



## 7th ASEF Rectors' Conference & Students' Forum

Higher Education Taking Action towards the Sustainable Development Goals:  
Perspectives from Europe and Asia

### **Taking Action at International Level SDGs as a catalyst to reorient internationalisation**

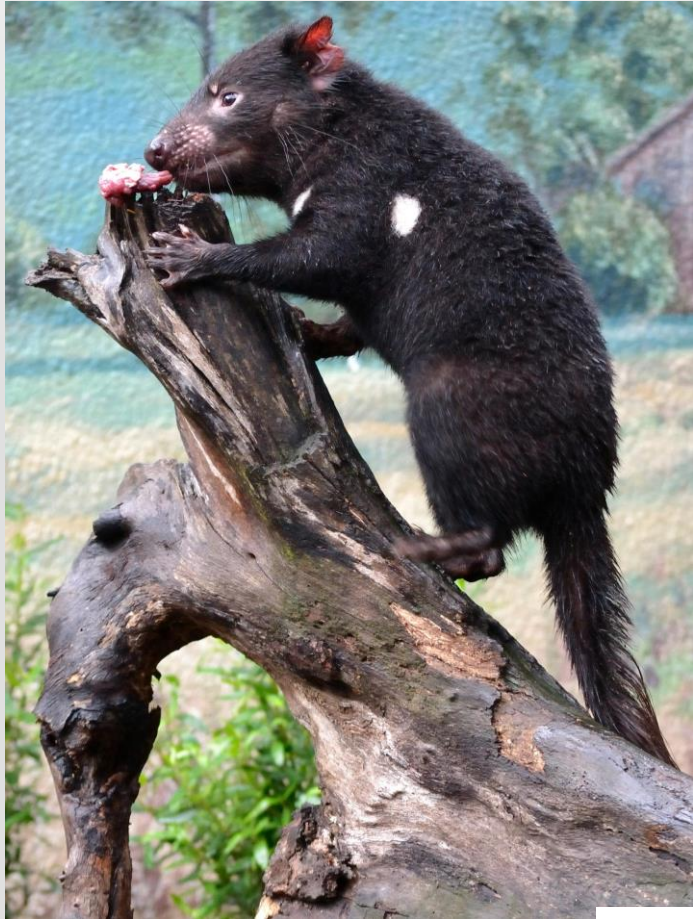
Professor Kathy Belov, Pro-Vice-Chancellor  
(Global Engagement), University of Sydney

13/05/2019, Bucharest





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@KathyBelov





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### University of Sydney profile

- Australia's oldest university, established in 1850
- 70,000 students, 59% female, 40% international
- One of the world's leading comprehensive universities: more than 400 areas of study and 30 subjects ranked in the global top 50
- Aim to give 50% of our students a mobility opportunity by 2020
- Home to more than 90 research centres with a strong multidisciplinary focus





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### An internationally-focused strategy

A culture of research  
excellence

Be the leading  
research-intensive  
university in Australia  
with outstanding  
researchers, networks  
and partnerships that  
improve the lives of  
our local and global  
communities

A distinctive Sydney  
education

Deliver an  
undergraduate  
education that is  
unique in Australia  
so that our  
graduates have the  
skills, knowledge  
and values to lead in  
a rapidly changing  
world

A culture built on  
our values

Foster an  
aspirational culture  
that enables each  
member of the  
University to thrive



University of  
Sydney Strategic  
Plan 2016 - 2020



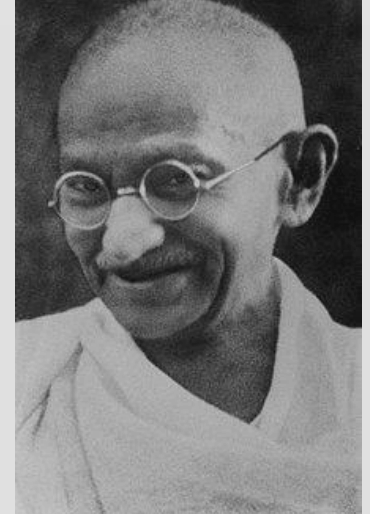
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### A catalyst for change

“We but mirror the world. If we could change ourselves, the tendencies in the world would also change. We need not wait to see what others do.”





