

# SHANGHAI STATEMENT

## Purpose

The Global Network is the pre-eminent group of leading research universities' associations from North America, Europe, Asia and Australia. As a collective organization, the Global Network has signed two statements concerning research-intensive universities. The 2013 HEFEI STATEMENT marks the first widespread agreement on key characteristics and missions of modern research universities. In 2014, the Global Network signed the LEIDEN STATEMENT reinforcing the role of social sciences and humanities in the global research landscape. The LEIDEN STATEMENT is intended to help enable broad interdisciplinary connections that can deliver multiple perspectives to solve global challenges.

The SHANGHAI STATEMENT builds on previous Global Network statements, in order to outline the critical role of research-intensive universities in global innovation ecosystems. The SHANGHAI STATEMENT also identifies the vital actions research-intensive universities must undertake to strengthen their foundational role in the innovation ecosystem.

## Preamble

In today's increasingly complex global landscape, innovative ideas, technologies, products and services address social, political and economic problems. Innovation permeates all aspects of the economy and global society. Emergent innovations are developed within a complex ecosystem consisting of people, organizations and interactions.

Research-intensive universities are key pillars in the innovation ecosystem. Per the HEFEI STATEMENT, research universities are distinguished by the quality, breadth and depth of their research. They drive national development and well-being. Building on these principles, research-intensive universities will also foster the success of the global innovation ecosystem. Talented people sharing disruptive ideas in dynamic regions will drive innovation. On both the global landscape and at the local level, research universities create the conditions that support this innovation ecosystem. Global research universities train talented innovators, act as a hub for innovative ideas, provide critical research facilities and infrastructure and serve as incubators for disruptive start-up companies. In sum, universities are critical sites for developing the talent, knowledge and partnerships that underpin future innovative advancements.

Universities are sites of training, collaboration, discovery and experimentation. They foster talent, providing opportunities for students and faculty to develop knowledge that draws upon hard and soft skills. The ideas people develop, challenge and improve upon at universities are critical to innovative, knowledge-based economies. Universities are also an important site for collaboration, where talented, curious innovators work, learn

and share ideas, attracting other innovative thinkers and developers as they create important social and professional networks.

Research-intensive universities are uniquely positioned as innovation hubs, offering training, collaboration, experimentation and early-stage commercialization opportunities. Capacity for discovery-driven research is one of a research university's most competitive advantages. As homes to top talent and world-class research infrastructure, universities are ideally positioned to undertake the long-term, fundamental research that often leads to our most innovative discoveries. On the global landscape, research-intensive universities are pillars of innovation, connecting world-class researchers with potential partners from all disciplines and sectors. As a result, innovation and innovative economies and societies are more efficiently advanced in partnership with research-intensive universities.

In an increasingly connected global landscape, research-intensive universities are a strategic asset. Integrating these institutions into the innovation ecosystem will drive innovation and spur new discoveries. To facilitate this integration, the university associations of the Global Network commit themselves to a series of statements that will further entrench our universities as key members of the global innovation ecosystem, developing the people, knowledge and partnerships that will foster innovation at all levels of society.

## Statement

To foster innovation, the eight signatory university associations of the statement commit themselves to:

- 1) **Providing high-quality education to tomorrow's innovators by fostering critical thinking, curiosity and a broad skillset.** World-class leadership and a diversity of talent are central to innovation, because creative individuals develop innovative products and services. Our universities provide a healthy environment to unleash and develop the potential of both students and faculty. Our institutions encourage all to challenge their own boundaries and explore the remote corners of science to develop innovations that improve society. The speed of technological change in all fields means people will need to learn new skills and concepts more frequently and more rapidly than at any previous time in history. Universities impart discipline-specific knowledge and foster the curiosity that underpins a commitment to lifelong learning. That learning will prepare innovators to identify gaps within the ever-changing innovation ecosystem quickly, and pivot to meet those emerging needs.
- 2) **Pursuing knowledge and academic excellence based on best available evidence.** All instructional and research activities will create and disseminate knowledge following the highest academic standards. Investments in fundamental research lead to ground-breaking discoveries and knowledge creation. These investments also develop tomorrow's talented innovators and the expertise that drives innovation on the global landscape, offering diverse, high-quality opportunities for learning and research.
- 3) **Exploring new areas of study, new research paradigms, new ways of thinking and new platforms.** Universities are home to world-class researchers and state-of-the-art research infrastructure, creating a dynamic environment that fosters collaboration across disciplines and borders. In addition, they are sites of leading scientific and technological innovation on the global landscape. The tasks of today's universities are not merely to discover the world around us and explore the unknown but also to forge new frontiers, create new opportunities and develop new products, services and technologies.
- 4) **Collaborating with partners from all disciplines, sectors and geographic locations.** The global research landscape is increasingly interconnected, as research endeavours span disciplines, sectors and borders. Collaboration strengthens fundamental research. As a result, universities must build collaborative platforms that allow researchers from around the world and from all disciplines to work together to advance fundamental science and to share the latest research findings and insights. Moreover, universities have the capacity to strengthen ties with industries and public institutions, connecting policymakers, businesses, researchers and the general public so they can address major challenges that affect our shared future.

- 5) **Building a global network that connects local expertise to international partners.** Research is increasingly collaborative and interdisciplinary, and there are significant opportunities for major research findings to draw on local knowledge and for communities and regions to benefit from these ground-breaking findings. Fostering partnerships among research-intensive universities around the world will help to establish an international knowledge network underpinning the global innovation ecosystem.