UWI

INTERNATIONAL UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP EXPO

THE UWI REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS, JAMAICA

SEPTEMBER 23-25, 2026

THEME

Today's Students, Tomorrow's Leaders, Towards 2050:
Imagining Roles, Rights, Responsibilities and Relationships

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

The International Undergraduate Student Conference and Entrepreneurship Expo provides opportunities for undergraduate students to showcase their academic insight and entrepreneurial initiatives. Recognizing the value of interdisciplinary engagement and real-world application, this Conference and Entrepreneurship Expo provides a dynamic platform for undergraduate students to share knowledge, build networks, and showcase their entrepreneurship ventures.

This conference supports global citizenship, student activism, and leadership, and provides an avenue for the voice of undergraduate student to be heard on local and global discourse. The conference will provide undergraduate students with an appreciation for the importance of graduate studies as route to further foster the development of responsible citizenship and research capabilities. It will also assist with the development and showcasing of their innovative and entrepreneurship skills and an opportunity to express their creativity and bold ideas.

The conference targets undergraduate students from across the global tertiary education sector. It is a catalyst for the development of emerging scholars, leaders, and active global citizens. The connection of undergraduate students across the Region and beyond will allow for engagement in academic discourse that encourages academic freedom, recognition of new thoughts and ideas and empowering an entrepreneurial spirit. The conference aims to inspire undergraduates to transform their ideas and foster the sustainable development of the Region and by extension the world.

SUB-THEMES

Future-Ready Leadership
Students should explore how the University prepares them to lead, from simply an observer role to one that influences decision-making in a rapidly changing complex, global world. Focus may include:

- how the student voice is used to inform policy development and decision-making,
- reflections on the effectiveness of the University structures available to support student and/or youth leadership development, democratic engagement, and ethical decision-making in a digital and interconnected world.
- ways in which the University may empower young people to transform ideas into impactful action at local, regional, and global levels.
- reflections on how their learning is supporting their conceptualisation of leadership within the Caribbean and Global South realities
- how indigenous knowledge can support culturally responsive leadership both now and, in the future

Rights and Equity in Education and Society
Students should examine how human, political, social, digital and legal rights, both current and in the future, may need to change to support inclusion, access, fairness, and social justice. This sub-theme may address areas such as equity in education, digital rights, human rights awareness, and empowering marginalized voices as part of leadership for 2050.

Responsibility, Sustainability, and Global Citizenship
This sub-theme requires students to centre their research and/or reflections on their responsibilities to their communities, nations, and the planet. Key topics may include climate responsibility, sustainable development, social responsibility, innovation with purpose, and the role of education in shaping responsible global citizens.

Evolving Relationships: Community, Technology, and Intergenerational Connections
Students should focus their reflections/research on how relationships are changing between students, educators, families, institutions, and technology. For this sub-theme, students may explore:

- mentorship,
- inter-generational leadership transfer such as succession planning, sharing of information across age groups/generations,
- building meaningful relationships in an increasingly digital society,
- ethical use of technology including generative artificial intelligence in education and leadership
- Digital literacy and technological competencies for 2050
- Collaboration including Human-AI collaboration in education and the workforce

Invitation to Present
We are pleased to invite abstracts for the inaugural hybrid Undergraduate Conference 2026, which will be held at The University of the West Indies Regional Headquarters, Mona, Jamaica. The conference warmly welcomes participation from undergraduate students at The University of the West Indies, other Caribbean and international tertiary level institutions.

Call for Abstracts
Submissions Open: June 15, 2026
Submission Deadline: September 3, 2026

GUIDELINES FOR ABSTRACTS
Criteria and Instructions for Abstract Submission and Selection

Abstracts submitted will be reviewed and selected based on the following criteria:

- relevance to the sub-theme,
- clarity of the overview of the proposal,
- explanation of the method used/or proposed,
- clear, unambiguous and written in an acceptable standard.

Abstracts should be written concisely and clearly in English, the official language of the conference. Interested students may submit more than one abstract.

All abstracts should meet the following requirements:

- saved in PDF file format
- font type and size must be Times New Roman, 12pt, in single-spaced format
- title must appear at the top of the page
- no longer than 500 words
- must include the author's name/s, email address/es and institutional affiliations
- must include a 200-word (maximum) biography

The corresponding author, who must be registered, will be notified of the results of the review within four weeks of submission. Reviewers may make recommendations for improvement of a draft submission that has received preliminary acceptance. These recommendations must be adequately addressed by the author (or authors) to ensure final acceptance. Students whose papers are accepted will be requested to submit their updated Abstract and presentations online using the email address provided. Once your abstract is accepted, you must follow the guidelines you receive when you upload your presentation (in PPT or PPTX formats).

Guidelines on the Use of LLMs: Submissions incorporating text from large-scale language models (LLMs) like ChatGPT must be ethically used and referenced.

ABSTRACT WRITING ONLINE WORKSHOPS:
July 1, 2026 , July 23, 2026 and August 20, 2026

To learn more about this year's Conference please visit our website: https://uwi.edu/obus/iuslc or email us at: obusconferenceandexpo@uwi.edu

CONTACT INFORMATION:
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Proposals should be submitted to: obusconferenceandexpo@uwi.edu

We look forward to you joining us at conference and expo this year!