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### Working towards SDGs



#### Sustainability on campus

Solar powered lamp posts incorporating low-cost zinc-bromide batteries outside the Great Hall at Sydney University.

The battery technology has been developed by Gelion Technologies, a spin-off from Sydney Nano Institute.

The fleet of mobile lighting systems is intended to improve campus sustainability and increase night-time safety on campus.





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### Working towards SDGs: multidisciplinary solutions

#### Charles Perkins Centre

Tackling obesity, diabetes and cardiovascular disease

#### Planetary Health Platform

Studying how natural systems support civilisational health

#### Sydney Environment Institute

Studying the relationship between human communities and the natural world

#### Marie Bashir Institute for Infectious Diseases and Biosecurity

Tackling emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases

#### University of Sydney Nano Institute

Transforming Sydney into a global hub for discovering and harnessing new science at the nanoscale.

Member of the **Association of Pacific Rim Universities** and the **Worldwide Universities Network**



Sydney Environment Institute is addressing the key environmental issues of our time



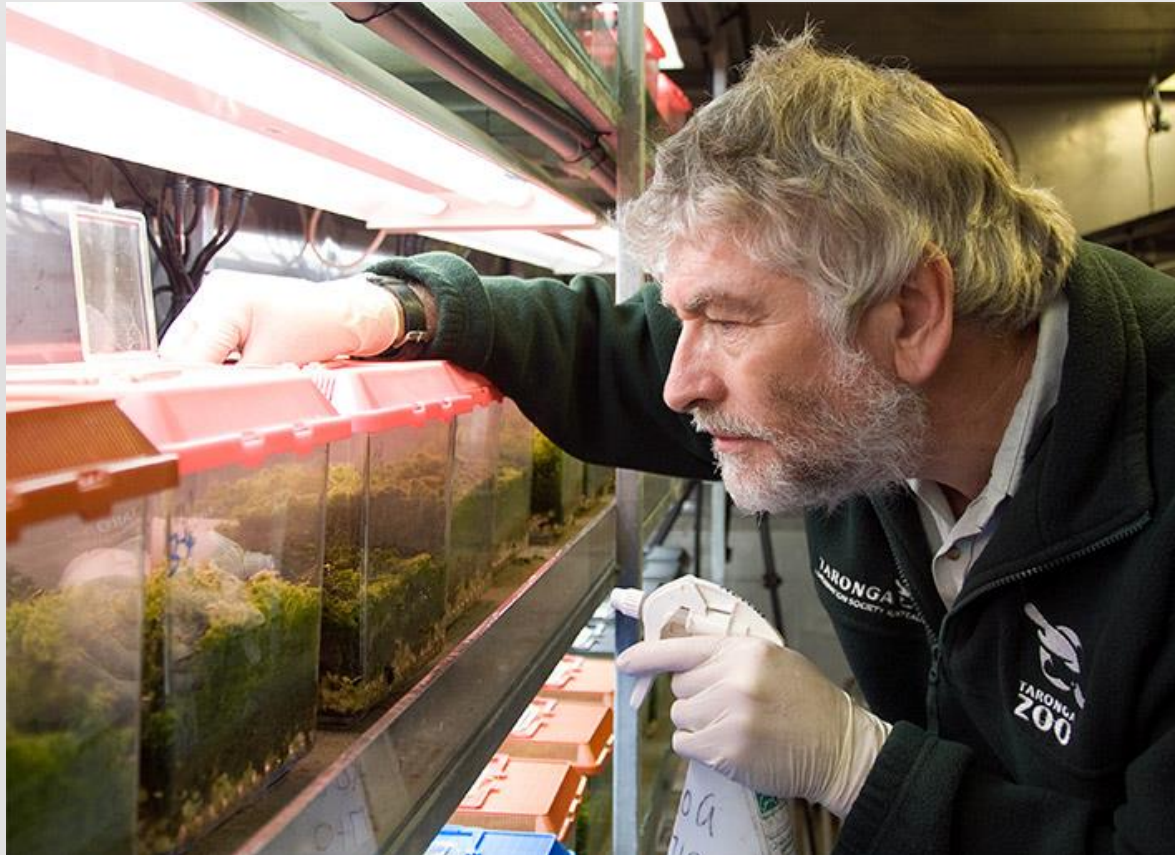
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### Working towards SDGs: innovative partnerships

