

THE CENTURY

Declaration



For one hundred years, the Cité internationale universitaire de Paris has demonstrated the virtues of a society founded on fraternity and closer ties between peoples. This exceptional place, home each year to 12,000 students, researchers and artists from more than 150 nationalities, offers a concrete response to the fractures of today's world: closed borders, conflicts and competition between nations, widening inequalities and the dehumanisation of relationships..

Entering the Cité internationale universitaire de Paris in 2025 means crossing the threshold of a place which, after a century of existence, remains dedicated to youth mobility and the circulation of knowledge. Daily life unfolds across 47 houses set within more than 30 hectares of green spaces, in buildings designed by visionary architects of the 20th and 21st centuries as places devoted to encounter and exchange.

Since its creation, the Cité internationale has pursued the ideal envisioned by its founders: to be an "educational institution of human relations in the service of peace". It continues to uphold this ideal by remaining an exceptional place that believes in mobility and exchange as essential factors for human, academic and professional fulfilment. It respects freedom of thought and expression. It has also always sought to welcome students, researchers and artists in exile with serenity, in full respect for individuals and their equal dignity.

At the Cité internationale universitaire de Paris, mutual understanding is built through the daily experience of living together, listening and mutual support. Everything helps to foster positive dialogue and to give tangible meaning to fraternity - through shared meals, sporting activities and festive gatherings. This attentiveness also extends to the surrounding territory: the initiatives developed here to promote sustainable mobility, sustainable development, the preservation of architectural heritage, the eco-responsible maintenance of the park and the protection of living ecosystems are a natural extension of the care for others that characterises human relations.

This is the laboratory we have inherited: a utopian yet very real ideal that enables every talent, wherever it comes from, to create and to think by crossing perspectives, knowledge and sensibilities other than their own. It is a tailor-made, multicultural environment conducive to the academic success of thousands of students and researchers from around the world, and equally favourable to the development of artistic projects. It is also a source of pride, as the Cité internationale contributes to strengthening the scientific and academic influence of Paris, the Île-de-France region and France by fully playing its role as a bridge to the global higher education and research community. Today - and increasingly in the future - it is a place of intellectual vitality, a fertile ground for imagining innovative solutions to contemporary challenges: conflict prevention, the regulation of technologies and the fight

against climate change. Many of the students and doctoral residing at the Cité internationale contribute through their reflections to shaping the hopes of tomorrow's world, with all the audacity and inventiveness required to build it. To better understand this world, we also rely on our vast network of former residents, enduring actors and witnesses of the spirit of the Cité internationale around the globe.

We are therefore a unique territory, entrusted to us by the Universities of Paris with a mission at the forefront of the fight for fundamental rights and human dignity. We will contribute to this mission through dialogue between individuals, disciplines and generations, in close connection with our academic partners. We will continue to carry out shared projects rooted in the present while resonating beyond our walls. We will also ensure that the identity of each of our residences - whether representing nations or dedicated to a cause - is maintained and strengthened, by forging partnerships that give meaning to the project and by delivering cultural and scientific programmes that reflect it.

Like everyone else, we bear witness to the violence that persists in the world. At times, we feel powerlessness and shock, even discouragement. Yet the past century has shown that the spirit and values of the Cité internationale universitaire de Paris have always transcended the tragedies of recent history. World wars, the Cold War, regional conflicts, attacks on international rules and agreements, pandemics: the Cité internationale has, modestly yet with determination, weathered these tragedies and emerged strengthened and more determined than ever to uphold the spirit of its founders.

In this context, there is no better response than combating prejudice by giving life and substance back to encounter, diversity and knowledge. We will continue to do so by placing the youth of the world and their needs at the heart of our actions. Taking care of one's living environment and of those who share it is the modest yet decisive path chosen by the founders of the Cité internationale universitaire de Paris in 1925 - a message we renew today. This project is real because it is concrete and universally shareable. Together, we are building a global human and academic community sufficiently aware of its shared interests to work sustainably towards the prevention of conflict.

We are convinced of the need to share today this history, this momentum and this hope. It is in this spirit that we wish to reaffirm who we are: a global community in the service of peace.

