



THURSDAY 6 NOVEMBER

ANNUAL LATIN AMERICAN COLLOQUIUM 2025

Biofuels: Driving Innovation, Powering
the Future in Latin America and
Australia



THE UNIVERSITY
OF QUEENSLAND
AUSTRALIA

CREATE CHANGE

Welcome to the 18th Annual Latin American Colloquium

The University of Queensland (UQ) is delighted to host the 18th Annual Latin American Colloquium (LAC), continuing a proud tradition of fostering meaningful connections between Australia and Latin America. Since its inception in 2007, the Colloquium has served as a dynamic platform for dialogue, collaboration, and innovation—bringing together leaders from government, industry, and academia to explore shared opportunities and global challenges.

Australia and Latin America are regions rich in diversity, natural resources, and intellectual capital. We also face many of the same pressing global issues: climate change, sustainable development, food and water security, and biodiversity loss. These shared challenges demand shared solutions – and universities are uniquely positioned to lead the way. At UQ, we believe that by leveraging our collective strengths in research, education, and innovation, we can deliver transformative impact not only for our regions, but for the world.

UQ's engagement with Latin America spans nearly four decades and is built on strong people-to-people ties. Our partnerships with Latin American universities, government agencies, NGOs, and industry have led to hundreds of collaborative research projects and welcomed thousands of Latin American students to our Brisbane campuses. These relationships have fostered deep mutual understanding and have enabled us to co-create knowledge that drives real-world change.

The Colloquium is a celebration of these partnerships and a catalyst for future collaboration.

Under this year's theme, *'Biofuels: Driving Innovation, Powering the Future in Latin America and Australia,'* we will bring together experts and researchers from both regions to explore the potential of biofuels in addressing sustainable fuel futures. From exploring biofuel developments, policy frameworks, and market opportunities, this Colloquium will highlight how our collaborative efforts are already contributing to a zero-emissions future.

Initiatives such as the Global Bioeconomy Alliance – linking UQ with São Paulo State University (UNESP) and the Technical University of Munich (TUM) – demonstrate the power of trilateral cooperation in shaping a sustainable future. Similarly, the SMI International Centre of Excellence in Chile is helping to transform mining practices for greater environmental and social impact. These are just two examples of how UQ and its Latin American partners are driving the transition towards a sustainable future.

In September–October 2025, UQ's senior leadership undertook a mission to Latin America, meeting with long-standing and emerging partners across the region. This visit reaffirmed our commitment to deepening engagement and expanding collaboration in education, research, and innovation, with a focus on key industries such as renewable resource development.

As we gather for the 18th Colloquium, we invite you to join us in strengthening the ties between Australia and Latin America. Let us continue to build bridges of knowledge, foster inclusive partnerships, and co-create solutions that benefit our regions and the world.

Thank you for being part of this important conversation.

2025 PROGRAM

TIME	DESCRIPTION
9:30-10am	Registrations
	Master of Ceremonies Dr Karen Rodriguez Martinez, Marcellin Group, UQ
10-10:15am	Welcome address Professor Deborah Terry AC, Vice-Chancellor and President, UQ Welcome address His Excellency Mr Maximo Gowland, Ambassador of Argentina
10:15-11:30am	Keynote speaker Professor Esteban Marcellin, Director, UQ Biosustainability Hub, Australian Institute for Bioengineering and Nanotechnology, UQ
11:30am-12:45pm	Networking lunch
12:45-2:15pm	Panel Discussion Moderator: Caroline Stott, Associate Director (Energy and Resources), Strategic Partnerships - Government and Industry • Her Excellency Ms Dianela Pi, Ambassador of Uruguay • Mac Irvine, Chief Financial Officer, Jet Zero Australia • Rupert Maloney, Executive Director, Alternative Fuels, Clean Energy Finance Corporation (CEFC) • Carlos Vazquez, Chief Development Officer, Rebalance75 and Co-founder, Bioena • Nicole Ehrenfeld, Deputy Director, Centres and Associative Research, National Research and Development Agency (ANID)
2:15-2:30pm	Closing remarks His Excellency Mr Diego Cadena Montenegro, Ambassador of Colombia Kim Prior, Chief Executive Officer, Australia-Latin America Business Council
2:30pm	EVENT ENDS



Give us your feedback

Complete the post-event survey and submit your feedback at survey.app.uq.edu.au/2025-LAC-event-survey



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