

## **U21/Common Purpose online opportunity for students in October 2020**

Responding to the need to create virtual international opportunities for students in these times of no travel, I wanted to make you aware of a new U21 virtual international initiative that will begin in early October 2020. With a capability to enrol up to 2,000 U21 students, the U21 [Global Citizenship Course](#) will offer your students the opportunity to work online in an international environment, develop skills and competencies needed to advance the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and have the opportunity to meet other U21 students in real time online (read further for more details). Up to 75 places on this course will be offered to each U21 university, without cost and, students will receive a micro-credential (badge) for completing the course.

### **Background**

U21 will be offering an opportunity to members to enrol students at scale on an online international opportunity in October 2020 to support cross border connections, exchange and learning. The course will be delivered by Common Purpose as a customised version of their fully online Global Citizenship Course, which includes approximately 9 hours of learning across 3 weeks. The course will be provided at no cost to members or students and members can registered up to 75 students. This would mean being able to enrol up to 2000 students across the network to learn together and exchange knowledge and experiences. We believe this would be a unique offer that U21 can provide to members to partake in a truly global virtual opportunity, bringing large groups of students together across the 27 members.

### **Who is Common Purpose?**

Common Purpose is a not-for-profit training organization founded in 1989 with considerable experience in the development of internationalisation-focused courses (both online and face-to-face) for both students and staff across the world. After considerable consultation with those who have worked with them in the past (including U21 members), U21 has chosen them as a training partner for this initiative. Working with Common Purpose allows U21 to fund and deliver this initiative to the benefit of a much greater number of students across our whole network in a way that would not have been possible trying to develop it 'in-house' with one or more members.

### **How is the course run?**

The course will be majority asynchronous, allowing students to discuss and learn together across time zones, but will also include opportunities to interact in real time with other U21 students live via video conference, developing ideas together and reflecting on learning in smaller groups at the end of each week. Students who complete the course and the assessment will receive a micro-credential that can be attached to their LinkedIn and other social media. Upon completing the course, students will also eligible to become part of the [Common Purpose alumni](#) and take part in offers for this group.

### **How much work does a member institution need to do?**

Members will be able to determine if they would like to target the opportunity at certain groups, such as those who have missed mobility opportunities due to the pandemic, or to offer the opportunity to any student. However, as students will apply directly to U21, members will not be need to take on the administrative responsibility for managing applications and enrolment.

### **What happens next?**

Further details and materials to support advertising to students will be communicated at the end of the month however below is an outline of the key dates in which we have tried to take into account the term dates and exam periods of all members as far as possible:

Key dates –

- Members publicise to students: start September.
- Registrations close: 30<sup>th</sup> September.
- Course takes place: 5<sup>th</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> October.
- Final deadline for submission of assignments to gain micro-credential: 30th October.

I'd also like to take the opportunity to thank those who have offered advice and support in pursuing this opportunity so far. If you have any questions, please let me know.