GLOBAL COUNSELORS ACADEMY

A New Chapter in Empowering Counselors to Lead the Future of Education

> **In an age shaped by artificial intelligence, educational leadership begins with what no machine can replicate: the human ability to create belonging, meaning, and the conditions where every learner can thrive.**

CARLOS PALLERO

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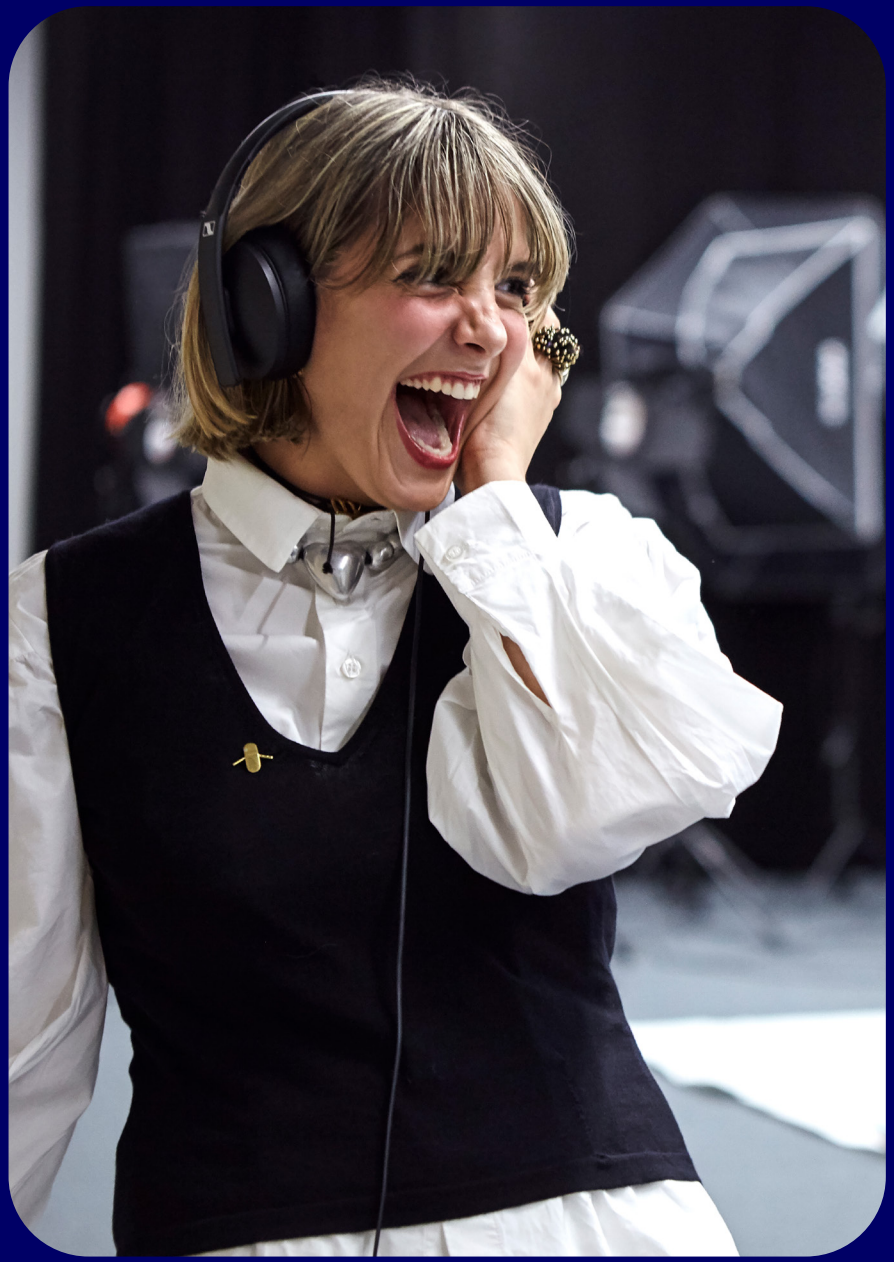

Quick Program Facts

Redesigning Education in the Digital Era

A New Paradigm in Education

Key Learnings

Methodology

Day-to-day Program Agenda

Global Counselors Academy Curriculum

Meet your Instructor: Carlos Pallero

IE University

QUICK PROGRAM FACTS

LENGTH

8 Online Sessions
80 Minutes each

DATES

From April 21st
to May 14th, 2026

LIVE SESSIONS

Tuesdays and Thursdays
at 4:00 pm (CEST, UTC+2)

