

I National Conference on Higher Education (CONES 2025)

Thursday 23 October, 8:00 hours, Auditorium I2

Good morning.

Welcome to the National Conference on Higher Education.

The initiative to organize this conference emerged at a pivotal moment for education policy in Peru, particularly as our country approaches a new electoral process. At the Universidad de Lima, we recognized that this was precisely the time for universities to make their voices heard.

We believe it is imperative to present proposals born of broad, plural dialogue—proposals that reflect diverse perspectives and shared aspirations. Our goal is to help ensure that the higher education policies adopted by the next administration respond to the needs of both the university community and the country.

For years, we have debated the challenges facing higher education in Peru. Each stakeholder—universities, government, the productive sector, international organizations, and civil society—has developed its own perspective, shaped by immediate priorities.

Today, we take a different step.

We take a strategic approach that articulates those views around decision-makers and shared evidence to transform the conversation into concrete roadmaps.

Our one-and-a-half-day agenda brings together authorities from dozens of institutions, national and international specialists, and key allies. We will work on five thematic pillars:

1. AI with an ethical and human approach

AI already coexists with our classrooms, laboratories, and offices. We are interested in its responsible adoption, guided by the principles of transparency, equity, security and protection of authorship, and privacy.

Therefore, two days ago we inaugurated the Ulima CIAR, which was created to research, train, and accompany internal and sectoral policies with verifiable standards.

2. Quality and accreditation as a culture, not a process

We seek to move beyond a culture of compliance toward one of continuous improvement through results-based management, the assessment of learning outcomes, ongoing faculty development, and robust internal quality assurance systems that engage with both accreditation agencies and society's expectations.

3. Internationalization for mobility and collaboration

We will explore meaningful opportunities for Peruvian institutions to join international academic networks and research consortia while advancing public policies that facilitate student and faculty mobility, collaborative curriculum development, and the exchange of knowledge.

4. Research and innovation with impact

We will foster partnerships among universities, industry, and government to accelerate research, development, and innovation; strengthen laboratories and business incubators; and connect research with productivity and social well-being. Our guiding principle is clear: we conduct research to transform society.

5. Sustainability as our shared horizon

A sustainable future requires balancing environmental stewardship, economic development, and the well-being of future generations.

Sustainability must become a cross-cutting principle embedded in teaching, research, campus operations, and community engagement.

Methodologically, this conference will combine keynote addresses, panel discussions, question-and-answer sessions, and collaborative working groups. Our objective is not to produce a document that will sit on a shelf, but to achieve tangible results:

- Policy recommendations with clearly prioritized proposals.
- Institutional commitments supported by measurable indicators and accountable leadership.
- National and international cooperation agenda for the next 12 months.

Tomorrow, we will present the concrete outcomes of this first CONES: our shared priorities, our commitments for follow-up, and the cooperation roadmap that will guide us throughout 2025 and 2026.

At the Universidad de Lima, we place our institution at the service of this shared purpose, remaining true to the principle that defines us: *scientia et praxis*.

Thank you for joining us.

Welcome to CONES 2025.