



**CHEI**

Centre for Higher Education  
Internationalisation

# **CHEI ANNUAL REPORT**

June 2023



**UNIVERSITÀ  
CATTOLICA**  
del Sacro Cuore

# NEVER A DULL MOMENT AT CHEI!



## Highlights from January to June 2023

The first half of 2023 has been lively. CHEI was instrumental in bringing home the 2023 Zairi International Award for Excellence in HE in the category of Internationalisation for Università Cattolica and in March our alumna and CHEI Fellow Dr [Dolly Predovic](#) flew to Dubai to receive the prize awarded by the Center for Learning Innovations and Customized Knowledge Solutions (CLICKS) on behalf of the University.

This was followed by a packed PhD seminar in March, attended by twenty-four students, and six academics. At the seminar the new CHEI curriculum, developed by the academic 'Rescue' Team was launched, an exciting initiative being piloted which distinguishes CHEI further on the stage of the Internationalisation of Higher Education.

The major publishing event of 2023 has been the large volume "Internationalisation in Higher Education" (EduCatt 2023). Edited by [Fiona Hunter](#), [Ravi Ammigan](#), [Hans de Wit](#), [Jeanine Gregersen-Hermans](#) and [Amanda Murphy](#), it contains 23 chapters of new and republished research by CHEI members from around the world. The book was launched on social media (Twitter and LinkedIn) and the CHEI website shortly before the NAFSA conference in May, and drew thousands of impressions within a very short time. The book is available Open Access as an e-book as well as in print.

On the national scene, Post-doctoral CHEI fellow Dr [Olivia Mair](#) has continued to raise the profile of CHEI by presenting the intercultural mentoring programme carried out this year at the Asduni Conference in Palermo in June.

The last joyful events of these months have been two successful PhD vivas for Drs. [Alyona Ovchinnikova](#) and [Dawn Wood](#), bringing our total of graduates to 14.



# THE CHEI BOARDS 2021-2024



Management Board appointed from October 2021 to October 2024

President: [Pier Sandro Cocconcelli](#), Rector's Delegate for Internationalisation, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Italy

[Rossella Gambetti](#), Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Milan, Italy

[Thomas Garriepy](#), Harvard University, Cambridge, MA, USA

[Elena Marta](#), Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Milan, Italy

[Hans-Georg van Liempd](#), Tilburg, University, the Netherlands

[Edilio Mazzoleni](#), Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Milan, Italy

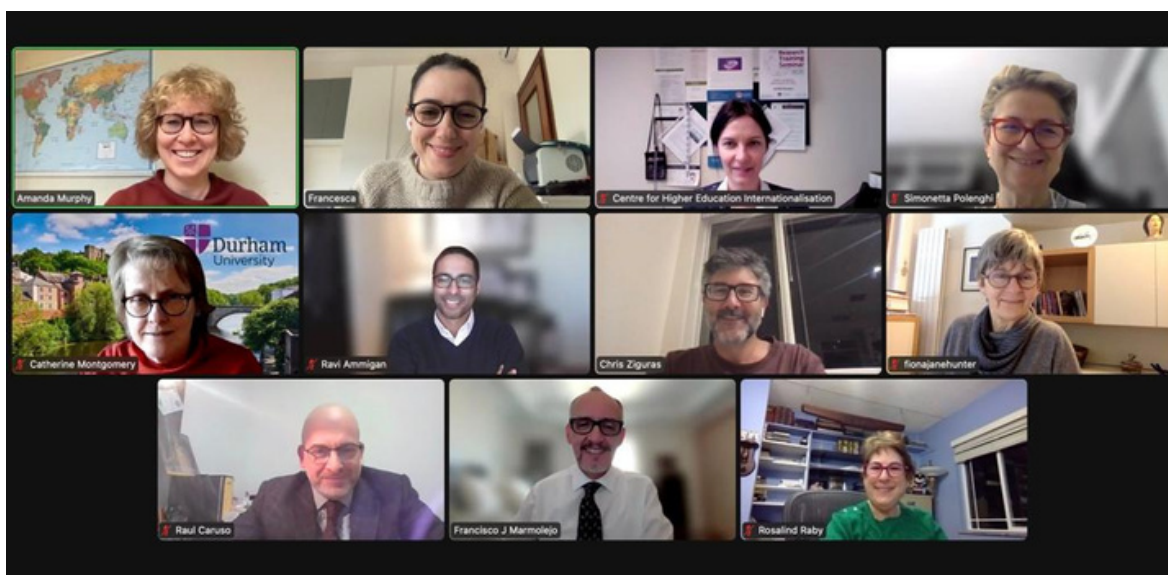
[Amanda Murphy](#), Director of CHEI, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Milan, Italy