PARTICIPANTS

School Counselors
from around the world

FORMAT

Online Sessions via Zoom
+
Learning Leaders
Community

LANGUAGE

English

LEVEL

Advanced
Program

CERTIFICATE

IE University Global
Counselors Academy
Participation Certification*

*A minimum number of attended sessions will be required

Reimagining Education in the Digital Era

Educators worldwide are entering a new chapter—one shaped by innovation, humanity, and a global community of more than 1,000 counselors who have already transformed this journey together

Now, more than ever, education is critical. It is a complex, ever-evolving path that gives humans knowledge, perspective, and power. Across the seven previous editions of the Global Counselors Academy, over 1,000 counselors from around the world have explored this path collectively—each contributing to a shared movement toward more innovative, inclusive, and future-ready schools.

While we cannot predict what lies ahead, we can empower students with every opportunity to shape their futures and reach their full potential. This requires diversifying and personalizing the educational experience in accordance with each learner's unique identities, needs, and ambitions. And throughout these years, one message has been consistent: counselors are essential leaders in ensuring this transformation becomes real.

It is therefore an exceptionally important and exciting moment for counselors and all professionals engaged in education—particularly for the risk-takers, innovators, and change-makers determined to move beyond outdated practices and elevate education to the next level. This new edition honors the lessons learned from our global community while integrating emerging fields such as AI, neuroscience, wellbeing, inclusive school design, and belonging.

Of course, this evolution does not diminish the progress achieved in the past. Instead, it invites us to reinterpret the most effective methods of teaching and learning through a contemporary, research-based lens. True innovation requires the courage to readjust existing frameworks so they remain meaningful in an increasingly complex world.

Education has never been more crucial for individuals and societies, and it continues to spark important questions: How do we ensure that learning prepares students for life? How can we make education both effective and inspiring? And how do we integrate digital transformation and AI while preserving the human relationships at the heart of schooling?

The reality is that some methodologies no longer serve our learners—and it is time to break free from practices that limit creativity, autonomy, and engagement.
After seven editions, we have seen firsthand that change requires action. We must innovate, challenge comfortable routines, and envision schools not as static institutions but as dynamic learning ecosystems.

This emerging paradigm can be described in three essential shifts. First, schools must evolve from places that simply teach into communities that learn. Second, we must transition from "knowing" to "creating," embracing hands-on, brain-smart methodologies that ignite curiosity. And finally, we must evolve together, shaping an education system that innovates rather than imitates, placing belonging, purpose, and human potential at its center.

A New Paradigm for the Future of Education

An increasing number of teachers are trying to investigate and achieve a different way of doing things

Education is evolving, and today's counselors play a more essential role than ever in shaping learning environments that are innovative, inclusive, and aligned with the realities of a rapidly changing world. As technology accelerates and new challenges emerge, the need for educational systems that place humanity, diversity, and purpose at their center becomes increasingly clear.

The faults in our current higher education system are well known—monotony, competitiveness, boredom, and disengagement. We still rely too heavily on memorization, often overlook issues such as bullying, and struggle with discipline at every stage. On top of this, students are frequently homogenized, taught, and examined in the exact same way despite being unique individuals with distinct needs, identities, and learning profiles.

At IE University's Global Counselors Academy, we seek to develop a rich diversity of students who are motivated to learn and eager to share what they know. We look for educators willing to empower students to become the protagonists of their own learning, and who understand the fundamental importance of connection—because without strong relationships between counselors, students, and families, a high-quality, meaningful education is simply not possible.

We also depend on parents who prioritize the future of their children, and on educational centers willing to embrace alternative methodologies, new perspectives, and innovative technologies.

Right now, our educational system is bored, static, and outdated. The good news is that we have the power to change it. Across the world, more and more educators are exploring new ways of teaching—approaches in which students take center stage, curiosity becomes the engine of learning, and classrooms transform into dynamic hubs of engagement, creativity, and growth.

This is precisely what the Academy is designed for. It is built for forward-thinking professionals who apply modern, research-based, and future-oriented methodologies to their work, creating schools where innovation, inclusion, and joy thrive together.

It is time to embark on a journey of collaborative learning powered by technology, the humanities, neuroscience, and diversity.

Welcome to IE University's Global Counselors Academy.

