



# Villars Symposium 2025

Achieving **prosperity** within **planetary boundaries** requires innovative approaches to systemic challenges such as biodiversity loss, climate change, energy transition and food security. These are **interdisciplinary** problems that require **intergenerational** solutions. Preparing a new generation of systems leaders is essential for accelerating the transition to a net-zero, nature positive future, while embracing the rapid developments in science and technology.

## Empowering Systems Leadership

The Villars Symposium is the Villars Institute's flagship event built around the [Villars Fellowship](#), a life-long learning program to empower young changemakers from around the world to [become systems leaders in a complex world](#). Villars Fellows are nominated by our Talent Partners that represent leading international schools, renowned educational organizations, and innovative learning initiatives. Themes for the Symposium are informed by the [Global Issues Survey](#), an annual publication that captures the perspectives and knowledge gaps of our growing community of Fellows on topics shaping their future and the future of our planet.

## A Unique Setting and Program Experience

This year's [Symposium](#) will take place on **16-20 June** in the historic Villars Palace in the beautiful setting of Villars-sur-Ollon in the Swiss Alps.

Participation is by invitation only and limited to 300 guests including Villars Institute partners, experts and academic leaders as well as 150 young Villars Fellows. **Experts** also contribute through in-depth video conversations, providing critical insights on systems thinking, planetary challenges, and transformative leadership for continued learning, and resources for schools and educators. Explore the [Villars Institute Youtube Channel](#).

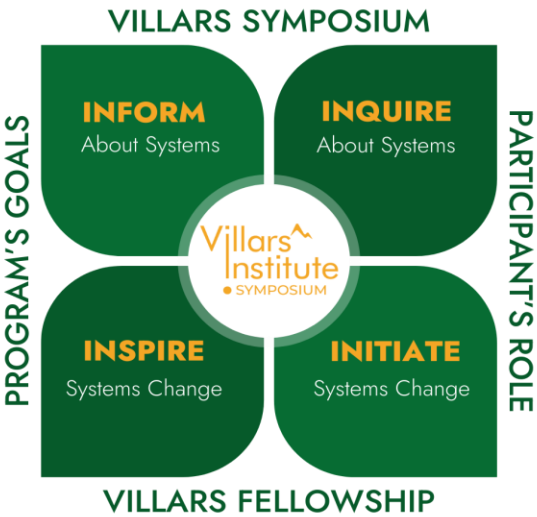
The program will combine different session formats – plenaries, workshops and briefings – for a carefully curated learning journey designed to facilitate intergenerational collaboration, inspire new thinking, change mindsets and inspire actionable change.

## Co-Designing the Symposium Program

The Symposium program is co-curated with community experts and in close collaboration with the Institute's knowledge and project partners, including [Frontiers Planet Prize](#) and the [Global Learning Council \(GLC\)](#). A highlight of this year's Symposium program is the Frontiers Planet Prize (FPP) Award Ceremony, chaired by [Johan Rockström](#), on Tuesday afternoon. The FPP encourages scientists and research institutions to propose [open science solutions that will preserve the nine critical planetary boundaries](#) essential for all forms of life on earth. National Champion Finalists will lead sessions as part of the Symposium program.



# Program Overview



	Monday 16 June	Tuesday 17 June	Wednesday 18 June	Thursday 19 June	Friday 20 June
AM	Sunday 15 June 17.00-21.30  Global Learning Conference 2025  Monday 16 June 08.30-17.15	08.30-09.15 Plenary Session	08.30-09.30 Plenary Session	08.30-09.30 Plenary Session	09.00-11.00 Departures and Check-Out for Villars Symposium
		09.15-10.15 Ideathon 1 Ignite Your Collaboration			
		10.15-11.00 Symposium Community Break	09.30-10.15 Symposium Community Break	09.30-10.15 Symposium Community Break	
		11.00-12.15 Sessions in Parallel	10.15-11.45 Sessions in Parallel	10.15-11.45 Sessions in Parallel	
Lunch		12.15-14.00 Symposium Community Lunch	12.00-13.00 Symposium Community Lunch	12.00-13.00 Ideathon 3 Accelerate for Impact	
		14.00-15.25 Frontiers Planet Prize Award Ceremony	13.00-14.00 Ideathon 2 Inspire from Nature	13.00-14.00 Symposium Community Lunch	
		15.25-16.00 Symposium Community Break	14.00-15.30 Sessions in Parallel	14.00-15.30 Closing Plenary Session An interactive plenary discussion reporting on project ideas, learning outcomes and commitments for the year ahead.	
PM	15.30-16.15 Arrival & Check-In for Villars Symposium	16.00-18.00 Frontiers Planet Prize Plenary Session	15.30-16.15 Symposium Community Break		
	16.30-17.15 6th Villars Distinguished Lecture Johan Rockström, Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research		16.15-17.45 Sessions in Parallel		
	17.15-18.00 Villars Community Break				
	18.00-19.30 Opening Plenary Session of the Villars Symposium	18.00-19.00 Frontiers Planet Prize Reception	18.00-19.00 Plenary Session	15.30-18.30 Guided Mountain Nature Walk This guided nature walk to Lac des Chavannes, an alpine lake in Bretaye (@ 1,808 meters) is a wonderful opportunity to experience the natural beauty of the region.	
Dinner	19.30-21.30 Villars Community Dinner	19.00-21.00 Symposium Community Dinner	19.00-20.30 Symposium Community Dinner		
			20.30-21.30 Film Screening Festival International du Film Alpin des Diablerets (FIFAD)	19.00-20.30 Swiss Closing Dinner of the Villars Symposium	