Ex Officio:

[Fiona Hunter](#), Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Milan, Italy.



# THE CHEI BOARDS 2021-2024



Academic Board appointed from October 2021 to October 2024

Chair: [Christopher Ziguras](#), RMIT University, Melbourne, Australia

[Ravi Ammigan](#), University of Delaware, USA

[Raul Caruso](#), Università del Sacro Cuore, Milan, Italy

[Jeanine Gregersen-Hermans](#), Zuyd University of Applied Sciences, Netherlands

[Francisco Marmolejo](#), Education Advisor, Qatar Foundation, Doha, Qatar

[Catherine Montgomery](#), Durham University, UK

[Amanda Murphy](#), Director of CHEI, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Milan, Italy

[Simonetta Polenghi](#), Università del Sacro Cuore, Milan, Italy

[Rosalind Latiner Raby](#), California State University, Northridge, USA

[Ly Thi Tran](#), Deakin University, Melbourne, Australia

Ex Officio:

[Fiona Hunter](#), Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Milan, Italy

# DOCTORAL PROGRAMME



Two of our students - [Alyona Ovchinnikova](#) and [Dawn Wood](#) - graduated successfully on 23th May 2023. Both students came to CHEI for their viva which convinced us further of the advantages of being in person. The commission for [Alyona](#) was chaired by Manuel Souto-Otero from Cardiff University, the other members being Mette Ginnerskov-Dahlberg (Uppsala Universitet), Thais França (Instituto Universitario de Lisboa) and [Francesca Costa](#) (UC, affiliated CHEI faculty). Alyona's PhD topic was: Linguistic Proximity and Foreign Language Skills as Drivers of International Student Mobility, and she was supervised by [Elspeth Jones](#) and [Christof van Mol](#).

Gary Rhodes (California State University at Dominguez Hills) chaired the discussion of [Dawn's](#) thesis with Chris Glass (Boston College - online) and Rita Locatelli (UC) on the commission. Dawn's thesis was entitled: Exploring Interculturality in low-income, first-generation, technical, and rural populations: lessons learned from LIFTR students at a US. Community College. She was supervised by [Rosalind L. Raby](#) and [Hans de Wit](#).

[Malaika Serrano's](#) graduation is planned for June 28th. Gary Rhodes will chair the commission together with Rita Locatelli, [Catherine Montgomery](#) and LaNitra M. Berger (George Mason University) online.

## GRADUATES and ENROLLED PhD STUDENTS

CHEI now has 14 PhD graduates: [Ravi Ammigan](#), [Jos Beelen](#), [Gabriele Bosley](#), [Visnja Car](#), [Jeanine Gregersen-Hermans](#), [Ann Hubbard](#), [Amit Marantz-Gal](#), [Jennifer Malerich](#), [Alyona Ovchinnikova](#), [Liudmila Pliner](#), [Dolly Predovic](#), [Jérôme Rickmann](#), [Felix Wang](#) and [Dawn Wood](#). For the first time, among our first year students this year, we have two Italian students, which is interesting indication of the profile of CHEI beginning to be more known prominent also in Italy. The students are [Lucie Weissova](#) from Sweden (Jönköping University), [Grace Cleary](#) (University of Illinois), [Marva Antoine](#) (University of Guadalajara, Mexico), [Francesco Girotti](#) (Bologna, University, Italy), [Antonio Vanni](#) (The Florence Academy of Art, Florence).