KEY LEARNINGS

Participants of the Global Counselors Academy: The Next Generation Edition will develop the mindset, skills, and leadership capacities needed to guide schools in a rapidly changing educational landscape. Throughout the program, counselors will learn to integrate cutting-edge research, human-centered practices, and AI-enhanced tools to elevate their daily work and maximize student success.

Develop emotionally intelligent practices adapted to an AI-driven world, strengthening empathy and human connection

Harness AI as an empowering partners to streamline daily work, improve communication, and amplify productivity

Understand the expanded role of the modern school counselor using the ABCDE framework to lead with clarity and impact

Apply neuroscience insights to improve attention, memory, motivation, and emotional regulation in students

Design collaborative, AI-enabled workflows that enhance teamwork and strengthen student-centered support

Lead wellbeing initiatives grounded in science to support students and teachers under stress and uncertainty

Create identity-safe, inclusive learning environments informed by belonging, bias, and neuroplasticity

Join a global community of counselors committed to reimagining education and elevating schools worldwide

METHODOLOGY

The aim of this program is to empower each participant to understand how they can actively shape the future of education. Through a practical, experiential, and human-centered approach, counselors will learn how to integrate emerging technologies, neuroscience, and inclusive practices into their everyday work. The focus remains on strengthening the abilities that no machine can replicate: connection, empathy, creativity and meaningful guidance.

Every session combines research-based insights with real-world application. Participants will discover how to use AI intentionally, how to design brain-smart interventions, and how to create identity-safe spaces where every student feels seen and supported. The Academy embraces a dynamic learning model that blends individual reflection, collaborative exploration, and hands-on tools that counselors can implement immediately in their schools.

LEARNING STYLES

Visual Content

Auditory Interaction

Kinesthetic Approach through Hands-on Learning

LEARNING TYPES

Acquisition

Discussion & collaboration

Research

Practice & production

ACTIVE LEARNING

Learning by Doing

Project-based Learning

Cooperative Learning

DAY-TO-DAY Program Agenda

The program is made up of eight learning modules. Each module consists of three distinct components:

PRE-SESSION

Participants will access the **IE digital campus**, where they will find short preparatory materials such as articles, resources, and guiding questions designed to introduce the topic and activate prior knowledge before the live session

80-MINUTE SESSION

Interactive Zoom session including:

- Live explanations
- Practical demonstrations
- Collaborative activities
- Expert insights and real examples from global educational settings

POST-SESSION

Learning Community (Slack Channel)

- Ongoing discussion
- Shared reflections
- Contributions and resources offered by participants

GLOBAL COUNSELORS Academy Curriculum

1

The Future of Education: Technology, Change & the New Learning Landscape

How digital transformation, AI, and global shifts are redefining the work of counselors and schools

2

The ABCDE of the School Counselor

A practical framework to understand and elevate the role of counselors in today's rapidly changing educational ecosystem

3

AI for Productivity: Amplifying Human Potential in the Age of Intelligent Tools

Practical strategies to streamline work, enhance communication, and strengthen human-centered guidance

4

From Individual AI Usage to Collaboration at Scale: Building AI-Enabled Teams and Workflows

How counselors and schools can design collaborative, automated, and human-guided systems that elevate student support

5

Wellbeing for School Counselors: Science-Based Strategies for Thriving Communities

Tools and practices to support emotional balance, resilience, and sustainable wellbeing in schools

6

Brain-Smart Schools: Turning Neuroscience Into Everyday Magic

Classroom-ready insights from neuroscience and psychology to transform learning, attention, emotion, and identity

7

Belonging by Design: The Neuroscience of Equity, Identity & Inclusive Schools

Evidence-based tools to create identity-safe environments, interrupt bias, and promote equitable learning ecosystems

8

Emotional Intelligence in an AI-Shaped World + Final Project

Developing the human skills that no machine can replicate, and presenting a collaborative project that applies the program's key insights

SESSION 1

The Future of School Counseling

Technology, Change & the New Learning Landscape

School counselors and educational leaders stand at the center of one of the most profound transformations in the history of learning. The rise of intelligent tools, shifting student needs, rapid global change, and new models of human development are redefining what it means to guide, support, mentor, and lead within a school community. This opening session introduces The Next Generation Edition of the Global Counselors Academy—a renewed, future-ready program designed to equip counselors with the vision and tools needed to thrive in this evolving landscape.

