



Coimbra Group 40th Anniversary

Climate Symposium

Durham University 24th – 26th March 2025

(Draft) Programme

Monday 24th March

Venue: To Be Confirmed

10:00 – 12:00	Executive Board Meeting	CG EB Members only
14:00 – 16:00	Rectors Advisory Group	CG RAG & EB Members only

Venue: Restaurant at Durham University Business School, Waterside Building		
18:00 – 21:00	Networking Reception	With Introductory speeches from: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Professor Ludovic Thilly, Chair of the Coimbra Group Executive Board, Professor, University of Poitiers• Professor Karen O'Brien, Vice-Chancellor, Durham University• Professor Giovanni Molari, Rector, University of Bologna



Tuesday 25th March

Venue: Durham University Business School, Waterside Building, Riverside Place, Durham DH1 1SL

08:30		Coffee & Team on Arrival
09:00 – 09:45	Opening Keynote address Followed by Q&A	Dr Tony Juniper CBE , Chair of Natural England Introduced by Professor Ludovic Thilly , Chair of the Coimbra Group Executive Board, Professor, University of Poitiers
09:45 – 11:15	Universities as Innovators	10-minute presentations followed by Q&A. Moderator tbc. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prof Annetje Ottow, President, Leiden University • Prof Jane Stout, Vice President for Biodiversity and Climate Action, Trinity College Dublin • Prof Karin Schumacher, Vice-Rector for Quality Development and Sustainability, Heidelberg University • Professor Zamorano Toro, Vice-Rector for Infrastructure and Sustainability, University of Granada
11:15 – 11:45	Coffee Break	
11:45 – 13:15	Universities as Investors Panel discussion	Panel discussions on how institutions are investing for climate, nature and society. Chair: Prof Margareth Hagen , Rector, University of Bergen <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prof Lenka Henebergová, Member of the Rector's Board for Social Affairs and Sustainable Development; Vice-Dean for Internationalisation, Charles University Prague • Prof Patrícia Pereira da Silva, Pro-Rector, University of Coimbra • Further panelists TBC
13:15 – 14:30	Lunch	



Tuesday 25th March (continued)

Venue: Durham University Business School, Waterside Building, Riverside Place, Durham DH1 1SL

14:30 – 17:00	Universities as Educators	
14:30 – 15:30	Panel Discussion	<p>Panel discussion around the importance of student engagement in efforts to combat climate change. Moderator tbc.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professor Teresa Sauras-Yera, Vice-Rector for Sustainability and climate action, University of Barcelona • Professor Kirk Junker, Vice-Rector for Sustainability, University of Cologne • University of Pavia – TBC • UNEP representative – TBC
15:30 – 16:00	Break	
16:00 – 16:45	‘Eyes of the Future; Utrecht 2040’	Utrecht University to present the story behind this Serious Game initiative and announcement of the student competition winners
16:45 – 17:00	Closing Keynote address	Lana Par , Vice-President, European Students’ Union, ESU portfolio lead for Sustainability

Venue: Great Hall, University College (Durham Castle)		
18:30	Reception and Exhibition	Posters and videos on display, showcasing outputs from the Durham University student-led competition
19:30	Gala Dinner	Dress Code:
	After dinner speaker	TBC



Wednesday 26th March

Venue: Durham University Business School, Waterside Building, Riverside Place, Durham DH1 1SL

09:00		Coffee & Team on Arrival
09:30 – 11:00	Universities as Partners Presentations	With participation from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professor Anders Hagfeldt, Vice Chancellor of Uppsala University • Professor Giovanni Molari, Rector, University of Bologna • Geneva University – speaker TBC • Poitiers University – speaker TBC along with City Council Mayor (TBC) • Professor Marjo Kaartinen, Coimbra Group Honorary President and Rector of Turku University • Professor Michele Acuto, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Global Engagement), University of Bristol
11:00 – 11:30	Coffee Break	
11:30 – 12:00	Introduction to the Durham Declaration and scene setting for Bologna Annual Conference	Introduced by Professor Ludovic Thilly , Chair of the Coimbra Group Executive Board, Professor, University of Poitiers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professor Petra Minnerop, Professor of International Law, Durham University • Professor Karen O’Brien, Vice Chancellor, Durham • Professor Giovanni Molari, Rector, University of Bologna
12:00 – 12:15	Group Photo	Photo opportunity
12:15 – 12:30	Closing keynote - TBC	
12:30 – 14:00	Networking Lunch	
15:00	Optional Activity	Visit to Durham Cathedral / Castle – subject to demand / availability