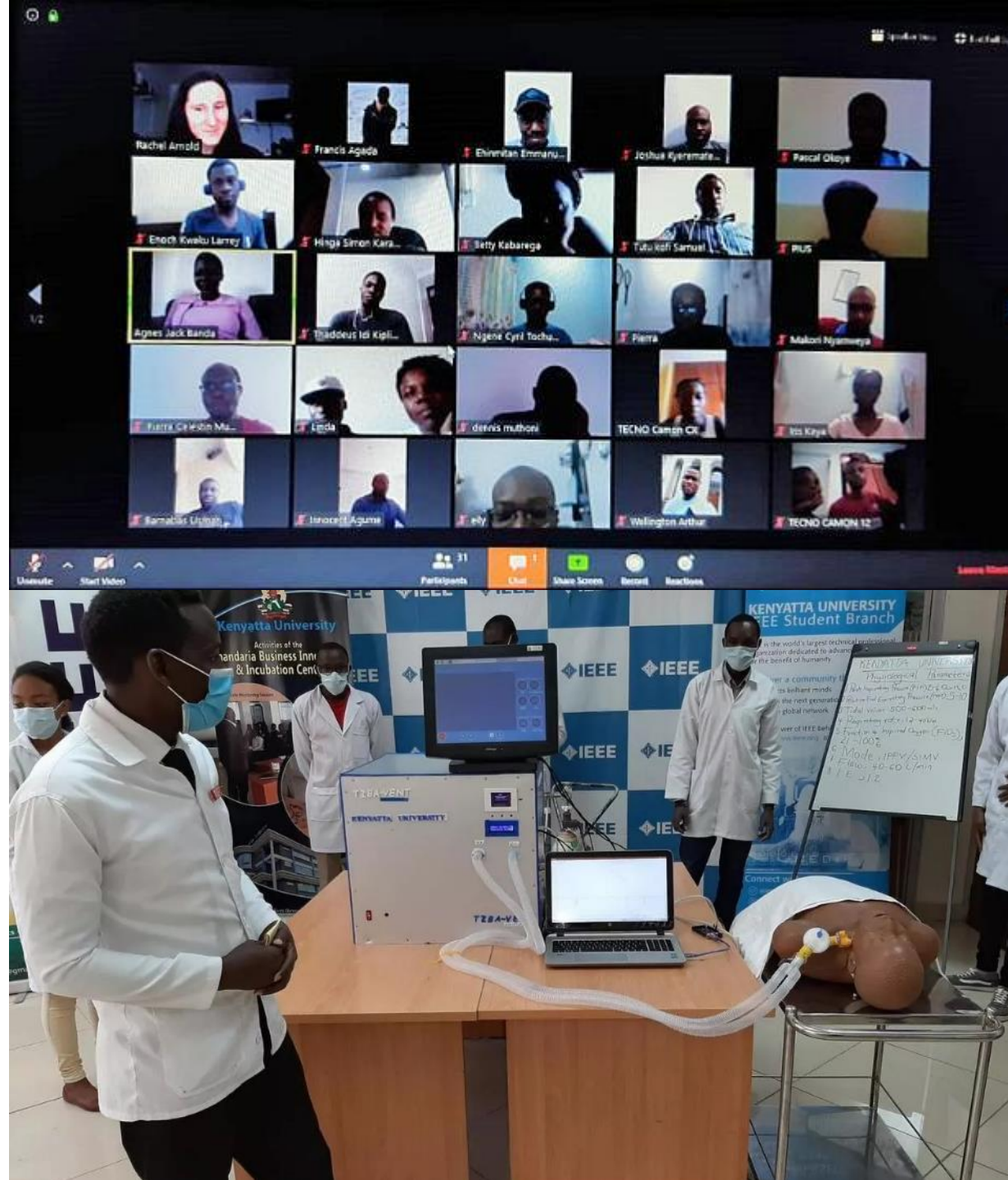
- Our commitment to ensuring that **our vibrant global network** continues to thrive
- Using **digital solutions** to cross borders, narrow divides, and create access to inspire change
- Inclusive, participatory, and wholly **informed by our members**
- Creating **virtual forums** to share ideas and knowledge
- Making more **digital resources** available
- Transforming our grants to support **online engagement and exchange**



