

The UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning and FutureLearn partner to empower 100,000 students

Free access to a collection of online courses on Sustainable Development available on FutureLearn.com to UNESCO learning cities.

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EINPresswire.com/ -- On 20 September 2023, at an official side event of the United Nations General Assembly in New York, the [UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning \(UIL\)](#) and [FutureLearn](#) announced a partnership to accelerate Education for Sustainable Development in UNESCO learning cities. In a landmark campaign,

FutureLearn, a member of the [Global University Systems'](#) network of institutions, will provide free access to online courses on sustainable development issues for 100,000 lifelong learners in UNESCO learning cities across the globe.



Rt. Hon. Jo Johnson at the “Bridging the Educational Divide” event held at UN headquarters

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*Rt. Hon. Jo Johnson,
FutureLearn’s Chairman*

When signing the partnership agreement, Mr Borhene Chakroun, UIL Director a.i, underlined that ‘the challenges our planet faces can only be effectively addressed when each and every one of us possesses the knowledge and skills essential for driving personal and societal transformation required to change course. ‘Education for Sustainable Development is key to this endeavour,’ he continued. ‘I am therefore excited that, through our collaboration with Global University Systems and FutureLearn, 100,000 learners of all ages from UNESCO learning cities across the globe will acquire the essential skills to champion sustainable development.’

The UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities (GNLC) encompasses 292 cities across 76 countries, including megacities, like Shanghai and Bogotá, to smaller municipalities, like Mantel-la-Jolie and Mayo Baleo. The network provides a platform for members to exchange inspiration, know-how and examples of best practice on inclusive and quality lifelong learning. One of the key themes promoted by the network is Education for Sustainable Development.

As part of the partnership, UNESCO learning cities will be attracting local participants to upskill on environmental and sustainability matters by taking advantage of FutureLearn's courses in these vital subject areas. Participants will benefit from free access to the courses at an accelerated pace, quality testing to assess what they have learned, and the opportunity to receive a digital Certificate of Achievement upon successful course completion.

Rt. Hon. Jo Johnson, FutureLearn's Chairman, says: 'FutureLearn is proud to support UNESCO's learning cities initiative. Over the next 24 months, participants will have access to a curated collection of online short courses from leading British and global universities, all focused on the themes of 'sustainability' and 'climate change'. This invaluable opportunity comes at no cost to learners, and seeks to elevate sustainability and climate awareness within learning cities and their respective countries.'

Yuliya Etingen, Chief Impact Officer at Global University Systems, commented: 'At Global University Systems, we encourage every institution in our network to work towards UN Sustainability Goals. We are delighted that FutureLearn can use its scale to equip 100,000 learners from UNESCO learning cities with the skills and knowledge to drive sustainable change. This collaboration underscores our group commitment to providing accessible, high-quality education that makes a positive impact on a global scale.'

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