

# The **UGPN** Academy

UNIVERSITY GLOBAL  
PARTNERSHIP NETWORK



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# Our 2023 team

- **Alex Seal** - Associate Dean International, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, University of Surrey
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- **Gabriela Marques di Giulio** - Associate Professor, School of Public Health, University of São Paulo
- **Karl Jicha** - Lecturer, Dept. of Sociology & Anthropology, North Carolina State University

# Origins and Context

- The Covid-19 Pandemic
- (rethinking) The internationalisation of universities and the development of research-focused partnerships
- An opportunity to develop the educational pillar of the UGPN
- Student mobility as education goal
  - Challenges to mobility: equity, pandemic, cost, risk
- COIL and Internationalisation at Home (IaH) are not new, but the pandemic has required us to think about their value and purpose in new ways



# Motivations and aspirations

We are united in four things:

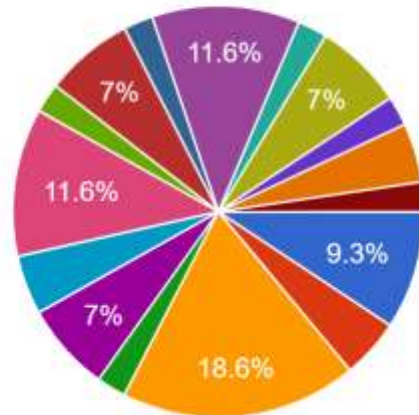
- Exploring experience of contemporary HE in a global pandemic and post pandemic society
- Creating a more equitable experience of internationalisation
- Demonstrating that learning is more than a formal curriculum
- Developing our connections together as teaching practitioners

# What we did this year...

- 43 students elected to join the Academy from all three partners

## Your 1st choice SDG

43 responses



# What we did this year...

- **Week One:**

- After allocation groups based on the students pre-selected UN SDGs, we kicked off with a live session to introduce the Academy and its members

- **Week Two:**

- Individual group meetings with group mentors
- Mentor feedback and peer-to-peer feedback in the live session at the end of the week



# Our Platforms for Collaboration



What makes these platforms so good for the Academy...

# The community building affordances through Slack

The screenshot shows a Slack interface with a dark purple sidebar on the left and a main content area on the right. The sidebar contains the following elements: a search bar with the text "Search UGPN Academy 2023", a button labeled "UGPN Academy 2023" with a dropdown arrow, a button labeled "Upgrade Plan" with a rocket icon, a list of navigation options: "Threads", "Direct messages", "Mentions & reactions", "Drafts & sent" (with a pencil icon and "1"), "Slack Connect", and "More", a "Channels" section with a dropdown arrow, and a list of channel names: "academic-staff", "# event-zoom-links", "# final-posters", and "group-3-gender-equality". At the bottom of the sidebar, the current channel "welcome-and-introductions" is highlighted with a speaker icon.

The main content area displays the channel name "# welcome-and-introductions" with a dropdown arrow and a header for "Monday, March 20th" with a dropdown arrow. There are 78 members in the channel, indicated by a group of three profile icons and the number "78".

Two messages are visible:

- The first message is from a user with a red profile picture, timestamped "2:35 AM". The text reads: "Hello!! My name is [redacted] and I'm a student at the University of São Paulo. Currently I'm in the 3rd year of my bachelor's degree in Public Health. As to where I'm located, I live in a town near the capital, São Paulo, in Brazil. I do love to watch tv shows, play sports and participate in extracurricular activities. Looking forward to meet you all :)". It has one heart reaction and a thumbs-up icon.
- The second message is from a user with a purple profile picture, timestamped "10:54 AM". The text reads: "Hello! My name is [redacted] and I'm a 4th year at North Carolina University, and I am from Virginia! I am studying Communications: Public Relations, with minors in Journalism and Psychology! I am on our cheerleading team here, and I love to read, write, and spend time outside! :) excited to meet you all! (edited)". It has one thumbs-up reaction and a thumbs-up icon.

At the bottom of the main content area, there is a message composition box with a rich text editor toolbar containing icons for bold (B), italic (I), link, unlink, bulleted list, numbered list, indent, code, and image. Below the toolbar, the text "Message #welcome-and-introductions" is visible. At the bottom of the composition box, there are icons for adding attachments, voice recording, emojis, mentions (@), and text formatting (Aa), followed by a send button (paper plane icon) and a dropdown arrow.