At present there are 14 enrolled PhD students, hailing from Australia, Brazil, Italy, Mexico, the Russian Federation, Spain and the United States, including 1 graduand.



## PhD RESEARCH SEMINARS



The PhD Seminar in March 2023, stimulating as ever, welcomed 24 students, of whom six were newcomers. The set up of peer groups (newcomers, prospectives, first, second and third years) was continued and the new CHEI curriculum, a learning pathway of sessions that ensure all students receive appropriate input at the different stages of their research, began to be experimented.

The regular Academic Team ([Fiona Hunter](#), [John Dennis](#), [Jeanine-Gregersen Hermans](#) and [Catherine Montgomery](#)), which provides vital support and mentoring for the students, was augmented by [Adriana Pérez Encinas](#) (CHEI Alumna, formerly head of the International Relations Office in the Faculty of Business and Economics at Universidad Autónoma de Madrid (UAM) in Spain, recently promoted to Associate Professor. It had been hoped that [Omolabake Fakunle](#) (Edinburgh University) would joined the team, but she was unable to attend because of a huge visa backlog in the UK, and delivered her presentation online. We are hoping that she will be able to come in person to the September seminar in Milan.



# RESEARCH AND TRAINING PROJECTS



## RESEARCH AND TRAINING for academic staff in the international classroom

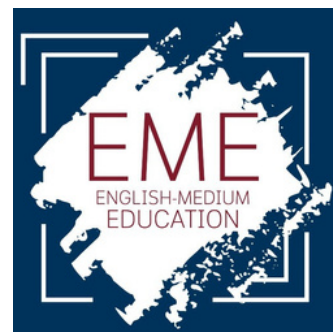
The University's Strategic Plan continues to invest in training courses for university lecturers working in English-medium Education, delivered by CHEI.

At present CHEI offers four modules on topics such as intercultural competence, learning outcomes, feedback and assessment. 57 modules have been delivered since we first offered them in 2016, with 225 lecturers taking part, some having enrolled for more than one module (total enrolments number 320). Three new EME Workshops are scheduled for June 2023, the first of which is attracting 11 participants.

Apart from the regular EME workshops delivered by CHEI, three modules on internationalisation of higher education, teaching in the international classroom and internationalising academics, developed during the SUCTIA project, were delivered during 2023 to PhD candidates across the University by the SUCTIA trainers, profs. Tito Caffi, Maura di Mauro and Pierpaolo Marano, all academics from within the university. These workshops are coordinated by [Jane Christopher](#), and are a good example of how the SUCTIA project contributed to spreading a culture of internationalisation among academics in the university.

The University's Teaching and Learning Laboratory is also in the process of designing modules for new academic staff teaching in Italian, and CHEI has been invited to deliver a professional development module on the international classroom and internationalisation of the curriculum. The module will be taught by post-doctoral CHEI fellow Dr [Olivia Mair](#) and Educational Developer [Jane Christopher](#).

There are six members in the CHEI team of Educational Developers: [Barbara Bettinelli](#), [Jane Christopher](#), [Francesca Costa](#), [Karen M Lauridsen](#), [Olivia Mair](#) and [Caterina Pavesi](#), coordinated by [Jane Christopher](#).





## TWO2TANGO

CHEI is taking part in **Two2Tango**, an online international academic development project, for the sixth year in a row. Designed and run by Jennifer Valcke from the Karolinska Institute in Sweden, the project offers UCSC teachers high-quality professional development for teaching in international, English-medium education contexts.