Bachelor of Science and Bachelor of Advanced Studies (Taronga Wildlife Conservation)



*“You will be able to lead behavioural change in the community for sustaining our planet’s biodiversity.”*





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## Working towards SDGs: using our global partnerships

Collaboration between Sydney, Edinburgh and UC Davis

### PLANETARY HEALTH

Planetary health is about safeguarding the health and wellbeing of current and future generations through good stewardship of Earth's natural systems, and by rethinking the way we feed, move, house and power the world

The things we do

Health of people

Health of planet

How we manage ourselves to leave no one behind  
**values, education, regulation**

The big four pathways

How we  
**feed**  
the world

How we  
**move**  
the world

How we  
**house**  
the world

How we  
**power**  
the world

Our future depends on the health of the natural world





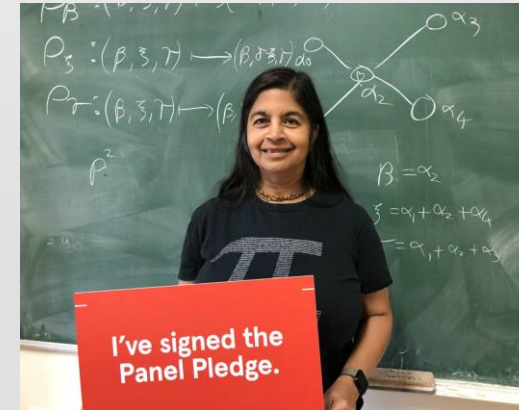


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## Working towards SDGs: gender equity







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## Working towards SDGs: student engagement