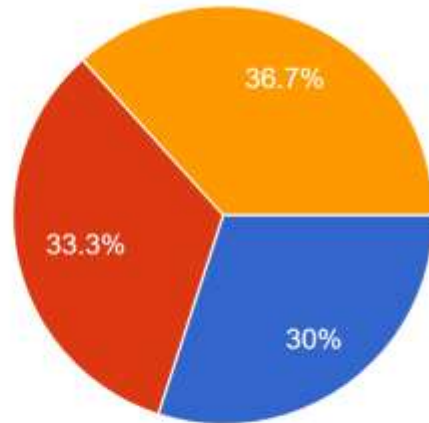
# Findings from the pre and post Academy Survey 2023

- After participation, 82% said they are considering a career that would allow them to travel internationally (increase from 56%)
- 88% of students said developing their global and cultural awareness was a valuable aspect of participating in the project
- 82% of students said learning about the experiences of students in other countries was a valuable aspect of participating in the project
- 76% of students networking with students and faculty members from other educational institutions was a valuable aspect of participating in the project
- 67% of students said developing their professional skills (teamwork, communication, presentation etc.) was a valuable aspect of participating in the project

# Findings from the pre and post Academy Survey 2023

Have you heard of the Inner Development Goals (IDGs)? They compliment the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by identifying the perso...ities we must develop to make the SDGs possible.

30 responses



- Yes - I know what they are and understand how they compliment the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
- No - I've never heard of them
- Unsure - I've heard of the individual personal/interpersonal skills and capacities, but unsure how they compliment the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

# Findings from the pre and post Academy Survey 2023

What personal/interpersonal skills and capacities have you developed as a result of participating in this project?

- 71% openness and learning mindset
- 71% empathy and compassion
- 75% communication skills
- 75% critical thinking
- 79% co-creation skills
- 92% creativity



**What have you liked? Challenges? General reflections? (comment in English and/or Portuguese)**

**Eu gostaria que todos os posters fossem todos bilíngues**

I loved the cooperation in English and the contact with other cultures and people. I do believe that a few more integration events would be enjoyed.

I enjoyed meeting people from all over the world! I also really liked how many languages were incorporated into this project. It was very eye-opening to hear stories from others.

I really liked the opportunity to interact with students from other universities, and to be able to share experiences about our time there.

It's a really good opportunity to improve my English and to understand what other universities' students think about the subjects of development

opened up my perspective

We enjoyed the collaborative element and seeing the differences and similarities between cultures. I would recommend doing longer sessions.

I really liked how we had the opportunity to view other schools across the world and collaborate with them.

I really enjoyed the project, I think it's a very unique and creative way of spreading awareness about global goals. I really liked meeting and working with international students

I think this experience should be longer. The time factor really was a limit that I faced when doing the activities!

I loved getting to see how the SDG's affected everyone in the group regardless of where they were from. As well as how we were all able to participate even in different time zones

I liked the idea of collaborating with people from over the world, it is definitely nice to be able to interact with different people

**I believe that a longer course it will be very good**

I loved working with so important themes, and I believe we should have more meetings, I thought it was a short time for us to integrate.

I learned a little bit about my school and why they choose to do certain things.

I loved the experience and I just wish we could've made a longer project

I have enjoyed meeting students from other countries and practicing my English.

Muito interessante a experiência para colaborar com outras universidades, ótima prática no ponto de vista como estudantes e ações possíveis de nós como estudantes.

Even though the students had different schedules, which made it hard for us to meet up, the way of working through Slack made it possible for us to work together!

I wish there were ways to have more events, I feel like there could have been more interactions between all of us and it would have been nice

It was a really cool opportunity to meet and collaborate with students from other countries in multiple languages (even though I don't know ANY Portuguese. :))

The cooperation was great with other students and other countries as an experience, also the contact with Portuguese was interesting.

I would like all posters to be bilingual

# Experience and challenges

## Language:

- We are very proud of our bi-lingual academy and feel that we're developing the bilingual character each year

A ACADEMIA UGPN 2023

**CERTIFICADO**  
de participação



Este certificado representa orgulhosamente sua contribuição para um pôster internacional, sobre os Objetivos de Desenvolvimento Sustentável da ONU, como parte da Academia UGPN 2023.

**UGPN**

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Universidade de São Paulo