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ACU DIGITAL NOW

- #HigherEdTogether
- Webinar series
- Peace & Reconciliation Network conference, co-hosted with Stellenbosch University, South Africa
- New podcast – *The Internationalist*
- Reshaping our scholarship and grant schemes
- 'Climate, youth and refugees' – virtual Summer School with the University of Cape Coast, Ghana





**Collaborative networks
that share knowledge
and resources**

Commonwealth Climate Resilience Network



- **237** members in **62** universities in **34** countries
- Led by Fiji National University, the University of the South Pacific, and the University of the West Indies
- Climate resilience scholarships for students in South Pacific + Caribbean
- <https://www.acu.ac.uk/get-involved/commonwealth-climate-resilience-network/>

Commonwealth Peace and Reconciliation Network



- **155** members in **65** universities in **27** countries
- **Chair:** Professor Wim de Villiers, Stellenbosch University
- **Inaugural conference** – June 2020
- <https://www.acu.ac.uk/get-involved/commonwealth-peace-and-reconciliation-network/>

Higher Education and the SDGs Network

- For academics, practitioners, and students at member universities across the Commonwealth who are directly engaging with the Sustainable Development Goals agenda
- **450** members in **179** institutions in **31** countries
- <https://www.acu.ac.uk/get-involved/higher-education-and-the-sdgs-network/>

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



HR in HE Community



- For staff working in human resources at member universities, from the most experienced professionals to those seeking to develop the HR function
- **455** members in **222** universities in **34** countries
- <https://www.acu.ac.uk/get-involved/hr-in-he-community/>

Educational
opportunities that
transform lives

Elly Wafula from Kenya



Queen Elizabeth
Commonwealth
Scholarships

Commonwealth Scholarships



- Founded in **1959**
- One of the world's most **prestigious** international scholarship schemes
- **8** host countries currently
- **35,000** alumni



Queen Elizabeth
Commonwealth
Scholarships

- **40** Commonwealth countries since 2009
- **£16m** endowment fund
- For **Master's** study in **LMICs**
- <https://www.acu.ac.uk/qecs>

ACU grants and fellowships

We award **£650k** in grants and scholarships annually, promoting international mobility and collaboration between members

Including:

- **ACU Fellowships** for collaborative research
- **Conference grants** for early career academics
- **ACU Summer School** bursaries
- **Event bursaries** for staff and students

<https://www.acu.ac.uk/funding-opportunities/view-all/>





Initiatives to promote
equity and inclusivity

ACU Gender Grants



- Supporting grassroots initiatives that boost gender equity at member universities
- Awarded to **39** universities in **19** countries
- **600** beneficiaries to date
- <https://www.acu.ac.uk/funding-opportunities/for-university-staff/grants/gender-grants/>



“Grants like this ensure that women with leadership potential are given the opportunity to be heard and recognised.”

Commonwealth Futures



“

Through participating in this workshop, it was evident that young leaders can play a vital role in finding concrete solutions and strategies for building peaceful futures.

- **100** student leaders in dialogue about social cohesion – India, South Africa, UK



Pioneering programmes that
strengthen capacity
in teaching and research

Strengthening teaching capacity



Partnership for Enhanced and Blended Learning

- **9,000+** students in East Africa are currently using blended modules to build their skills.
- **150+** academics trained to develop and deliver quality learning
- <https://www.acu.ac.uk/get-involved/pebl/>

Strengthening research capacity



- CIRCLE, DRUSSA, STARS, Next Generation, Blue Charter Fellowships
 - **1,000+** researchers trained
 - **80+** partnerships with universities in 10+ countries
 - **100+** learning resources created
 - **3,500+** stakeholders reached through research uptake activities
- Feasibility study for new UK-Africa physics collaboration
- <https://www.acu.ac.uk/get-involved/supporting-research/>

Strengthening research responses to global challenges



CIRCLE

Climate Impacts Research Capacity and
Leadership Enhancement Programme

- Supported **97** early-career researchers across **10** countries in sub-Saharan Africa to study the local impacts of climate change and produce cost-effective solutions
 - **50%** of Fellows are female
 - **3** Fellows have contributed as IPCC authors
 - **300+** papers have been published in reputable journals to date



BLUE CHARTER FELLOWSHIPS

- Supported **48** young researchers to undertake world-class research and innovation to tackle marine plastics pollution
 - **50%** of Fellows are female
 - **68** universities in **18** countries engaged
 - **85%** of collaborations developed through Fellowships were new
 - **63%** of collaborations were South-South or South-North

Visit: www.acu.ac.uk

Email: membership@acu.ac.uk

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