

A Report on U21 Global Citizens Program

With the onset of Pandemic in the year 2020 and the restriction in mobility, the U21 initiated many online/virtual events, including meetings, competitions and training programs for faculty, staff and students of its member universities.

“Universitas 21 Global Citizenship” is an online leadership development programme, delivered by Common Purpose, a global not-for-profit organisation that specializes in Cross-Boundary Leadership. The program encourages participants to develop ideas together, across borders and time zones, honing skills needed to thrive in the 21st century whilst tackling some of the world’s most pressing problems, outlined in the United Nation Sustainability Goals (UNSDG).

The course is open to 2,000 students across the U21 global network of 27 universities, spanning 18 countries and 19 time zones. Throughout the programme participants engage with and learn from students across the globe. On successful completion of the programme and all related activities, the participants receive the Global Citizenship micro-credential which they can display on their LinkedIn profile, demonstrating that they have developed the skills to tackle complex global issues and stand up as a leader.

The U21 has conducted the program twice since the year 2020 – October 2020 and April 2021. Students of University of Delhi displayed a lot of interest in this program and the International Relations office received an overwhelming response for participation. Subsequently the International Relations office reached out to all the Delhi University participants for feedback on their experience and the overall feedback received was very positive. The main objective of participating in such program was mainly to connect with people, to have international exposure, to understand common global causes and to learn more about UN Sustainable Development Goals among many others.

One of the students quoted,

“The objective was to learn about ways the world can come together to identify and resolve complex issues regarding the sustainable use of resources available in the world and contribute to the cause to the best of one’s capacity.”

Most students were satisfied with the virtual networking opportunities provided by the program. All the students expressed their willingness to recommend the program to their peers as,

- a) It enhances inclusivity on every large scale.
- b) Gives knowledge about SDGs and how one can work upon this.
- c) An opportunity to get to know and engage with diverse ideas and perspectives and
- d) Provides a chance to participate in cross-cultural dialogues and work on SDGs.

One of the participants quoted that,

“I would highly recommend this program to everyone because of the great opportunities it brings to connect to the world, learn different perspectives, finding common ground and a lot more than just the course, things that are beyond traditional classroom learning and might shape the leaders of the future.”