



Polytechnic Summit 2022

Hochschule Darmstadt
June 28 to July 1

The Global Partner European Alliance (GPEA), a unique collaborative alliance of six universities, is an inclusive and impartial convener of academic, industry, and government alliance member stakeholders, which formulate educational opportunities and applied research and potential solutions on a national and regional scale in STEM and other disciplines. The Polytechnic Summit is one of the key annual events for the GPEA.

Each year the Polytechnic Summit assembles leaders, influencers and contributors who shape the future of polytechnic education. The Polytechnic Summit provides a forum to enable opportunities for collaboration and partnerships and for participants to focus on innovation in curriculum and pedagogy, to share best practices in active and applied learning, and discuss practice-based research to enhance student learning.

This year a view on the aspects of applied research will be added. How to conduct research in a teaching first environment and make use of this. Which characteristics of applied research are important to be used in teaching and vice versa?

The Summit will – once again - also provide an opportunity to examine the challenges and opportunities presented by COVID-19 and will offer us all an opportunity to explore the ways in which we can collaborate more effectively using our new-found virtual engagement skills and prepare for a hybrid future.

The 2022 Polytechnic Summit will take place as a hybrid event from Tuesday 28th June to Friday 1st July 2022 hosted by h_da – Darmstadt University of Applied Sciences. Participation is assumed at this stage to be in person or virtual.

To facilitate participation from the broadest range of locations, sessions will run each day from 14:00 to 18:00 local time.

h_da is one of Germany's biggest universities of applied sciences. Founded in 1971/72 by a merger of several long established higher educational institutions from a wide range of disciplines, we are celebrating our 50th anniversary in 2022! In a country with a strict distinction between vocational training on the one hand and university studies on the other, h_da as university is committed to practical study programs and applied research topics. h_da is a founding member of the European University of Technology. We believe in a technological education that empowers citizens and impacts society to build a powerful Europe of the century to come.

PS2022 offers local and virtual participants the unique opportunity to network, to collaborate, to inform, and to learn from the development of the Universities of Applied Sciences, and from developments at other practice-based higher education institutions. PS2022 will be hosted on the h_da main campus in Darmstadt, just 25 minutes away from the Frankfurt Airport. Participants will get to explore and present topics that are core to polytechnic education.

PS2022 Themes

Design (Programmes, Curriculum, Organisation)

Under this theme, PS2022 will explore the concept of design – looking at how the university itself can be designed, how the curriculum can be designed, and the programs within that curriculum. Speakers will address the challenges of creating a new university in different parts of the world. They will also explore the no-less-challenging aspect of developing or innovating a connected curriculum that contains core elements that define the identity of the university, and which are distilled through every program.

Practice-Based Learning

Together with Pedagogy and Learning Spaces, this theme of PS2022 will explore the environment in which students learn, in terms of both the physical environment, the virtual environment, and the hybrid environment, and also how the learner best engages with their learning and their teachers. We will seek to explore how the defining philosophy and approaches of polytechnic education are implemented in today's polytechnics.

Applied Research

Applied research is targeted towards finding solutions (for real world problems). That is in contrast to basic research, which in principle is searching for new questions. Hence there is a difference in aspects like funding, cooperation and necessary competences between those. As example, applied research usually needs a team of experts in very different disciplines to work in an interdisciplinary way. At PS2022 we will explore how to run applied research in parallel to intensive teaching loads and how to integrate students into the research for better results and to teach them to become successful applied researchers.

Employability and Graduate Skills

A defining feature of the modern polytechnic is that it seeks to cultivate learners with career ready professional competences, while at the same time not losing sight of the intrinsic value of education. While the contexts of many of the PS2022 faculty participants may vary, they all share a common challenge of nurturing employability and graduate skills within students. This theme touches on what those skills should be, and how acquiring them can be built into the curriculum. There is also the natural tension between the needs of employers, and the needs of the individual with regards to these skills. This theme will be explored with input from industry and university leaders from different countries.

Internationalisation, Global Teaching & Collaboration

The modern university is an international oasis, in which learners from many different countries and regions converge in-person and virtually to acquire and share knowledge and skills. The act of being immersed within an international learning environment itself can be an enriching experience, and universities actively seek to broaden their student base and that of their faculty. This theme will be explored from the perspective of the benefits of internationalizing the university and the curriculum, but also from the perspective of the inherent advantages and challenges in doing this.

Sustainability Theme

h_da has set as one of its ambitions to drive societal changes, to be a voice for sustainability, and a way of living and working in a new, more balanced way, a way that protects our planet for future generations. We are the only university in Germany currently, to offer a PhD title in sustainability. This PS2022 theme seeks submissions from across the globe on how others are championing sustainability and incorporating it into strategic goals, curricula and programs. This theme includes more than environmental sustainability, but also equity, social justice and economic development.

PS2022 Keywords

Submissions on these broad themes can be refined and focused through the inclusion of keywords that describe your submission and allow us to organise our tracks to make them more inter-related, connected and interesting.

When you submit your abstract, you will be asked to indicate the area(s) of your abstract by selecting five (or more) topic areas. Keywords to consider include the following:

21st Century Student, Applied Research, **Apprenticeships**, Arts in Polytechnic Education, **Assessment Modes**, Collaboration, **Communication Skills**, Creativity, **Curriculum Design**, Design, **Diversity**, Earn-and-Learn, **Engineering and Technology**, Environmental Sustainability, **Equality**, Experiential Learning, **Employability**, Entrepreneurship, **Gender**, Global Pandemic &

Response, **Global Teaching**, Graduate Skills, **Inclusion**, Innovation, **Instructional Design**, Intercultural Competence, **International Experince**, Leadership, **Learning Spaces**, Organisational Design, **Participation**, Pedagogy, **Polytechnic Experience**, Programme Design, **Practice-Based Learning**, Research / Teaching Nexus, Student-Centred, **Sustainability**, Teamwork.

Full Paper Submission Process & Dates

- Paper submission on or before **4th April 2022**
- Paper may be up to a maximum of 5.500 words in length (excluding references, figures and tables), a short paper would include 2.000 words in length (excluding references, figures and tables)
- Paper should be submitted in pdf format
- Paper may be complemented by a video
- Paper may be submitted individually or as part of a grouped thematic submission
- Paper may be individual efforts or may be multi-author efforts
- Feedback and Decisions will be notified by **9th May 2022**
- All accepted and presented papers will be published in the event's proceedings

Full Papers are submitted through [Easy Chair](#) or go on:

<https://easychair.org/conferences/?conf=ps2022>

Registration Fees

Participation fees for GPEA PS2022	Virtual participation	Physical participation
GPEA members	150 €	250 €
Non-members	250 €	350 €
Authors	100 €	100 €
Students	20 €	40 €

Event Link: <https://h-da.de/en/ps2022>

If you have any questions about the summit organisation please do not hesitate to contact us by email at ps2022@h-da.de.