



Global Summit Madrid 2026

Hosted at
IE University



DEC Global Summit 2026

Dear colleagues,

It is our pleasure to invite you to Madrid for the third edition of the DEC Global Summit.

Designed as a collective intelligence engine, the 2026 Summit is a working forum for leaders and innovators to compare what is working, confront what is failing, challenge conventions, and define the choices higher education must now make.

Every session has a purpose. Every room has been built around the people in it. The conversations are designed to be both bold in ambition and grounded in what you can take home and act on.

We look forward to seeing you in December.



Alessandro Di Lullo
Chief Executive Officer
Digital Education Council



Danny Bielik
President
Digital Education Council

THIS YEAR'S THEME

Shaping the Intelligence Age

What happens when intelligence is no longer scarce? Everything shifts. Who has access to expertise, how decisions are made, how knowledge is created, how work is organised, how trust is earned.

Higher Education institutions sit at the centre of this shift. They shape the creative ambition and ethical judgement that will determine how this new era unfolds. The DEC Global Summit 2026 brings these institutions into one room..



IE Tower, Madrid, Spain

BIENVENIDOS

Welcome to Madrid

The Digital Education Council Global Summit will take place on **7-8 December** at **IE University**.

We will convene DEC member institutions from over 42 countries with leaders from academia, international organisations, and governments.

The Summit will advance dialogue on the positive use of technology in higher education and skills development, while supporting global advocacy, institutional resilience, innovation, and equity.

Opening Day

Monday · 7 December 2026 · Auditorium, IE Tower · Doors from 08:30

08:30 - 09:00 **Registration & Welcome Coffee** Auditorium

09:00 - 09:15 **Opening Keynote** Auditorium
By IE University.

09:15 - 09:30 **Why We Must Lead This Conversation** Auditorium
By the Digital Education Council.

09:30 - 10:00 **DEC Global Intelligence Brief** Auditorium
The state of AI adoption, institutional readiness, and the gaps between ambition and execution.

10:00 - 10:20 **Skills for the Intelligence Age** Auditorium
What corporates and society need, what institutions are delivering, and where the critical shortfalls are.

10:20 - 11:00 **Signals from the Frontline** Auditorium
Students and the C-Suite: an open conversation.

11:00 - 11:30 **Coffee Break** Auditorium

The People Who Will Shape the Future

11:30 - 13:00

Level 8 & 9

Five parallel taskforces organised by institutional roles.



13:00 - 14:00

Lunch

Level 24

14:00 - 14:40

Five Visions for the Future

Auditorium

Each taskforce delivers its frontier vision.
A facilitated main-stage conversation.

14:40 - 15:00

"Don't Try This at Home"
Anonymous. Unfiltered. Essential.

Auditorium

Because the most valuable intelligence isn't only
what worked but also what didn't, and why.

15:00 - 15:30

Coffee Break

Auditorium

What Will Take Us There?

15:30 - 16:45

Level 8 & 9

Five parallel conversations on the levers of transformation.

<p>Track 01 AI-Native Curriculum</p>	<p>Track 02 Faculty as Architects of Change</p>	<p>Track 03 Speed and Trust</p>	<p>Track 04 The Digital Institution</p>	<p>Track 05 Proof of Impact</p>
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16:45 - 17:30

The Day's Sharpest Edges

Auditorium

A facilitated open session. What surprised us?
Where do the frontier visions clash with the hard
realities? What must Day 2 resolve?



Towards Commitment on Day 2

Tuesday · 8 December 2026 · Auditorium, IE Tower · From 09:00

09:00 - 09:20	Welcome Back and Reflections from Day 1	Auditorium
09:20 - 09:40	Students as Co-Creators of Knowledge Where students and educators co-design the future.	Auditorium
09:40 - 10:00	The DEC 50 Best Recognising the most impactful innovations in higher education.	Auditorium
10:00 - 10:40	One World, Many Systems How regions are shaping the intelligence age differently.	Auditorium
10:40 - 11:00	The Agentic University: Preparing for What's Next Preparing universities to lead the agentic shift, not react to it.	Auditorium
11:00 - 11:30	Coffee Break	Auditorium

Building the Agentic University

11:30 - 13:00

Level 8 & 9

Live showcases of agentic AI in action across five core areas of university life.

<p>Track 01 Teaching & Learning</p>	<p>Track 02 Research</p>	<p>Track 03 Student Experience</p>	<p>Track 04 Operations & Administration</p>	<p>Track 05 Strategy & Decision-Making</p>
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13:00 - 14:15

Lunch

Level 24

14:15 - 14:45

Open Debate

Auditorium

What should universities preserve or fundamentally rethink in the agentic age?

14:45 - 15:15

**Unreasonable Standards:
Design Experiences that Matter**

Auditorium

How higher education can learn from the best companies in technology, media, hospitality, and design.

15:15 - 15:45

Coffee Break

Auditorium

Guided networking to brainstorm what a more thoughtful university experience could look like.

Towards a Road Ahead

What we will commit to leaving Madrid with: the agreements, the dissent, the work still undone.

15:45 - 16:15 **Assembling the Intelligence Age Agenda** Auditorium

A moderated dialogue that leads to weaving the full picture into a unified intelligence brief.

16:15 - 16:30 **Closing Remarks: The Road Ahead** Auditorium

What DEC will deliver in 2027 and the next steps for the community.

19:00 - 22:00 **Dinner Reception**

[Rosewood Villa Magna](#) | Cocktail Attire



CURATED EXPERIENCES IN THE CAPITAL

We take over *Madrid*

THE CITY IS YOURS TO EXPLORE
MOVE FREELY OR TOGETHER

DETAILS TO FOLLOW



DEC GLOBAL SUMMIT 2026