During this first encounter, participants will be welcomed into the Academy, meet the teaching team, and explore the structure, rhythm, and expectations of the program. We will present how the eight sessions connect to form a coherent journey of professional growth, leadership development, and practical application.

Together, we will examine how the digital era—and especially AI—is transforming the counselor's role, expanding what is possible while reinforcing the need for strong human leadership, empathy, and relational intelligence.

Participants will also be introduced to the **IE digital campus**, where all preparatory materials and resources will be available, as well as the **collaboration platform**, which supports discussion, reflection, and community learning between sessions. Understanding these tools from the start ensures that every counselor can fully engage, contribute, and benefit from this global learning experience.

This session sets the foundation for the entire Academy: a space where counselors learn with and from one another, strengthen their leadership identity, and prepare to guide students and schools through a world where change is constant—and human connection remains essential.

CONTENT

- **Program overview: structure, purpose, and guiding principles of The Next Generation Edition**
- **Introduction of instructors and the counselor-centered leadership approach**
- **Presentation of the IE digital campus and collaboration platform**
- **Exploration of how technology and AI are reshaping the counselor's role**
- **Understanding community learning as the backbone of the Academy**

SESSION 2

The ABCDE of the School Counselor

Redefining the Counselor's Role in an AI-Shaped Educational World

School counselors are experiencing a historic shift in their professional identity. As artificial intelligence transforms the way students learn, communicate, and make decisions, the counselor's role becomes more essential than ever—not less. In this session, we explore a modern framework that captures the core competencies counselors need to lead confidently in today's rapidly evolving educational landscape: the **ABCDE of the School Counselor**.

This model integrates the most relevant dimensions of contemporary counseling practice. **A for Adaptability** highlights the counselor's capacity to respond to uncertainty, guide students through change, and model resilience in an unpredictable world. **B for Brain-Based Learning** brings the latest insights from neuroscience into everyday interactions, helping counselors understand how attention, memory, emotion, and identity influence academic and personal development.

With **C for Coaching Skills**, counselors learn to empower students through questioning, listening, and strengths-based strategies that promote autonomy, motivation, and clarity. **D for Digital Competence** addresses the increasing need for counselors to navigate digital tools, AI-based systems, online communication, and emerging technologies with confidence and purpose. Finally, **E for Emotional Intelligence** reinforces the counselor's unique contribution: fostering trust, empathy, belonging, and emotional regulation—skills that no machine will ever replace.

This session builds on the foundations of the original Academy while offering a refreshed, future-ready perspective that reflects the demands of the digital era. Participants will explore real examples, practical tools, and reflective questions that help them redefine their identity as counselors capable of leading human-centered transformation within their schools.

CONTENT

A
Adaptability navigating change and guiding students through uncertainty

B
Brain-Based Learning applying neuroscience to support learning and wellbeing

C
Coaching Skills empowering students through effective communication and guidance

D
Digital Competence using technology and AI responsibly and strategically

E
Emotional Intelligence strengthening relationships, belonging, and human connection

SESSION 3

AI for Productivity

Amplifying Human Potential in the Age of Intelligent Tools

In this hands-on session, guest professor **Iñigo Cavestany**, expert in artificial intelligence and digital transformation, will join the Academy to explore how AI is reshaping the daily work of counselors and educators. Alongside **Carlos Pallero**, participants will discover how intelligent tools can expand human potential by enhancing the core abilities that define impactful counseling: curiosity, communication, empathy, and strategic thinking.

The way students learn, and the way counselors guide them, is changing faster than ever. As AI becomes part of our daily routines, the real opportunity is not replacing human judgment, but strengthening the abilities that make us uniquely human: curiosity, communication, empathy, and strategic thinking.

In this hands-on session, we will explore how counselors and educators can use AI to work smarter, not harder. Participants will learn practical techniques to boost productivity, simplify complex tasks, and create more space for what truly matters: supporting students, families, and communities.

By the end of the workshop, attendees will understand how to:
· Use AI tools to streamline research, content creation, and communication
· Build repeatable workflows that save time daily
· Develop a healthier, more intentional relationship with technology
· Enhance their role as trusted guides in a rapidly evolving educational landscape

This session is designed to help counselors elevate their craft and emerge with a renewed sense of agency in a world where learning never stops.