The programme matches each UCSC teacher with a teacher from another participant university and a facilitator. The course is run over seven months and includes six modules and a final assignment. It is ideal for teachers who have taken part in CHEI's EME workshops and who would like to continue on the academic development path. To date, a total of 28 Università Cattolica teachers have participated in the programme, including seven in the 2022-2023 year. The peer-to-peer approach with international colleagues is engaging and effective.

There is no revenue from this project since Cattolica academics take part free of charge, and CHEI pays its facilitators to run the sessions. The 2022-23 course started in December 2022, and involves 34 participants and 17 facilitators from 10 universities.

The 3 CHEI facilitators/mentors are [Elizabeth Moffatt](#), [Caterina Pavesi](#) and [Olivia Mair](#). It is coordinated for CHEI by [Elizabeth Moffatt](#).

In January 2023 [Olivia Mair](#) presented research on the role of reflective learning in the Two2Tango project at the fourth national Italian conference on faculty development, convened by the University of Genova's Teaching and Learning Centre with the support of AsdUni and CRUI.

## INTERCULTURAL PEER MENTORING PROJECT FOR INTERNATIONALISATION AT HOME

In 2023 CHEI started a new project, designed and coordinated by [Olivia Mair](#) and funded by the Istituto Toniolo, the think tank and funding body behind Università Cattolica, which is very student-oriented. The project builds on and responds to the key findings of the NEAR project and in particular the need to connect international students better with local students. The project aims to:

- Increase intercultural competence of all participating students
- Facilitate friendship and inclusion through the informal curriculum
- Create opportunities to improve communicative competence in the local language for international students
- Provide an internationalisation experience for Italian students without the need for mobility

This new bilingual intercultural peer mentoring project placed local students and international students in intercultural teams of 4-5 students. Twelve local students took part in four workshops on intercultural communication in order to become mentors in the project. The workshops were held by Andrea Campisano, an Italian L2 expert working in Cattolica, and [Olivia](#).

The project is set to continue for at least another year, and is a promising new development in the penetration of internationalisation activities pioneered by CHEI within the university at student level.



Over the course of the second semester (2022-23), the student mentors led their teams in five activities:

1. Students interview each other on campus
2. Treasure hunt through the streets of Milan: team building and getting to know the local community.
3. A visit to San Maurizio and the Archeological Museum with Touring Club Italiano
4. Milan Design Week 2023 photography competition and design displays.
5. Biodiversity and diversity in the Botanic Gardens, Città Studi. Students 'choose' plants for each other.

Reflective learning tools were integrated in the project.

Student mentors receive academic credit for their role and are in the process of completing reflective writing assignments about the experience. Student feedback from the project has so far been very positive.

In June 2023 [Olivia Mair](#) and Andrea Campisano presented the project at an international symposium on mentoring at the University of Palermo, concluding with recommendations for good practice.



# CHEI Research Fellow

[Olivia Mair](#), CHEI's Postdoctoral Research Fellow, is continuing work on papers based on data gathered between 2020 and 2022 as part of her main project on Internationalisation of the Curriculum at Home - Academics' and students' voices in an international bachelor programme at an Italian university. The project is supervised by [Amanda Murphy](#) (CHEI Director, Professor at UC) and [Karen M Lauridsen](#) (CHEI affiliated faculty). So far, the findings enhance understandings of both IaH and IoC in an Italian context and have clear implications for curriculum design and for professional development for academic staff in international programmes. Both datasets are significant: the student data because world-wide less is known about how students perceive IoC, and the academic data because of the implications for academic development in international English-taught programmes, a growing area of national interest in the Italian context.

An initial chapter regarding students' expectations for teaching and learning was published in [A. Murphy](#) (Ed.) 2022, *Steps towards Internationalisation at Home: Experiences at a Northern Italian University*. Milan: Vita e Pensiero, while another paper regarding the implication of students' perceptions for faculty development in Italian higher education was published in January 2023: *Il Faculty Development per contesti internazionali: su quali aspetti puntare?* In *Faculty Development: la via italiana*. Ed A. Lotti (et al.), Genova University Press.

