

# Student Academic Conference

## Caring for society through human relationships

7 March 2026

### Description 2026 Edition

Human relationships are the cornerstone of life in society. The quality of our lives is largely a reflection of the quality of these relationships. They also help build the trust, cooperation and cohesion that sustain our communities. In times of rapid change – digital, economic, environmental and cultural – the quality of our human relationships is key to caring for and strengthening society. As a result, this edition of the Student Academic Conference will revolve around the topic “Caring for society through human relationships”.

Caring relationships are not limited to intimate and family contexts but pervade politics, economics, education, health and culture. They therefore must be rethought and studied in all fields of knowledge. Care, whose Latin equivalent, ‘curae’, means ‘to look after, to take care of, to worry about’, is a cross-cutting concept that links science, art and everyday life.

The aim of this edition is, through study and scientific rigour, to explore how human relationships can become instruments for social care and transformation, through stimulating and transformative interdisciplinary and cross-ground dialogue.

### Subject areas

Undergraduate students from any discipline are invited to make a contribution to the congress through scientific work within one of the following subject areas.

Papers may be submitted by students from all degree programmes. They are not required to be taking the same bachelor's degree. All they need is to share an interest in the topic and want to work on the proposal.

We look forward to receiving your valuable insight into what is a crucial debate for our society.

### **1. Health and well-being**

- The importance of relationships in mental and emotional health
- Support networks for the sick and ageing
- Caring relationships in hospitals and social healthcare centres
- Community-based wellness initiatives

### **2. Technology**

- Impact of social media on human relationships
- Artificial intelligence and bonds: opportunities and risks
- Technology at the service of care and interpersonal relationships
- Digital disconnection and relationship quality

### **3. Art and design**

- Art as a tool for strengthening human bonds
- Designing spaces that encourage dialogue and coexistence
- Culture, music and theatre as languages of care and relationships
- Visual narratives that explain the importance of relationships

### **4. Humanities and communication**

- Communication and trust-based relationships in uncertain times
- The literature and philosophy of care and relationships
- The role of the media in community-building
- Life stories and collective memory as forms of relationship
- The future of fake news in times of conflict

### **5. Social, legal and political sciences**

- Family and intergenerational relationships as the basis of society
- Community and social capital: how to build solid bonds
- Public policy for strengthening social relationships
- The law as a guarantee of caring relationships and human dignity

## **Participation**

The only way to participate is to submit a scientific paper. Participation will be in groups of 2 to 4 undergraduate students from UIC Barcelona or other universities.

A scientific paper is a research paper; in other words, a paper in which the researcher, from a hypothesis and through a specific (qualitative or quantitative) methodology obtains a series of results.

The results obtained respond to the initial hypothesis and are explained through a discussion.

Finally, the paper ends with the conclusions, limitations and proposals for future studies. In this way, intellectual work aims provide new knowledge and thereby contributing to the advancement of science and the transfer of new knowledge to society to improve it.

The papers submitted must be original. In other words, they cannot have been published or previously submitted to any competition or contest.

While preparing their work, students must be supported by an academic supervisor who will guide them throughout the process and up to their participation in the conference. The supervisor is expected to hold at least two meetings with the students and submit a brief report of these meetings to the organising team. It is the students' responsibility to find and secure a supervisor. Participation in the conference will not be permitted without the supervisor's approval, and students must provide their supervisor's name and contact email. To help with this process, the conference website will include details of supervisors who have taken part in previous editions. Academic supervisors do not need to be lecturers at UIC Barcelona, but they must be affiliated with a university.

### **On the day of the congress, the paper can be presented in two different ways**

- 1. Scientific communication:** oral presentation required before a panel, with or without graphic support.
- 2. Scientific poster:** oral presentation required before a panel with a poster as graphic support. This form of presentation also implies the submission of the scientific paper with the same requirements as the scientific communication.

The length of the presentation of each paper shall not exceed 12 minutes.

## Registration process

All students must sign up individually using the academic congress [registration form](#) during the registration period (1 September to 1 December 2025). Once the registration has been received, access will be granted to the Proevaluationsystem platform, which will be used for submitting papers in both phases of the congress.

## Submission

The submission of papers is in two phases:

### **1. Submission of the abstract:**

Each participating group ha must submit an abstract of their paper before 15 December 2025 not exceeding 400 words through the online platform provided for the congress.