CONTENT

- **How AI enhances productivity while reinforcing human-centered counseling**
- **Practical tools to streamline research, content creation, and communication**
- **Designing repeatable workflows that save time and reduce cognitive load**
- **Developing an intentional and healthy relationship with emerging technologies**

SESSION 4

From Individual AI Usage to Collaboration at Scale

Building AI-Enabled Teams and Workflows

In this second AI-focused session, we will once again have **Iñigo Cavestany** as our invited professor. He will guide participants through the transition from individual AI usage to building collaborative, AI-enabled teams and workflows across educational institutions.

Schools, universities, and counseling teams are entering a new era where collaboration happens across borders, disciplines, and time zones. AI is no longer just a personal tool; it is becoming the connective force that links people, processes, and ideas.

This workshop will move from personal AI adoption to team-level transformation. Together, we will learn how to design simple but powerful workflows that automate routine tasks and free teams to focus on higher-value conversations with students. We will also explore how emerging Agentic AI technologies enable continuous collaboration, proactive support, and richer decision-making.

Participants will discover how to:
· Co-create AI workflows that support day-to-day counseling and school administration
· Automate repetitive work while preserving human oversight and empathy
· Expand collaboration across departments, schools, and international networks
· Learn Agentic AI to build a more connected, student-centered educational experience

By the end of the session, counselors will walk away with real examples, shared experiences, and the confidence to lead collaborative AI adoption in their institutions.

CONTENT

- **Designing collaborative AI-enabled workflows for counseling teams**
- **Automating routine tasks while maintaining human-centered oversight**
- **Expanding collaboration across departments, schools, and international networks**
- **Understanding Agentic AI for continuous and proactive support**
- **Practical examples for leading team-level AI transformation**

SESSION 5

Wellbeing for School Counselors

Science-Based Strategies for Thriving Students, Educators & Communities

Supporting wellbeing is no longer an optional part of counseling—it is the foundation of academic success, emotional development, and healthy school cultures. In a world where students and teachers face constant pressure, overstimulation, and digital fatigue, counselors play a critical role in helping communities understand and regulate the nervous system, build resilience, and cultivate environments where people can flourish.

This session reframes wellbeing not as a soft, abstract concept, but as a **physiological skill** supported by neuroscience, psychology, and behavioral science. Counselors will explore how stress, connection, and safety shape the brain's capacity to learn, focus, and relate to others. Through practical tools and micro-interventions, participants will learn how to help students reset their nervous systems, strengthen emotional regulation, and develop sustainable wellbeing habits.

Building on principles from affective neuroscience, positive psychology, and the latest research on motivation and behavior, this workshop provides a grounded and accessible approach to wellbeing that counselors can use immediately in their sessions and across their schools.

CONTENT

- **The neurobiology of stress, resilience, and emotional regulation**
- **Polyvagal-informed strategies to support student wellbeing**
- **The science of habits, motivation, and positive behavior change**
- **Micro-practices to help students and educators reset their nervous systems**
- **Designing school-wide wellbeing cultures that promote safety, connection, and growth**

SESSION 6

Brain-Smart Schools

Turning Neuroscience Into Everyday Magic

This session will be delivered by **Samantha Hernández**, expert in educational neuroscience and learning sciences. She will guide participants through the latest research on how young brains learn, regulate emotions, build identity, and respond to challenge—translating complex science into simple, powerful strategies counselors can use immediately.

Educational neuroscience has turbo-charged our understanding of how young brains learn, regulate emotions, build identity, and navigate challenge. Yet most schools are still operating with 20th-century assumptions about attention, memory, motivation, and behaviour. It is time for an upgrade.

This session brings the most impactful, classroom-ready insights from neuroscience, psychology, and learning science; translated into practical tools counsellors can use immediately. We'll explore how neural plasticity, stress systems, relational safety, and the adolescent brain can dramatically reshape educational support strategies.

You'll experience concrete methods, case examples, and micro-interventions that help students learn better, feel safer, and thrive.

CONTENT

- **Neuroplasticity and the mechanisms that truly change the brain**
- **The science of attention and memory (and why multitasking is a myth)**
- **Stress, trauma, and the nervous system in school life**
- **Understanding adolescent brain development**
- **Applying brain-smart strategies in counseling conversations**

SESSION 7

Belonging by Design

The Neuroscience of Equity, Identity & Inclusive Schools

This session explores one of the most powerful drivers of learning and wellbeing: the human need for belonging. Through the lens of neuroscience and identity development, participants will discover how counselors can shape school environments where every student feels safe, valued, and able to thrive. The workshop translates complex research into practical, evidence-based strategies that strengthen equity and inclusion in daily counseling practice.