A third paper analyses students' conceptions of internationalisation based on a different section of the questionnaire. In this section, students ranked nine dimensions of internationalisation and responded to an open-ended question about what internationalisation of the curriculum means to them, revealing deep engagement with the concept (submission to journal June 2023). A further paper based on interviews with academics has the working title of "Internationalising the curriculum in an EMI bachelor programme".

Reflecting the growing national interest in academic development, [Olivia](#) has given three presentations on related topics this year. In February 2023 Olivia and [Amanda Murphy](#) were invited to hold a workshop on Active Learning and Assessment as part of UC's Psychology Faculty professional development series 'Formare'. In May 2023, [Olivia](#) and [Francesca Costa](#) were invited by the British Council in Rome to hold a session on assessment in English-taught programmes and to chair a panel on the topic at their international New Directions in Assessment conference. In January 2023 [Olivia](#) represented CHEI at the fourth national Italian faculty development conference in Genova, where she presented a paper on Collaborative Online International Faculty Development: the role of reflective learning. Participation in these events has opened up opportunities for CHEI to widen its networks within Italy and exchange ideas about internationalisation and faculty development with AsdUni (Italy's national association of teaching and learning in higher education). Improving teaching and learning in higher education is a topic of growing interest in Italy as the sector grapples with increasing diversity, digitalisation, English-Medium Instruction, and the need to modernise.

In the last year, [Olivia](#) has also published two articles about English-medium instruction:

Multimodality and Pronunciation in ICLHE (Integrating Content and Language in Higher Education) Training. *Journal of Innovation in Language Learning and Teaching*. (1-16), 2022. DOI 10.1080/17501229.2022.2053130 (with [F. Costa](#))

Online Input and EMI Pedagogy in the COVID-19 Pandemic in Italy. In Costa, F. & Mariotti, C. (Eds.), *Input in English Medium Instruction*. Routledge. (pp. 97-110). Abingdon & New York: Routledge, 2023. ISBN 9781003258407 (con F. Costa)

She is completing a further three articles that focus on data from other CHEI projects, the Two2Tango project and the NEAR (NEwly ARrived in a common home) project. Working titles: "Inclusion and agency? International students' perceptions of opportunities and challenges in an Italian university", "Collaborative Online International Faculty Development: the role of reflective learning", and "Designing professional development to meet EMI assessment challenges" (with Costa & Murphy). The latter two have been proposed for publication in A. Karakas e Y. Kirkgöz, *Teacher Professional Development Programs in EMI Settings: International Perspectives*. Springer, 2024.



# PUBLICATIONS



UNIVERSITÀ  
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CHEI  
Centre for Higher Education  
Internationalisation

## INTERNATIONALISATION IN HIGHER EDUCATION: *Responding to New Opportunities and Challenges*



*Ten Years of Research  
by the Centre for Higher  
Education Internationalisation  
(CHEI)*

Edited by Fiona Hunter, Ravichandran Ammigan,  
Hans de Wit, Jeanine Gregersen-Hermans,  
Elspeth Jones and Amanda C. Murphy



This book celebrates ten years of research and is testament to the breadth and depth of research carried out by members of the CHEI community. This active community is made up of about 80 people, including scholars and fellows, members of the Academic and Management Boards, PhD graduates and students, Educational Developers and one administrator.

The opening Foreword focuses on the development of the Centre, with particular emphasis on its appeal to 'practitioner-researchers' working in the field of international education and engaging in research. The nature of their research often stems from the practical knowledge they have built up over their career but also presents theoretical explorations of models developed for their field. The Introduction, written by the editors, sets the scene for the book, emphasising the evolving nature of the field, the growth of evidence-based research and the need to return to the genesis of internationalisation of higher education, which is rooted in social responsibility.

