

**International Student Seminar for Global Citizenship & Peace:
'Understanding Global Inequalities: Bridging the Gaps'
Thursday 5th August – Friday 13th August 2021**

This year, the International Student Seminar will explore the issue of inequality around the globe. It aims to engage with the nature of inequality, which manifests itself in a layered and interconnected way: from the global level, with huge discrepancies between the developed North and the developing South to the interpersonal level, that highlights the fact that poverty, inequality in access to resources that facilitate a flourishing life and to social justice can set apart individuals within the same local communities. Further still, the seminar will explore different kinds of inequalities that manifest themselves in areas such as education or health, as well as more recent forms such as digital inequality, focusing on their impact on peace and human security. The seminar will also consider the fact the Covid-19 pandemic has deepened the inequality crisis, accentuated differences and exposed our individual and collective fragility, leading an organisation like Oxfam to label it '[the inequality virus](#)' and the UN Secretary General to refer to '[an inequality pandemic](#)'.

The seminar aims to provide an opportunity to explore and reflect on the impact of inequalities on global peace and the full realisation of human potential in the world hit by the pandemic. In this context, the seminar will also critically consider the potential for actions that aim to address inequalities and to bridge the existing gaps. At global level, the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are at the heart of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development adopted by all United Nations member states at the UN Sustainable Development Summit in 2015. Behind the SDGs, there is an understanding that ending poverty and other deprivations must go hand-in-hand with strategies that improve health and education, reduce inequality, and spur economic growth in order to realise peace and prosperity for people and the planet. The SDGs have been, right from the beginning, ambitious as any aspirational goals should be, but the Covid-19 pandemic has raised significant barriers in terms of advancing them. On the other hand, the crisis generated by the pandemic has also produced mobilisation against poverty at local level, from community support groups to wider social movements.

This year's INU student seminar aims to provide an opportunity to reflect on all these developments, and on how they impact on the global efforts to achieve reduce inequalities, peace of the world and prosperity of people on the planet.