Inclusion isn't a "nice-to-have" — it's a neurobiological requirement. The human brain is wired for belonging; when students feel excluded, judged, or unsafe, their learning and wellbeing drop instantly.

This session blends DEIB science with counselling practice, using insights from social neuroscience, identity formation, implicit bias, and stereotype threat. Counsellors will learn evidence-based techniques to create identity-safe micro-climates, challenge bias, and support diverse learners more effectively

CONTENT

- **How belonging and exclusion manifest in the brain**
- **Identity development in children and adolescents**
- **Detecting and interrupting unconscious bias**
- **Cultural neuroplasticity: how environments shape thinking and behaviour**
- **Tools for inclusive counseling conversations and equitable school ecosystem**

SESSION 8

Emotional Intelligence in an AI-Shaped World

Human Skills for Connection, Leadership & the Future of Counseling + Collaborative Final Project & Inclusive Schools

As the Global Counselors Academy comes to a close, we return to the foundation of every counselor's practice: emotional intelligence. In a world increasingly shaped by artificial intelligence, the skills that define meaningful human connection—self-awareness, empathy, relational management, and emotional regulation—are more essential than ever. This final session explores how counselors can strengthen these human capacities to guide students, families, and school communities with clarity, authenticity, and purpose.

Building on insights from the previous sessions, participants will explore how emotional intelligence enables counselors to create trusting relationships, have deeper conversations, and navigate moments of uncertainty or conflict. We will examine how the rise of AI amplifies the need for emotional skills, and how counselors can position themselves as the emotional anchors of their institutions—leaders who cultivate belonging, wellbeing, and shared understanding.

This session also serves as the Academy's closing gathering. We will reflect on the journey travelled together, connect the major themes of the program, and introduce the **Collaborative Final Project**: a collective creation developed by all counselors in this edition. The project synthesizes the learnings from the eight sessions and showcases how the group envisions the future of school counseling in an AI-enhanced world.

The goal is not only to demonstrate understanding, but to **create something meaningful as a global community**—a forward-thinking contribution that future cohorts may build upon.

CONTENT

- **Understanding emotional intelligence in the age of AI**
- **Strengthening empathy, self-awareness, and relational skills for modern counseling**
- **How EI supports leadership, belonging, and conflict navigation in schools**
- **Closing reflections: integrating neuroscience, AI, wellbeing, and inclusion**
- **Introduction and launch of the Collaborative Final Project for this edition**

Meet your instructor: Carlos Pallero

Psychopedagogue, Educator & Global Leader in Human-Centered Educational Innovation

Carlos Pallero is a globally respected educational psychologist, educator, and expert in emotional intelligence, active learning, and school leadership. Over the past two decades, he has collaborated with schools, universities, and ministries of education in more than 100 countries, shaping innovative counseling and leadership models worldwide.

Before becoming an international consultant, Carlos spent over ten years as a school counselor and in school leadership in Madrid. This hands-on experience grounds his approach in real educational practice, combining research-based strategies with deep human understanding to support students, families, and school communities.

As a professor at IE University, he designs and leads programs in emotional intelligence, counseling skills, coaching methodologies, and innovative learning design. His teaching integrates neuroscience, systems thinking, and AI literacy to strengthen the human capacities that define meaningful leadership.

Carlos is also the founder of Mente Colectiva, an educational consultancy supporting schools and institutions in implementing neurolearning, experiential methodologies, and leadership development programs. He is the author of NLP and Education, exploring how neuroscience and cognitive science enhance teaching and communication in modern schools.

As Director of the Global Counselors Academy, Carlos equips counselors with the emotional, scientific, and technological tools needed to lead in a rapidly changing world, while keeping human connection at the center of education.

IE University

An Innovative and Entrepreneurial Institution

IE University is a personalized, student-focused community with a rich diversity of individuals, ideas, and approaches. Each year, over 130 nationalities are represented on its campuses, with over 75% of the student population coming from outside of Spain. IE University is recognized around the world and by the most prestigious associations for its high-quality teaching.

With an innovative vision, entrepreneurial spirit, and a focus on the humanities and academic rigor, IE University is committed to educating professionals who will make a difference in society. Our practice-based approach to learning starts in the classroom and continues all around the world, preparing our students to become international professionals.

If you want an inspiring and challenging education that will shape who you are and who you will become, IE University will broaden your horizons, connect you to the world, and guide you on the unique path needed to achieve your goals.

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