

Call for Papers

Creativity & Innovation Days 2026

Creativity & Innovation in Higher Education: Transforming Teaching & Learning

Wednesday, April 22 – Friday, April 24, 2026

Webster Geneva, 15 Route de Collex - 1293 - Bellevue (CH)

About the Conference

As the demands of the 21st century evolve, so too must the ways we teach, research, and engage with students in higher education. **Creativity & Innovation Days 2026** brings together professors, graduate students, policy makers, and educational innovators to explore how creativity and innovation can reshape universities for the future.

Over three days, participants will engage in keynote addresses, faculty-led case studies, student workshops, paper presentations, and interactive sessions. Together, we will examine imaginative pedagogies—from experiential and project-based learning to the use of AI, VR, and other emerging technologies—that foster critical thinking, collaboration, and adaptability.

The program balances critical conversations about governance and institutional transformation with hands-on classroom strategies, creating a dialogue that bridges **policy, practice, and pedagogy**.

Conference Themes

We invite proposals that engage with, but are not limited to, the following themes:

1. Education & Governance

- a. Institutional governance and the evolving role of professors
- b. Strategies for building “creative universities” that foster innovation
- c. Public scholarship and engagement beyond the academy

2. Research & Teaching in Practice

- a. From lectures to active and inquiry-driven learning
- b. Teaching for uncertainty: adaptability, interdisciplinarity, and play

- c. Integrating arts and creativity into science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) with entrepreneurship
- d. Faculty-led creativity in course assessment and curriculum design

3. Technology & Global Innovation

- a. Artificial Intelligence as a teaching partner: challenges and opportunities
- b. Virtual and augmented reality for immersive transformative and experiential learning
- c. Digital storytelling, multimedia, and open resources for collaborative teaching

Conference Highlights

- **April 22 (Education & Policy):** Opening keynote from a leader in higher education governance, exhibition opening, and evening silent disco.
- **April 23 (Research & Teaching in Practice):** Presentations from grant recipients, student-led theatre and creative writing workshops, and an improv performance exploring creativity in real time.
- **April 24 (Technology & Global Innovation):** Keynote from a UNESCO/ITU leader on education and technology, sessions on AI and the UN's Sustainable Development Goal 4 (Quality Education), paper presentations, and a closing BBQ.

Proposal Guidelines

We welcome proposals for:

- Individual papers (15 minutes)

Proposals should include:

- Title of contribution
- Abstract (250–300 words)
- Brief biography (100 words) of presenter(s)
- Keywords (3–5)

Key Dates

- **Abstract submission deadline:** December 1st, 2025
- **Notification of acceptance:** December 18th, 2025
- **Final paper submission deadline:** March 2nd, 2026

Submission, Publication & Contact

After the conference, the proceedings will be published online under the name of the Webster Center for Creativity and Innovation.

Please submit proposals to the organizing committee:

Francesco Arese Visconti (faresevisconti71@webster.edu)

Julianna Sandholm-Bark (juliannabark21@webster.edu)

Milena Claudius (mlenaclaudius@webster.edu)