

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

DIES IDC LA Alumni Network Meeting 7th Alumni Conference in Latin America San José, Costa Rica 19 – 21 March 2026

Scope of the event and the call

This year's Alumni Conference will offer a combination of networking opportunities, workshops, and conference sessions designed to equip participants with critical skills for obtaining European funding and to explore the topic of "Science Diplomacy and Challenges in Latin American Higher Education." The event will begin with a welcome reception and a presentation of the SAPs of the new 2025/26 DIES-IDC LA cohort. It will conclude with the "IDC Alumni Roundtable," a format designed for meaningful exchanges among alumni and university leaders, tailored to address evolving challenges in Latin America.

The Alumni Conference has two main objectives. Firstly, it aims to strengthen alumni engagement and networking by bringing together alumni of the DIES IDC program. Secondly, it seeks to address the emerging challenges and opportunities for higher education institutions in Latin America.

This call is aimed at all DIES IDC LA Alumni. The meeting organizers invite abstracts for consideration to form part of the 7th DIES IDC LA Alumni Conference in Latin America to be held in San José, Costa Rica from March 19 to March 21, 2026. Please note that participation in the conference will be at one's own expense, as we are unfortunately unable to provide funding for travel or accommodation. However, we are pleased to cover the costs of joint meals, including the farewell dinner, to ensure a warm and engaging experience for all attendees.

Submission of abstracts

Abstracts: We invite alumni to submit abstracts that address the conference topic. These may include research results, case studies, and/or presentations based on experiences gained through practice and decision-making. Abstracts must be around 200-250 words excluding references and should be written in English.

There is no registration fee. Non-presenting alumni are also welcome!

Conference topic

Science Diplomacy and Challenges in Latin American Higher Education

In times of strained transatlantic relations, science diplomacy and international exchanges are vital for sustaining dialogue and cooperation beyond political divides, anchoring collaboration in shared knowledge and trust. It enables higher education and research partnerships to jointly address global challenges such as climate change, technological transformation, and AI-driven digital futures. This call for papers invites contributions that examine science diplomacy as a critical framework for addressing current challenges and opportunities in Latin American higher education, including international collaboration, knowledge exchange, equity, and sustainable development. We welcome analyses of how universities, researchers, and policy actors navigate funding constraints, geopolitical shifts, and transnational partnerships, and how science diplomacy fosters resilient transatlantic and inter-American collaborations to address shared global issues such as climate change, public health, technological transformation, and digital and AI-related challenges.

What new responsibilities do deans and faculty members take on in these challenging times?

We invite contributions that explore these questions and examine how HEIs navigate current challenges and opportunities in areas such as **international collaboration, innovation in teaching and research, and governance.**

Please send us your abstracts by February 8, 2026!

Important dates

26 January 2026	Launch of registration for the Alumni Conference
8 February 2026	Submission of abstracts and proposals (23:59 CET)
13 February 2026	Notification of acceptance of abstracts and proposals
13 February 2026	End of registration for the Alumni Conference
16 March 2026	Publication of the final Agenda
20 - 21 March 2026	Alumni Conference

Review process

- For quality assurance, each submission will be reviewed by members of the DIES IDC LA Team.
- Each contribution must have a title.
- Abstracts should be written in English. No other language will be accepted.
- Author name(s), affiliations, and contact details should be provided on a separate title page, in the same document.

Program Committee

The Program Committee comprises members from countries in Europe and Latin America:

- Yvonne Visarius, DAAD (Germany)
- Prof. Dr. Astrid M. Fellner, Saarland University (Germany)
- Prof. Dr. Joaquín Marhuenda, Universidad de Alicante (Spain)
- Carolina Madeleine, Universidad de Alicante (Spain)
- Eva Nossem, Saarland University (Germany)
- Natalia Villalba, Saarland University (Germany)
- Prof. Dr. Marina Sansiñena, Universidad del Salvador (Argentina)

- Prof. Dr. Arbelio Pentón, Universidad de La Habana (Cuba)
- Prof. Dr. Larisa Carrera, Universidad Nacional del Litoral (Argentina),
- Prof. Dr. Roberto Cortés, Tecnológico de Costa Rica (Cost Rica)
- Prof. Dr. Verónica Botero, Universidad Nacional de Colombia (Colombia)
- Prof. Dr. Mónica Bonifaz, Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú (Peru)

More information on the DIES IDC LA website: www.idc-latinamerica.com

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