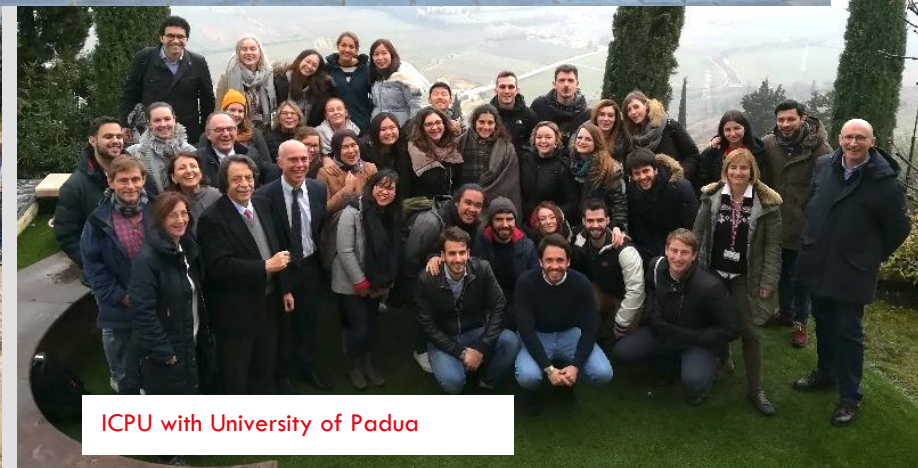
Summer School with Harvard



APRU Undergraduate Leaders Program



International Leaders Program



ICPU with University of Padua





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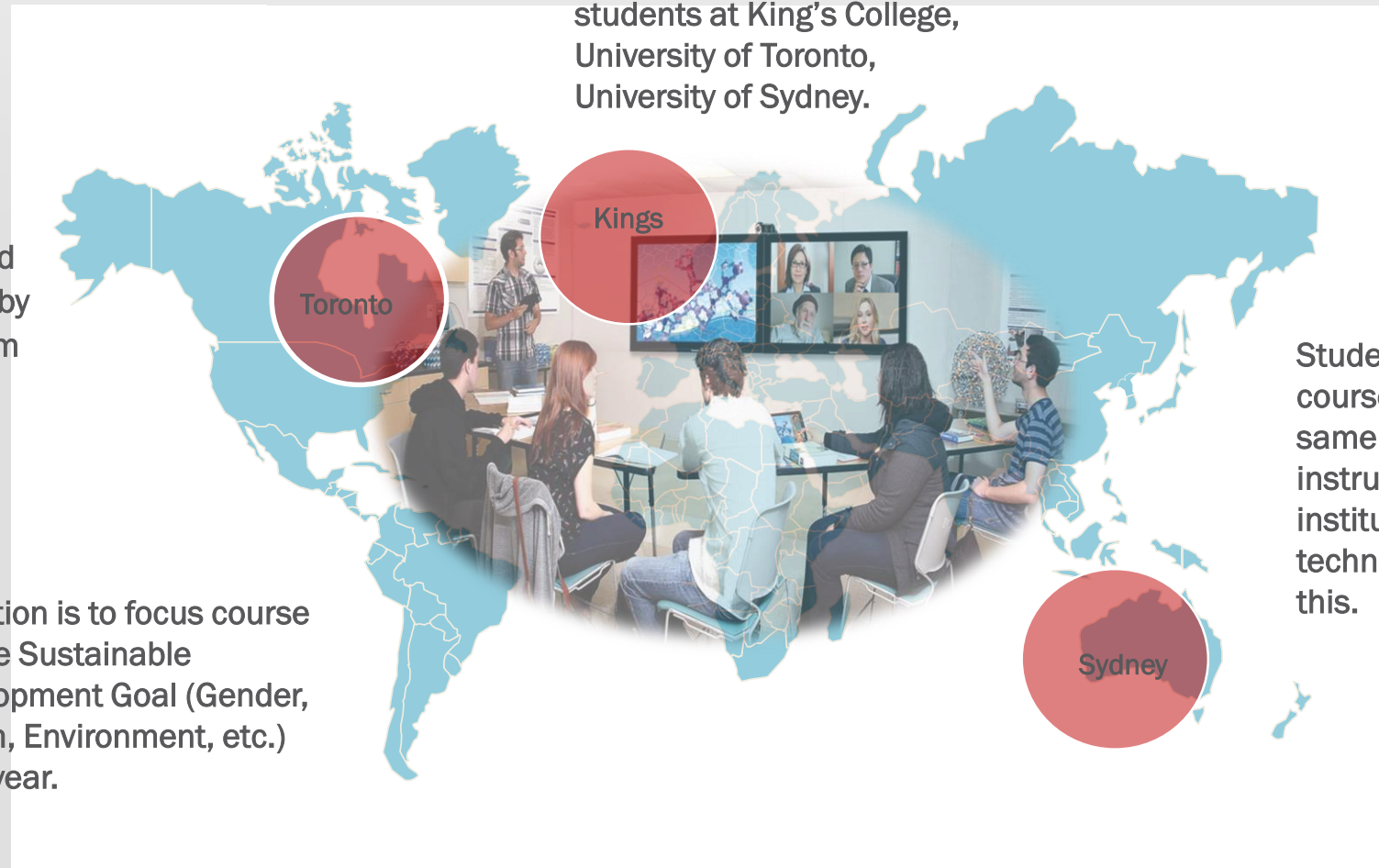


## Global classrooms

Course will be jointly designed and co-taught by instructors from partner institutions.

An option is to focus course on one Sustainable Development Goal (Gender, Health, Environment, etc.) each year.

A common course for students at King's College, University of Toronto, University of Sydney.



Students enrolled in the course will “attend” the same lectures by instructors in partner institutions, using technology to facilitate this.



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Our challenge:  
To achieve the Sustainable  
Development Goals  
sustainably



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### Recommendations

- 1: Universities should continue to support the objectives of the SDGs and develop sustainable strategies, individually and in partnership with other universities, for making progress towards the goals.
- 2: Universities should drive sustainability through their own actions
- 3: Universities should reduce their carbon footprint by developing online platforms for collaboration