The book itself is divided into six sections: the first consists of papers of broad reach, discussing overarching trends, the second concentrates on aspects of internationalisation of the curriculum at home, the third focuses on the student voice and experience, the fourth on various aspects of study abroad while the fifth presents a series of case studies. The last section is dedicated to the personal stories of the authors who have carried out most or all of their doctoral studies through the Centre. The book closes with a list of the doctoral topics addressed by CHEI students so far.

The book is a milestone in the CHEI story and was conceived as a contribution to the centenary of Università Cattolica. It is the fruit of many years of teamwork, the secret to building a supportive community of learners keen to advance knowledge and improve practice.

The **CHEI PhD students** have continued to publish in 2023, with most contributing to the 10 years' book of CHEI research.

Other publications include:

"Reflections on the NAFSA international educator competencies" in NAFSA International Educator (2023), [Dawn Wood](#) coauthored with her supervisor, [Rosalind L. Raby](#). The article "Role of community colleges and other TVET institutions in advancing sustainable development by supporting access, diversity, and inclusion for non traditional student populations" is under review for the Diaspora Indigenous and Minority Education Journal.

[Agata Mannino](#), [Francesco Girotti](#) and [Albert Nijboer](#) presented as speakers at the EURIE Conference in Istanbul 1-3 March 2023 with the panel: "The European Universities Initiative at a Turning Point: The Challenge of Engagement in Transnational Cooperation"



The **CHEI alumni** also continue to publish and contribute to scholarly debate at an international level.

**Ravi Ammigan** has co-authored the journal articles "An exploratory study examining the experiences of international students in an Intensive English Program. TESOL Journal", (2023) and "Vaccination rates among international students: Insights from a university health vaccination initiative" in Journal of American College Health (2023).

**Jérôme Rickmann** co-authored "Research Administration in Europe: Three Key Challenges for European Subawardees of U.S-Grants (and How to Approach Them)" in NCURA Magazine March/April 2023, Mar 1, 2023; "Assessing risk, seizing opportunity" EAIE Forum Spring 2023, April 24, 2023.



# CONFERENCES SEMINARS AND TRAINING COURSES

[Fiona Hunter](#) presented at the EURIE Education Summit's online conference in March together with [Francisco Marmolejo](#) exploring the future of internationalisation. She also ran the workshop for PhD students together with Jeanine Gregersen-Hermans at the EAIE conference in Barcelona in September. Several CHEI students were also present. [Fiona](#) also runs a session every year for PhD students. In January 2023 she attended and presented at the CIHE-Europe Symposium in Amsterdam on Critical Reflections on Internationalisation together with CHEI alumni [Jeanine Gregersen-Hermans](#), [Jos Beelen](#), [Visnja Schampers-Car](#) and CHEI student [Albert Nijboer](#).

[Ravi Ammigan](#) presented "Supporting the Experiences of International Students in the US. Power in Pages", Harvard Graduate School of Education, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA; and "The Global Impact of a 100-Year Study Abroad Legacy in the United States", NAFSA Conference, Washington, DC. (2023)

[Jérôme Rickmann](#) presented at the Conference Finnish National Spring Forum for higher education international affairs! (Hosted this year by Aalto University, Espoo/Helsinki Finland) with "The Case of Sustainable Entrepreneurship for Climate Action as Example of Mission-driven Global Engagement"

PhD student [Lucie Weissova](#) co-convoked the workshops "Intercultural Competence: internationalization and inclusion. (2023, April 20), EDUCATE, Jönköping, Sweden, and "Making the international classroom work: Sharing teaching experiences and activities", University of Borås, Sweden (2023, May 30); the webinar "Internationalisation of the Curriculum at Home: the role of teachers and educational developers", FiNT Network; presented "Research on Internationalisation: The changing role of International offices", UNSI Network in Gothenburg & HÖNSI network in Stockholm. She has presented "With or without them: Supporting academics in their internationalisation efforts by assessing their professional development needs" at the Cross-Cultural Business Conference, 11th-12th May 2023, Steyr Campus, Wels, Austria.