**Abstracts should include the following information:**

1. Authors
2. Studies, course and university
3. Email address
4. Title of the paper
5. Text (including research question, methodology and context)
6. Selected bibliography (between 3-5 references)
7. Subject area (see list of subject matters)
8. Keywords (between 3 and 5)

The format used should be in accordance with the APA 7th ed. standards. These are available on specialised websites (e.g. <https://normas-apa.org/>).

All abstracts will be reviewed by the members of the scientific committee, who will provide feedback to participants before 15 January. The works can be presented in Catalan, Spanish or English.

**2. Submission of the scientific paper**

Each group must upload the PDF of their project before 21 February 2026 via the Proevaluationsystem platform.

The University reserves the right to collect and distribute the papers received. As such, for it be included in the institutional repository 'UIC Open Access Archive', you must attach the authorisation, which can be found in Appendix 1.

**Content, format and structure of the paper:**

The paper must contain the following sections and cannot exceed 8,000 words:

- Title of the paper
- Summary (abstract)
- Introduction: presentation of the hypothesis and objectives
- Methodology
- Result/analysis: main arguments, analysis of the data obtained, description of cases, analysis and discussion of other perspectives on the same topic etc.
- Conclusions: present conclusions based on the arguments or evidence provided in the paper
- Bibliographic references used and cited in the paper

The format and structure used should be in accordance with the APA 7th ed. standards. These are available on specialised websites (e.g. <https://normas-apa.org/>).

**Use of citations and references:**

The papers presented must be original and under no circumstances will any type of plagiarism be accepted. Some forms of non-originality or plagiarism include the following:

- Presenting a paper of others as their own.
- Presenting a paper that has already been presented in another contest or subject.
- Including phrases, paragraphs or ideas of other authors without quoting them or referring to their work; do not use quotes in a literal quote; provide incorrect information about those references or quotations; paraphrase without mentioning the source.

Please note that citations and references must also comply with APA 7 ed. standards. These are available on specialised websites (e.g. <https://normas-apa.org/>).

**Responsible use policy for ChatGPT, other chatbots and artificial intelligence tools:**

Artificial intelligence tools are useful for certain functions, but it is important to recognize their limitations and possibilities. It is recommended not to blindly rely on the information they provide without checking it.

If these tools are used, it must be recorded in the work, so as not to lack academic honesty, whether it is to obtain an image, a graph or search for information.

Therefore, if AI has been used, at the end of the work (after references) you should specify:

- which sections of the paper has been used in and for what purpose.
- what prompts have been used, what answers have been obtained and whether the information received has been checked against other sources. Remember that a minimal-effort prompt provides low quality results.

**All papers will be analysed with Turnitin, the university's plagiarism prevention tool.**

**Registration deadline:** 1 December 2025

**Deadline for submitting abstracts:** 15 December 2025

**Deadline for submitting scientific papers:** 21 February 2026, at 11.59 p.m.

## Annex 1

Vice-Rectorate for Research, Innovation and Knowledge Transfer  
Library and Documentation Service

### Authorisation to deposit work by students, teaching and administrative staff from the Universitat Internacional de Catalunya to the “UIC Open Access Archive” Institutional Repository (sole author).

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Author's name and surname(s)

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National ID or passport number

I hereby authorise the Universitat Internacional de Catalunya (UIC Barcelona) to deposit my work in the Institutional Repository, the Consorci de Serveis Universitaris de Catalunya (Catalan Consortium of University Services; CSUC), the RECERCAT depository or any other depository created by UIC Barcelona or the CSUC for the purpose of preserving and disseminating university research.

I also authorise UIC Barcelona and CSUC to undertake any steps necessary to enter the work into the above-mentioned repositories, preserve it and provide access via public communication. I understand that these institutions are under no obligation to reproduce the work in the same format or resolution in which it was originally deposited. The rights required to perform these actions are hereby transferred on a non-exclusive basis, i.e. I am free to publish the work wherever I like.

I hereby declare that, by signing this authorisation, and in relation to the content of this work, I have violated no third-party intellectual or industrial property rights, trade secrets or any other right. As a result, I hereby exonerate UIC Barcelona and CSUC from all liability regarding any legal actions that may arise as a result of the deposited work.

Lastly, I hereby agree that the repository may provide access via a *Creative Commons License*, “*Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 4.0 International (CC BY-NC-SA 4.0)*”

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Signature

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Date and place