

11 January 2024

11 Enero 2024

A Webinar for Caribbean Youth and Students

Event Details

Date and time: THURSDAY, JANUARY 11, 2024, 14:00 – 16:00 (EST; Jamaica; UTC -5, Bogota, Columbia); 15:00 – 17:00 (UTC -4, Caracas, Venezuela; Eastern Caribbean).

Format: Online – Zoom (Webinar).

Languages: English and Spanish with simultaneous translation (possibility of French).

Background

The 3rd Regional Conference on Higher Education (CRES) held in Cordoba, Argentina, in June 2018 approved a Declaration and an ambitious work agenda 2018-2028. It was also agreed that a follow-up conference would be held five years later. Thanks to the support of the Brazilian Government, the Conference, hereafter CRES+5, will be held March 13-15, 2024 in Brasilia, Brazil.

CRES+5 will be an opportunity to review the achievements made in higher education in Latin America and the Caribbean and, at the same time, to establish priorities for the next Regional Conference on Higher Education to be held in 2028. CRES+5 thematic axes Based on the discussions held at the preparatory meeting in Cordoba (Argentina) and the additional proposals of the Brazilian Government, the following thematic axes have been proposed for CRES+5, in coherence with CRES 2018 and the World Conference on Higher Education 2022.

CRES+5 Thematic Axes

The thematic axes are as follows:

1. Higher education as part of the educational system in Latin America.
2. Higher education, cultural diversity and interculturality in Latin America.
3. Higher education, internationalization and integration in Latin America and the Caribbean.
4. The role of higher education in the face of the social challenges of Latin America and the Caribbean.
5. Scientific and technological research and innovation as drivers of human, social and economic development for Latin America and the Caribbean.

6. The strategic role of higher education in the sustainable development of Latin America and the Caribbean.
7. Teacher training and working and living conditions of the main actors in Higher Education
8. The impact of COVID on higher education.
9. Inclusion, diversity and the role of women in higher education.
10. Higher education financing and governance
11. The autonomy of higher education institutions.
12. The futures of higher education in Latin America and the Caribbean.
 - 12.1 Challenges for the future of higher education in Latin America and the Caribbean.
 - 12.2 The specific challenges of the future of higher education in the Caribbean

CRES+5 Working Groups

At the preparatory meeting for CRES+5 held in March 2023, also in Córdoba (Argentina), the constitution of working groups for each of the thematic areas considered for CRES+5 was approved. These working groups have the triple objective of:

- a) Taking stock of achievements and pending challenges according to the established 2018-2028 Work Plan, based on the contributions of all networks, organizations and higher education institutions that send them;
- b) Promoting a Regional consensus on the priorities for the development of higher education in the region in the next five years; and
- c) Drafting a basic document on the corresponding axis to help guide and enrich the discussions during CRES+5 and a final Declaration.

[General Information on the Theme](#)

Theme: *Caribbean Youth Dialogue on the Futures of Higher Education*

[Date and Time](#)

Thursday, December 14, 2023 between 2:00 pm and 4:00 pm (Jamaica; EST; Bogota; Havana).

[Media Channels](#)

The event will stream via UNESCO and J-TEC's social media channels to stakeholders throughout the Region.

[Areas for Discussion](#)

The webinar will allow for youth to share their perspectives on the futures of higher education in the Caribbean. Moderators will guide the discussion through question and response sessions, and the use of surveys and polls to capture feedback. The areas for discussion include the thematic areas:

Section A

1. Preparation for higher education.

2. Experiences with power structures and the academic, administrative and ancillary staff of institutions.
3. Student participation in governance and management of institutions.
4. Campus safety and security.
5. Issues of finance (personal and institutional—service delivery).

Section B

6. Relationships with Latin America.
7. Cultural diversity.
8. Inclusion, diversity and the role of women in higher education.

Section C

9. Scientific and technological research and innovation.
10. The Climate Crisis and the sustainable development of the Caribbean.

Section D

1. The role of higher education in transforming the social challenges of the Caribbean.
2. The futures of higher education in the Caribbean: threats and opportunities.

Goals

The goals of the event are as follows:

1. Understand the realities confronting youth and students, and their participation in higher education systems.
2. Explore the interaction of youth and students with the authority structures of higher education systems.
3. Discuss strategies to develop resilient and sustainable higher education systems.
4. Explore solutions to issues arising from the evolving global landscape.
5. Propose the required systems to advance higher education systems.

Process Information

Panellists are asked to **sign-in at 1:40 pm (EST; Havana; Jamaica); 2:40 pm (East Caribbean; Caracas)**. This will allow for a final briefing by the organisers, moderator and the technical team concerning the flow of the webinar, technical checks, and to answer any issues as they arise.

The sequence of the webinar is as follows: (Run Time of Two hours)

Item	Time	Caribbean Youth Dialogue Elements of the Webinar	Speaker
1	2:00 pm 5 mins	a) Opening remarks b) Overview of the Series of Consultations re CRES+5 c) Introduction of the moderator	Dhana Lazarus
Youth Dialogue			
2	5 mins	Moderator's Opening Remarks Introduction to the Webinar	Moderator
3	30 mins	Selected youth representatives "What is your experience with higher education?" [Questions related to SECTION A issues.]	
Questions related to SECTION B issues.			
4	15 mins	Questions and Responses (Q and R)	Moderator
General audience input			
5	15 mins	Surveys and Polls Q and R	Moderator
Questions related to SECTION C issues.			
6	15 mins	Q and R	Moderator
Questions related to SECTION D issues. Close of Webinar (5 mins. total)			
7	15 mins	Q and R	
Wrap of the Webinar			
8	10 mins	Wrap of the Webinar: General conclusions (Youth perspectives) and Takeaways	Moderator
9	5 mins	Final Remarks: Next Steps	Dameon Black
Close of Webinar			