[Marina Casals Sala](#) presented at the following simposia: "Keynote for the Bologna Day 2023 on Internationalisation and professional development of staff", Salzburg. Organised by OeAD (16 March 2023); 17-21 SUCTI Train the Trainers course; "ICI ACAdemy on Inclusive Mobility", organized by ACA, (May 2023) (three online sessions/2-hour workshops with Jeanine Gregersen-Hermans); "ICI Project Training (Inclusive Comprehensive Internationalisation)" at URV (June 2023)

# ACADEMIC VISITORS

CHEI will host a **visiting scholar**, **Craig Whitsed**, from Curtin University, Australia from Sept 2023 to March 2024. Craig is Senior Lecturer at the School of Education, and Course Coordinator for the Postgraduate Certificate course Higher Education Innovative Learning and Teaching. He has served on the International Education Association of Australia (IEAA) Research Committee and Convened the Internationalization of the Curriculum Special Interest Group. His research focus is curriculum internationalization and in partnership with PUCRS University Brazil he is currently researching internationalization of the curriculum at home in Latin America.

# AWARDS

CHEI applied, on behalf of Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, for the Zairi International Award for Excellence in Higher Education on Internationalization, and was honoured to win it. The award ceremony took place in Dubai on March 9th, with the University being represented by **Dr Dolly Predovic** and an alumna - Silvia Rigato - currently working in Dubai. We are proud and grateful for the recognition of our commitment to promoting internationalisation in higher education within the University

The ZAIRI INTERNATIONAL AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE IN HIGHER EDUCATION is administered on an annual basis by the Center for Learning Innovations and Customized Knowledge Solutions (CLICKS).

It was launched in 2021 by CLICKS in collaboration with numerous international quality organizations and universities' associations is a series of global institutional awards aiming at recognising and celebrating higher education institutions that are addressing global educational challenges and creating sustainable impact within their own national and regional context through embracing excellence and innovation in specific areas pertinent to digital transformation, research impact, service to the community, internationalisation,, equity and inclusion.



Università Cattolica applied for the prize in the sector of Internationalisation of Higher Education citing three examples from within the university:

1. E4Impact's Global MBA in Impact Entrepreneurship

E4Impact is a young and dynamic organization born in 2010 as an initiative of ALTIS, the Graduate School Business and Society of Università Cattolica. In 2015 it set up a Foundation dedicated exclusively to creating a new generation of impact entrepreneurs in Africa that could offer sustainable jobs. Faithful to its motto "We do not teach entrepreneurship, we train impact entrepreneurs", E4Impact places itself at the service of start-up companies in Africa with its unique Global MBA in Impact Entrepreneurship, a practical entrepreneurial program co-designed with Università Cattolica for African entrepreneurs, which is currently co-awarded by Università Cattolica and local Universities in 16 African countries.

2. A Double Degree qualification in Medicine with Thomas Jefferson University Sidney Kimmel Medical College and an additional Master degree in International Health Care Policy, the only Double Degree in Medicine in Italy.

The unique feature of this study programme is that it leads to three qualifications awarded after successful completion of all the relevant requirements, as outlined in the Study Plan.

- Medical Degree from Thomas Jefferson University – SKMC
- Laurea Magistrale in Medicina e Chirurgia (Master's Degree in Medicine and Surgery) from Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore
- Master of Science in International Health Policy from Jefferson College of Population Health

3. The Doctoral Programme in Internationalisation of Higher Education, created through CHEI, which is unique in Europe. It focuses exclusively on the Internationalisation of Higher Education and has developed a distinctive identity within the framework of national regulations that govern doctoral studies in Italy. The programme has been conceived for professionals in the field of international higher education who continue their careers whilst undertaking their research.





# NEXT APPOINTMENT

RESEARCH SEMINAR 11-15 SEPTEMBER!

