



Program

IMEX-MPI-MCI Future Leaders Forum
IMEX Frankfurt 2024



Wednesday May 15, 2024
Dialog, 9.2 - Messe Frankfurt

10-11:15am

International University Challenge finals (*attendance optional*)

Panel of judges:

Drew Holmgreen, Chief Brand Officer, MPI (Meeting Professionals International)

Avinash Chandarana, Global Learning and Development Director, MCI Group

Joost de Meyer, Chairman and CEO, First Incentive Travel

Be inspired by the event proposals from your fellow Future Leaders.

The International University Challenge was held at five Future Leaders Forums around the world during 2023 and 2024. The finals see the five regional winners come together to compete for the grand prize: a sponsored trip to either MPI's World Education Congress or the MPI European Meetings and Events Conference, as well as international publicity from the IMEX and MPI PR teams.

12-12:15pm

Arrival and registration

12:15-12:45pm

Welcome to the IMEX-MPI-MCI Future Leaders Forum at IMEX Frankfurt 2024

Ray Bloom, Chairman, IMEX Group

Drew Holmgreen, Chief Brand Officer, MPI

Avinash Chandarana, Global Learning and Development Director, MCI Group

Hannah Lee, Knowledge and Events Senior Executive, IMEX Group

Meet the organizers behind the Forum as they help you prepare for the day ahead. They also talk about the Future Leaders community and how to make the most of your experience.

12:45-1:15pm

START Summit – behind the scenes at Europe's largest student-run conference

Irina Graf, Founder/Publisher, The MICE Blog

Jan Bohe, Managing Director, START Global

Join Irina and Jan to hear all about START Summit – Europe's largest student-run startup conference. Jan shares everything from his experiences of juggling event planning with university studies, to how to differentiate from similar events, to team onboarding and more. And he'll take your questions at the end too.

1:15-2pm

Lunch break – Dialog, 9.2

Join your fellow Future Leaders for lunch provided by IMEX, or explore the show floor.

2-2:45

Breaking boundaries: the Fast Forward 15 mentees talk comfort zone, confidence, connection and community

Moderated by Fay Sharpe OBE, Founder, Fast Forward 15

Becky Balchin, Head of Project Delivery, Live Group
Rebecca Towell, Director of Conference & Congress Sales, Full Circle
Odette Peel, Event & Travel Specialist, ODP Travel
Sophie Dervan, Projector Director, Cheerful Twentyfirst
Max Saca McMinn, Event Manager, The Education & Training Foundation

This year's Fast Forward 15 mentees talk to founder Fay Sharpe about pushing out of comfort zones, the power of connection, how to grow confidence and successfully achieve aspirations—personally and professionally.

Discover how having a cheerleading team and mentor behind you can help you prepare to achieve your goals and ambitions. Learn how Fast Forward 15 could help you.

2:45-3pm

Coffee break

3-4:30pm

Roundtable session: meet the experts

Receive first-hand industry insights, hear personal stories, discover potential career opportunities and network with the best in the business. Ask your burning questions to select industry experts.

After a short introduction to the experts, four 20-minute small-group discussion rounds let you connect with four experts of your choice.

The experts:

Fay Sharpe, Founder, Fast Forward 15

Joost de Meyer, Chairman and CEO, First Incentive Travel

Irina Graf, Founder/Publisher, The MICE Blog

Thomas Mauch, Business Development Manager, RAI Amsterdam

Cat Kevern, Director, Electric Cat Productions and Chair of NOWIE – The Network of Women in Events

Alfonso Regalado, Executive Director, Imagenial Consulting (Ex-Netflix employee)

Lindsay Neilson, Senior Corporate and Incentive Business Development Manager, Business Events, VisitScotland

Annie Smith, Senior Manager – Event Delivery, Hanson Wade Group

Mia Breading, Conference Producer, Incisive Media

Natalia Lada, Event Consultant, Natalia Events

4:30- 4:45pm

Closing remarks

*Thursday May 16, 2024
Forest Room, Inspiration Hub – Hall 9*

If you're at the show on Thursday, you're invited to our Rising Talent program, created for those new to the world of meetings and events, and a second opportunity to hear about the START Summit.

Or you can pick and choose from any of the education sessions on our Inspiration Hub: imex-frankfurt.com/newfront/sessions

9:30-10am

START Summit – behind the scenes of Europe's largest student-run conference

Irina Graf, Founder/Publisher, The MICE Blog

Jan Bohe, Managing Director, START Global

Join Irina and Jan to hear all about START Summit – Europe's largest student-run startup conference. Jan shares powerful insights from a student's perspective working in the industry on how START Summit differentiates themselves by offering unique experiences, in addition to how to create a year-round community and event engagement.

10-10:30am

Shaping the future of our industry – one mentor at a time

Christina Strohschneider, Sales Manager, Associations Europe, Austria Center Vienna

Attracting talent and talent retention is one of the most talked about topics in business events. At the same time, it can be challenging to find your way in the industry and to build your network. A way to solve both these issues is mentoring, where experienced professionals also benefit from the views of the next generation. Join to learn about mentoring programs and to hear from former mentors and mentees.